

International Geographical Union

Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers

TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers' (IGU-YECG) was launched on the 22nd August 2016 at the 33rd International Geographical Congress in Beijing, China with a vision of empowering and nurturing future leaders in Geography. The primary aims of the Task Force are to promote career development for early career Geographers through mentoring, training and sharing; stimulate interdisciplinary, international and inter-generational research conversations between Geographers and acknowledge and elevate the achievements of early career geographers in the Global North and South.

A. Membership

Steering Committee

Chair

Dr. Komali Yenneti

School of Architecture and Built Environment, University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Email: komalirani.y@gmail.com

Secretary and Treasurer

Dr. Gaurav Sikka

University P.G. Department of Geography, L.N. Mithila University, Bihar (India)

Email: gauravsikkageo@gmail.com

Full Members

- **Dr. Gabriela Adina Morosanu**, Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy/University of Bucharest, Bucharest Romania.
- **Dr. Melgris José Becerra Ruíz**, Working Group on Geographical Issues (GTAG-Venezuela), Universidade Federal do Pará (UFPA), Brazil
- **Dr. Sinenhlanhla Memela**, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Mr. Rui Zhu**, Department of Geography, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), USA

Task Force Membership

The Task Force has a listserv at geo-iguyecg@listserv.wvu.edu and a Facebook page and group to update geographers about our activities and circulating relevant information. The total members of the Task Force on the listserv are 221 and the Facebook are about 1000 (as of 1st December 2022).

B. Meetings

a. Meetings organized with basic details

- I. First Asian Young Geographer Workshop (Online)
18-19 December 2021

- II. GeoNight Event for Young Geographers
Date: 1st April 2022, Place: Online
- III. IGU Centennial Congress (Extraordinary) 2022
Date:18-22 July 2022, Place: Paris, France
- IV. 2022 Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers
Date: 12-14 September 2022 Hosted By: University of Pretoria, South Africa
- V. IGU Thematic Conference on Sustainability, Future Earth and Humanities: Opportunities and Challenges
Date: 24-25 November 2022, Place: Mahendragarh, Haryana, India

b. Brief Summary of the Meetings

The First Asian Young Geographers Workshop (Online)

Date: 18-19 December 2021, Place: Online

On December 18th–19th, 2021, the First Asian Young Geographers Workshop was held online. Initiated by the Young Geographers Working Group of the Asian Geographical Association (AGA-YGWG), the workshop was jointly organized by AGA-YGWG, Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force of the International Geographical Union (IGU-YECG) and Working Committee for Young Geographers of the Geographical Society of China (GSC- WGYG). The workshop, themed "Young Geographers' Response to Challenges in Asia", drew around 600 participants from 30 countries and regions globally, and 178 candidates were selected to deliver oral presentations in 14 sessions covering a variety of topics.



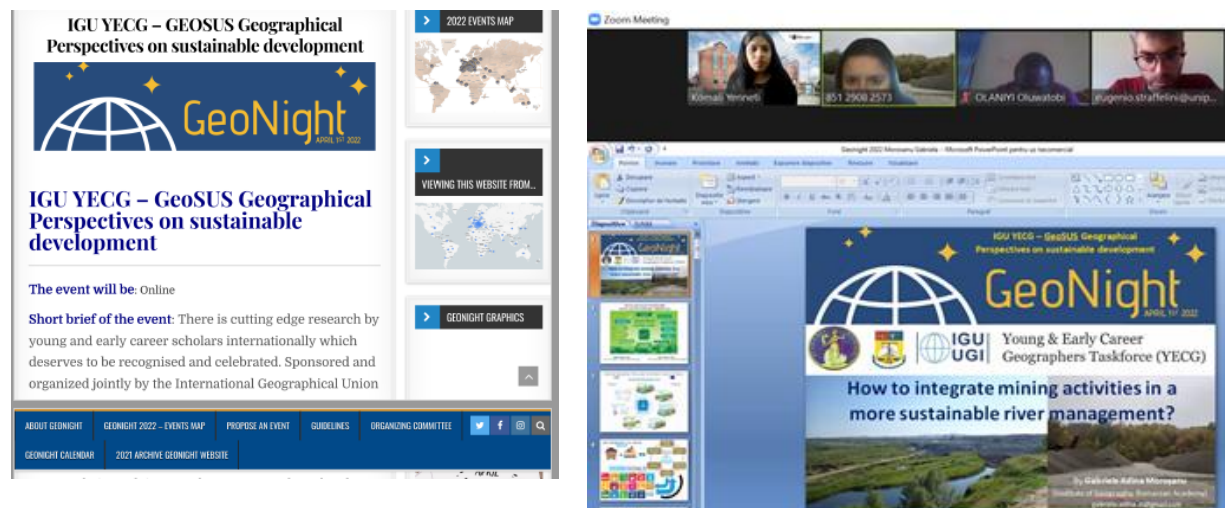
On the 18th December 2021, Prof. Min Chen, Chair of the AGA-YGWG, presided over the opening ceremony. Prof. Chul Sue Hwang (Vice President of the AGA, President of the Korean Geographical Society), Dr. Komali Yenneti (Chair of the IGU-YECG), and Dr. Zhuo Wu (Vice Secretary General of GSC-WGYG) presented welcome speeches on behalf of the three organizers

respectively. During the two-day online event, the keynotes in this workshop were given by 7 distinguished geographers, including Prof. Yukio Himiyama (Past President of the IGU), Prof. Michael Meadows (President of the IGU), Prof. Suresh Chand Rai (Vice President of the AGA and Secretary General of the National Association of Geographers, India), Prof. Safdar Ali Shirazi (President of the Pakistan Geographical Association), Prof. Anthony Yeh (Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor of the University of Hong Kong), Prof. Mei-po Kwan (Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Prof. Shuli Niu (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences). Dr. Gaurav Sikka (Secretary of the IGU-YECG) chaired a keynote session on the 19th December 2021. The workshop was initiated to provide a new platform for young geographers in Asia and throughout the world to share, discuss, and collaborate on their most recent research to address current problems.

GeoNight Event for Young Geographers

Date: 1st April 2022, Place: Online

The international "Night of Geography", promoted by EUGEO and IGU, was held on April 1st 2022. The GeoNight is an initiative proposed for the first time by the CNFG (French National Geographical Committee) at a National scale in 2017. From 2018 onwards, the initiative has expanded internationally. IGU YECG – GEOSUS organised a min conference(virtual) on "Geographical Perspectives on sustainable development" .



IGUYECG Session at Geonight 2022

IGU Centennial Congress (Extraordinary) 2022

Date: 18-22 July 2022, Place: Paris, France

IGU YECG actively participated in the IGU Centennial Congress 2022 held at Paris, France. A series of oral presentation sessions were organised. An IGUYECG 'Best Paper' Session was organised. Dr Komali Yenneti (Chair, IGUYECG Steering Committee) chaired the session. Due to limited number of participant attendance, no best paper award was given.



IGUYECG Session at IGU Paris 2022

An IGUYECG-GEOSUS SESSION ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT SESSION was also also organised. 15 presentations were made by the young researchers working on water management and sustainability. Dr. Gabriela Adina Morosanu, (Member, IGU-YECG Steering Committee) coordinated the session.



IGUYECG-GEOSUS Session at IGU Paris 2022

2022 Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers

Date: 12-14 September 2022 Hosted By: University of Pretoria, South Africa

The Society of South African Geographers (SSAG) organized the Best paper award in collaboration with IGU-YECG during the 2022 Biennial conference hosted by the University of Pretoria. SSAG Students and new professionals shared their projects, where the best paper winner received a certificate and monetary awards (R2050). The winner was Tinashe P. Kanosvambhira, the paper titled “ Neoliberal cultivators?: An examination of urban community gardens in Cape Town, South Africa”. The jury recommended that the best paper be submitted for publication in the South African Geographical Journal.

Dr. Sinenhlanhla Memela (Member, IGU-YECG Steering Committee) coordinated the event.

IGU Thematic Conference on Sustainability, Future Earth and Humanities: Opportunities and Challenges

Date: 24-25 November 2022, Place: Mahendragarh, Haryana, India

IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECG) organized an oral session for **IGU-YECG Late Dr. Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist Best Paper Award 2022** on 25th November 2022 during the IGU Thematic Conference on Sustainability, Future Earth and Humanities: Opportunities and Challenges hosted by Central University of Haryana, Mahendragarh. The award is instituted in the memory of Late Dr. Manju Singh, daughter of Late Prof. RB Singh (Former Secretary-General and Treasurer, International Geographical Union). Dr. Manju Singh, a young and dynamic academic did her M.Sc. from USA and PhD in Nanotechnology from Italy. She left for her heavenly abode after a prolong illness on 9th December 2014. Family of Late Prof. RB Singh provided financial support for this award.

Papers were invited on the theme and sub-themes of the conference. After the initial scrutiny by the Member of IGU-YECG Steering Committee and Local Organising Committee, ten oral presentations were made in this competition. The jury for the award competition comprised of:

- i. Professor Dr Barbaros Gönencgil, Secretary-General, IGU
- ii. Professor Nathalie Lemarchand, First Vice-President, IGU
- iii. Prof. Brij Maharaj, Senior Professor and Chair, IGU National Committee of South Africa
- iv. Prof. Haseena Hashia (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi)

The awardee was selected on the site by the jury and the award recipient was announced during the valedictory session of the conference. The award included a certificate of merit and monetary award of Rs 5100/-. The best paper prize was awarded to Mr Masoom Reza, Research Scholar at Department of Geography, DSB Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand, India for his paper presentation entitled “Glacier’s Response Over Gradual Increase of Supra-Debris in Valley Glacier, Central Himalaya”

Dr. Gaurav Sikka (Secretary and Treasurer, IGU-YECG) coordinated the event.



Recipient of IGU-YECG Best Paper Award 2022

c. Planned Meetings for 2023

- I. Society of South African Geographers(SSAG) conference, 2023**
Date: TBC Host: TBC
IGU-YECCG is organizing Young Scholar Best Paper Prize.
- II. Night of Geography festival**
Date: 1st April 2022 Place: TBC
- III. IGUYECCG-GEOSUS Scientific Workshops**
Date: July Place: Beijing, China
- IV. Young Researchers Workshop**
Host: Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, Romania
Date: TBC Place: Bucharest, Romania
- V. Asian Young Geographers Workshop, 2023**
Date: December, Place: Online

C. Networking

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 between the US based International Association of Young Geographers and IGU-YECCG, is active for providing a new domain for the website, maintaining the website, financially supporting the IGU-YECCG and IAYG Best Paper Awards.

IGU-YECCG Collaborated with EUGEO to organize 'Night of Geography' festival.

Young and Early Career Geographers Working Group on Geography and Sustainability (IGU YECG_GeoSus)

IGU-YECCG collaborated with IGU Commission on Geography for Future Earth and established a Young and Early Career Geographers Working Group on Geography and Sustainability (IGU YECG_GeoSus) in 2021.

This working group is an extension of IGUYECCG and aims at complementing the activities of IGUYECCG in the areas of sustainability.

The mission of YECG-GeoSus is to promote research and education in sustainable development for young and early career geographers. While the working group complements the YECG Taskforce in the areas of sustainability, it aims at promoting, coordinating and supporting geographic research and education in an integrated and sustainable perspective.

The working group has the following structure:

- Governing Council (the main decision-making body of the YECG-GeoSus), consisting of members from GFE and YECG (Dr. Komali Yenneti, Prof. Wenwu Zhao)
- Advisory committee, constituted by senior geographers and academic mentors who can help young and early career geographers, IGU YECG Committee Members, IGU-GFE Members, IGU senior professors; and other academics.
- Chairs - Dr. Moroşanu Gabriela Adina (Steering Committee Member, IGU-YECCG, Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy) & Dr. Xutong Wu (Faculty of Geographical Science, Beijing Normal University)
- Secretariat - Yiran Du - (Editorial office of Geography and Sustainability Journal)
- Full members, chosen via a call for applications in the period April – August 2021. They are young and early career geographers (Ph.D. students and post-Ph.D. within six after

years obtaining the title of PhD) with diverse educational backgrounds, research areas, gender orientations, and geographical origins). Two types of members were selected: a) **Core members** (Mengyao Han, Alexis Alamel, Sandamali Wijeratne, Eugenio Straffelini); and b) Regular **Committee Members** (Jianxiao Liu, Youjia Liang, Sujayita Bhattacharjee, Oluwasegun Adetunde, Radmila Jovanović.

IGU YECG_GEOSUS working group was officially launched during the International Geographic Congress, held in Istanbul (virtually), between 16 and 20 August 2021. Since then, 3 online meetings were organized with the members of the working group, with the participation of the advisory committee and the secretary.

IGU-YECG and IGU Commission on Geography for Future Earth are bringing out special issue with *Geography and Sustainability* journal.

D. Publications

a. A **special IGU-YECG issue** is published with *Geography, Environment and Sustainability*, the official journal of Russian Geographical Society. Guest editors for the issue are Gaurav Sikka, Komali Yenneti, R.B. Singh and V. Tikunov.

IGU-YECG Special Issue on Geospatiality and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) , Vol. 14, No. 1, 2021 <https://ges.rgo.ru/jour/issue/view/52/showToc>

b. Komali Yenneti is currently editing a special issue on The Policy, Politics, and Governance of Sustainable Energy in *Sustainability*. The other guest editors are Massimo Palme and Gloria Pignatta

c. Komali Yenneti is also editing another special issue on Meteorological Disasters and Meteorological Disaster Chains in *Frontiers in Earth Science*. The other guest editors of this volume are Fumin Ren, Bin Li, Jinlong Huang, Duanyang Liu, and Xinpeng Liu

d. The vision of the task force is empowering and nurturing future leaders in Geography, therefore, the list of the articles and volumes published by the IGU-YECG steering committee members in English are presented here (* - corresponding author):

- Snell, C., Scott, M., Jenkins, K., Kennedy, K., Thomson, H., **Yenneti, K.**, Stockton, H., and Gough, I. Climate justice, social policy and the transition to net-zero in the UK, Jolly, A., Cefalo, R., and Pomati, M. (eds.) *Social Policy Review 34: Analysis and Debates in Social Policy*. (pp. 5-23), Ch.1, Policy Press (In Association with the Social Policy Association), UK.
- Alizadeh Zenouzi, S., **Yenneti, K***, Teimouri, R., Abbasiyan, F., and Palme, M. (2022) [Analysis of changes in vegetation index during the rapid urban spatial development period \(1990-2020\) in Tehran Metropolis, Iran](#). *Atmosphere*, 13(12): 2010
- Manapragada, N.V.S.K., Shukla, A.K., Pignatta, G., **Yenneti, K.**, Boorla, V., and Nayak, B.K. (2022) [Development of the Indian Future Weather File Generator based on Representative Concentration Pathways](#). *Sustainability*, 14 (22):15191
- Khademi, N., Zanganeh, A., Ziapour, A., Saeidi, S., Teimouri, R., **Yenneti, K.**, Moghadam, S., Almasi, A., and Golanbari, S.Z. (2022) [Exploring the epidemiology of suicide attempts: Risk Modelling in Kermanshah, Iran](#). *Health and Justice, Frontiers in Public Health*, 10: 924907

- Zanganeh, A., **Yenneti, K***, Teimouri, R., Saeidi, S., Najafi, F., Shakiba, E., Moghadam, S., and Shadmani, F.K. (2022) [The Spatiality of COVID-19 in Kermanshah Metropolis, Iran](#), *Urban Science*, 6, 30
- Prasad, R, Mathur, V. and **Sikka, G***. (2022) Problem of Single-Use Plastic in the Ecologically Sensitive and Carbon Neutral Island District of Majuli, Assam, *Journal of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda*, 56:1 , 168-174
- **Sikka, G***. and Yong, O.L. C. (2022) Dam-induced displacement and resettlement and masculinities: the case of India and Malaysia, *Gender, Place and Culture*, 29: 10, 1353-1375, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0966369X.2021.1931047>
- Co-authored: Sikka, G. (2022) Air pollution perception in ten countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. *AMBIO*, 51, 531–545 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-021-01574-2>
- Irvine, P.M., **Memela, S.**, Dlongolo, Z. and Kepe, T (2021). Navigating Community and Place Through Colloquial Street Names in Fingo Village, Makhanda (Grahamstown). *Urban Forum* 32, 333–348 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12132-021-09416-w>
- Hoefnagels, N., Irvine, P.M. & **Memela, S.** (2022). Makhanda: Exploring the mise-en-scène of a city under threat. *Urban Forum* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12132-022-09467-7>
- **Moroşanu G.A.***, Ioana – Toroimac G. (2022). Evidence of hydromorphological alteration under present-day sand mining and management works. Case studies on Romanian rivers. 4th International Conference I.S. Rivers Proceedings – Integrative Sciences and Sustainable Development of Rivers, 4p/ 192 - https://www.graie.org/grai/graiedoc/doc_telech/isrivers2022/C5/C5_ISRivers22_1.pdf
- Ioana-Toroimac G., Zaharia L., **Moroşanu G.A.**, Grecu, F., Hachemi, K., (2022), Assessment of Restoration Effects in Riparian Wetlands using Satellite Imagery. Case Study on the Lower Danube River. *Wetlands*, 42(30), 14 p. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13157-022-01543-9>
- Sima, M., **Moroşanu, G.A.**, (2022), Mining hazard risk reduction and resilience. In Springer Book “Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience - Disaster Risk Management Strategies” (Saeid Eslamian ed.), 73 – 99. 10.1007/978-3-030-72196-1_4 - https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-72196-1_4
- Zaharia L., Ioana – Toroimac G., **Moroşanu G.A.**, Ţuchiu, E., Negm A., Pintilie I., (2022), Flow Variability of the Lower Danube River: An Up-to-Date Overview. Chapter in: The Lower Danube River Hydro-environmental Issues and Sustainability (Negm A., Zaharia L., Ioana-Toroimac G. edits.), 3-42. 10.1007/978-3-031-03865-5_1. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-03865-5_1
- Zaharia L., Ţuchiu, E., Ioana – Toroimac G., Moroşanu G.A., Osaci-Costache, G., Negm A., (2022), Variability of Nutrient Concentrations along the Lower Danube River. Chapter in: The Lower Danube River Hydro-environmental Issues and Sustainability (Negm A., Zaharia L., Ioana-Toroimac G. edits.), 161 – 194. 10.1007/978-3-031-03865-5_6. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-03865-5_6
- Zaharia L., Ioana – Toroimac G., **Moroşanu G.A.** (2022). Impacts du changement climatique sur l'écoulement des rivières en Roumanie. Actes du XXXVème Colloque de l'Association Internationale de Climatologie (AIC), 7 p. http://www.meteo.fr/cic/meetings/2022/aic/resumes/montagne_eau_zaharia.pdf

- Ben-Daoud, M., El Mahrad, B., **Moroşanu, G.A.** et al. (2022). Stakeholders' Interaction in Water Management System: Insights from a MACTOR Analysis in the R'Dom Sub-basin, Morocco. Environmental Management. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-022-01773-x>

c. The current (accurate) URL of the commission's website.

<http://igu.younggeographers.org/>

It serves also as on-line archive of the Task Force with all meetings, conference alerts, job opportunities available, as well as photo galleries related to the Task Force activities. The website represents the major tool for exchange of information among the members of the Task Force and other young scholars.

<https://www.facebook.com/IGUYECG/>

IGU-YECG has expanded its online presence through running a fully fledged, active and updated Facebook page. Regular updates on IGU meetings, IGU-YECG events, young scholar competitions, members' updates and other relevant information is uploaded on the page. A Facebook group is also in process to share academic resources useful for early career academics like Teaching materials, geography promotional material and new research.

E. Archival Contributions

All the reports of meetings were sent to IGU secretariat. We use our Task Force website as a kind of archive. It offers all available meeting reports, photo gallery representing our meetings.

F. Productive Use of previous IGU grant like supporting young scholars, publications and seminars from Low Income Countries.

IGU-YECG gave a financial support of USD 50 to SSAG for the best paper award.

IGU-YECG gave a financial support of USD 147 to Dr. Komali Yenneti as a travel support for attending IGC Paris 2022.

This report is structured following the instructions of the IGU Executive Committee.

Dr. Komali Yenneti
Chair, IGU-YECG

Dr. Gaurav Sikka
Secretary and Treasurer, IGU-YECG