

International Geographical Union

Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers

TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

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Secretary and Treasurer

Dr. Gaurav Sikka

Patliputra University, Patna, Bihar (India)

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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.

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 224 and the Facebook are about 1000 (as of 1st December 2023).

B. Meetings

a. Meetings organized with basic details

”IMDD23 – 2nd Multidisciplinary Doctoral Days” Conference

Dates: 24-26 February 2023,

Hosted by: Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco (Hybrid mode).

Session organized : Romanian - Moroccan doctoral joint workshop on social & environmental sustainability

Participants from 4 countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Romania

The purpose of this conference was to encourage young doctoral researchers to publicly present the results of their studies and to interact with each other in order to receive feedback. Also, a second objective of this scientific event is to bring young geographic researchers closer to those from other fields of activity related to sustainability issues and to animate discussions on interdisciplinary topics, which will foster new frontier research.

IGU Geography and Sustainability Symposium

Website: <http://geosus2023.scievent.com/>

Date: 27 – 28 October

Hosted by: Beijing Normal University, China

Emerging Researcher Best Paper Award by SSAG-Students and New Professional's group, IGU-YECG and ESRI South Africa

Date: 07 November 2023

b. Brief Summary of the Meetings

IGU Geography and Sustainability Symposium

The theme of this workshop was “Geography and Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities”. The significance of scientific research in sustainability was acknowledged by UNESCO with the inauguration of the 2023 International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development. In this context, the entire symposium encouraged sessions and abstracts to be presented on the underlying theories, methodologies, models, and data used in geography, as a transdisciplinary field exploring the interrelated human and environment systems to support sustainable development. One of the sessions, No. 18 on Sustainable development goals: assessments, interactions, and advancing pathways, was organized by the two chairs of the IGU YECG – GEOSUS working group, Dr. Gabriela Adina Morosanu and Dr. Xutong Wu. The conveners received 17 abstract submissions from 5 countries (China, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Romania), which they had to schedule for presentations during the 2-hour program of the session. For this, they made an individual review of each submitted work, based on the scientific level and their match with the theme of the session. The results were corroborated and a hybrid program was established, with the following 3 categories of presentations-

- 4 orals in person
- 6 online orals
- 7 posters (in person)

At the end of the symposium, the two conveners met and designated the participant with the best presentation and scientific contribution - Xinxian Qi (Nanjing University), with the research entitled "Drivers of rising agriculture water scarcity in China".



Emerging Researcher Best Paper Award by SSAG-Students and New Professional's group, IGU-YECG and ESRI South Africa

There was an Emerging Researcher Best Paper Award on 07 November 2023 presented this year. The Best Paper Award was hosted by the SSAG-Students and New Professional's group and the International Geographical Union-Young and Early Career Geographers Taskforce, with *ESRI South Africa* also recently joining in the initiative. Students and young emerging geographers were encouraged to submit their projects and research in the form of a manuscript. After peer review, the best of the submitted manuscripts received a certificate and monetary award, with encouragement to submit to the *South African Geographical Journal*. Two people won:

First Prize-Dr Sarah Roffe, paper titled "Tailoring adaption strategies according to local-scale climate risks for selected smallholder farming regions, Limpopo Province, South Africa", Agriculture Research Council.

Second Prize- Dr Tinashe Kanosvamaha, paper titled ‘Greener urban neighbourhoods are linked to better mental health but with age and income divide: the case of Gauteng Province, South Africa’, University of Western Cape.

c. Planned Meetings for 2023

I. 34th International Geographical Congress

Date: 24-30 August 2024 Place: Dublin, Ireland

IGU-YECG is organizing four sessions at the Congress:

- i. IGU-YECG and AGA-YGWG Young and Early Career Geographers Best Paper Award Session – Geography and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Two best paper awards of USD200 (First) and USD 100 (Second) along with a certificate will be given to current PhD students submitting a first-authored, original research paper dealing with relevant geographical research in any part of the world
- ii. The Impact of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (no. 6) on Water Resources.
- iii. Resilience, Sustainability And Inclusive Growth
- iv. Youth, Culture & The Quest For Global Sustainability

II. Society of South African Geographers (SSAG) conference, 2024

Date: September 2024 Host: North West University

Activity: Best Paper prize

C. Networking

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

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

IGU-YECG 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. Chairs - Dr. Moroşanu Gabriela Adina (Steering Committee Member, IGU-YECG, Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy) & Dr. Xutong Wu (Faculty of Geographical Science, Beijing Normal University).

This working group is an extension of IGUYECG and aims at complementing the activities of IGUYECG 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. IGU-YECG and IGU Commission on Geography for Future Earth are bringing out special issue with *Geography and Sustainability* journal.

Initiation of collaboration with the working group for "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" within the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) - Carpathian ESD Network.

Coordination of the IGU YECG - GEOSUS working group on social networks and consultations with its members regarding the organization, starting in 2024, of a series of e-lectures, in future collaboration with IGU professors and geographical authors of sustainability works.

IGU-YECG has collaborated with Commission on Global Sustainability and signed **The Jena Declaration** for planning future events with Prof Benno Werlen.

D. Publications

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.

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