

# International Geographical Union

## Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers

### TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers' (IGU-YECG) was launched on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> 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

###### **Komali Yenneti**

Faculty of Built Environment, University of New South Wales, Sydney-Australia

Email: [k.yenneti@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.yenneti@unsw.edu.au)

###### Secretary-General and Treasurer

###### **Gaurav Sikka**

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

Email: [gauravsikkageo@gmail.com](mailto:gauravsikkageo@gmail.com)

##### Full Members

- **Jackeline Romio**, Department of Demography, State University of Campinas-Brazil, Email: [jackeline.romio@gmail.com](mailto:jackeline.romio@gmail.com)
- **Milton Milaras**, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of South Africa-South Africa, Email: [milton.milaras@hotmail.com](mailto:milton.milaras@hotmail.com)
- **Dhritiraj Sengupta**, School of Geographical Studies, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China. Email: [dhritirajsen@gmail.com](mailto:dhritirajsen@gmail.com)
- **Yining Tan**, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University, U.S.A. Email: [yining.tan@asu.edu](mailto:yining.tan@asu.edu)
- **Teresa Graziano**, Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Catania (Italy) Email: [tgraziano@unict.it](mailto:tgraziano@unict.it)
- **Cadey Korson**, School of People, Environment and Planning at Massey University (Aotearoa New Zealand) Email: [C.Korson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.Korson@massey.ac.nz)
- **Pablo Cabrera-Barona**, Department of Public Affairs - Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Ecuador. E-mail: [pfcabrera@flacso.edu.ec](mailto:pfcabrera@flacso.edu.ec)

##### Task Force Membership

As a 'new' Task Force, efforts are in the direction to increase the number of corresponding members. The Task Force has launched its listserv at [geo-iguyecg@listserv.wvu.edu](mailto:geo-iguyecg@listserv.wvu.edu) to update geographers about our activities and circulating relevant information. The total members of the Task Force are 169 (as of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019).

## **B. Meetings**

### **a. Meetings organized with basic details**

- I. XII IGU-India International Conference on Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Sustainable Development  
Date: 22-24 February 2019  
Place: Panchkula, Haryana, India  
Host: Government Post-Graduate College, Sector-1, Panchkula, India
- II. IGU-YECG Introduction to Google Earth Engine Training Workshop  
Date: 12-13 February, 2019  
Place: New Delhi, India  
Host: Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
- III. European Night of Geography Festival  
Date: 5 April 2019  
Place: Catania, Italy  
Host: Department of Humanities, University of Catania.
- IV. IGU-YECG and Energy Justice & Poverty Group Joint Sessions, Institute of Australian Geographers Annual Conference  
Date: 9-13 July, 2019  
Place: Hobart, Australia  
Host: University of Tasmania, Hobart
- V. IGU and IGU-YECG Outreach Programme for Bihar Geographers  
Date: 27 August 2019  
Place: Patna, Bihar  
Host: Department of Geography, Patna University
- VI. XIII IGU-India International Conference on Heading Towards Zero: Sustainable Development in Economy, Environment and Society  
Date: 19-21 October 2019  
Place: Mahendergarh, Haryana  
Host: Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh

### **b. Brief Summary of the Meetings**

#### **XII IGU-India International Conference on Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Sustainable Development**

Date: 22-24 February 2019, Place: Panchkula, Haryana, India

IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECG) officially supported and endorsed the XII IGU-India conference at Panchkula, Haryana. LoC of the conference extended registration fees waiver and free accommodation to four members of the steering committee participating in the conference.

The Task Force organized following events:

1. **A paper session for IGU-YECG Late Dr. Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist Best Paper Award on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019.**

During the XII IGU-India International Conference 2019, IGU-YECG aimed to present a special paper award, to foster the excitement of young scholars in presenting their work at IGU forums. Therefore, papers were invited from young scholars on the theme and sub themes of this conference. The award is instituted in the memory of Late Dr. Manju Singh, daughter of Prof. RB Singh (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 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Prof. RB Singh has been generous enough to provide financial support for this award. Five oral presentations were made in this competition. The jury for the award competition comprised of: Prof. Yukio Himiyama (President, IGU), Prof. Brij Maharaj (Chair, IGU National Committee, South Africa) and Prof. Nandini Singh (Rajiv Gandhi Central University, Arunachal Pradesh). Awardees were selected on the site by jury and award recipients were announced during the valedictory session of the conference. The award included a certificate of merit and monetary award of Rs 5100/-. The award was bagged by Sujayita Bhattacharjee, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Geography, University of Mumbai for her paper entitled "Housing Revolution and Resurgence of Suburbia: A Case Study of Mulund, Mumbai".

Komali Yenneti (Chair, IGU-YECG) and Gaurav Sikka (Secretary and Treasurer, IGU-YECG) coordinated the event.

2. **An Academic Writing Workshop for Young & Early Career Geographers on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019**

Milton Milaras, Member, Steering Committee of IGU-YECG and from the University of South Africa (UNISA), presented a 3-part writing workshop for young academics. The workshop was planned by IGU-YECG to provide some key principles of academic writing as well as demonstrating some practical techniques

The 30 enthusiastic participants were coached through presentations and exercises on: Science as Story, The BME Rule, and Scientific Writing: Theory and Techniques. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and candidates were awarded certificates of participation. The YECG continues to seek ways to support aspiring academic geographers in their professional development.

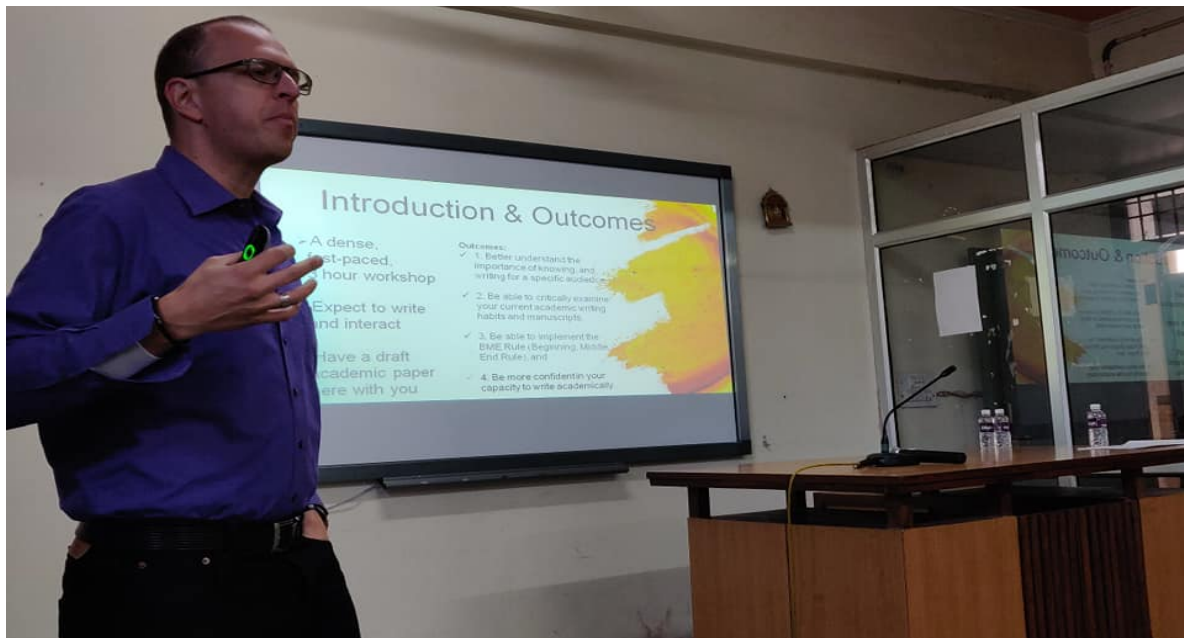
3. **Google Earth Engine Training Workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Google Earth Engine is a free, cloud based, geospatial remote sensing processing platform. Around 35 young and early career participants were coached through presentations and exercises on: Basics of GEE operation, Time series analysis, working with Normalized Difference Index. We received positive response for this workshop, and several other institutes have inquired to organize GEE workshops in the near future. Dhritiraj Sengupta, Member, Steering Committee of IGU-YECG and from East China Normal University, Shanghai was the trainer at the workshop.

## *Glimpses of XII IGU-India Conference, Panchkula, Haryana*



IGU-YECG Session Participants



Academic Writing Workshop in Progress

Images © IGU-YECG

### **IGU-YECG Introduction to Google Earth Engine (GEE) Training Workshop**

Date: 12-13 February, 2019 Host: Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

Google Earth Engine is a free, cloud based, geospatial remote sensing processing platform. IGU-YECG has been approached by the host organization to organize GEE workshop. Around 30

young researchers were coached through presentations and exercises on: Basics of GEE operation, Time series analysis, working with Normalized Difference Index. We received positive response for this workshop, and several other institutes have inquired to organize GEE workshops in the near future. Dhritiraj Sengupta, Member, Steering Committee of IGU-YECG and from East China Normal University, Shanghai was the trainer at the workshop.



Images © IGU-YECG

### **European Night of Geography Festival**

Date: 5 April 2019 Place: Catania, Italy

The festival of European Night of Geography is organized in several European cities to promote geographical education and knowledge. In Italy, IGU-YECG contributed to organize the event in the city of Catania (Southern Italy) which included an exhibition on old maps of Sicily and landscape pictures, in addition to a photo contest with local school pupils and a night-visit of the site where the event was held, a baroque-style ancient Monastery, listed in the UNESCO list, which today hosts the Department of Humanities of the University of Catania. Teresa Grazinao on the behalf of the IGU-YECG coordinated the event.

### **IGU-YECG and Energy Justice & Poverty Group Joint Sessions, Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) Annual Conference**

Date: 9-13 July, 2019 Place: Hobart, Australia

During the IAG Annual Conference 2019, IGU-YECG organized two sessions in collaboration with Energy Justice and Poverty research group of the IAG. The theme of the conference was Geographies of emergence, convergence and divergence, while the theme of the sessions was Energy Justice and Poverty within the main theme of the conference. Six oral presentations were made in the two sessions (4 – first session; 2 – second session). Komali Yenneti (Chair, IGU-YECG) coordinated the event.





### **IGU-YECG Outreach Programme for Bihar Geographers**

Date: 27 August 2019 Place: Patna, Bihar

IGU-YECG outreach programme was held at Department of Geography, Patna University on 27 August 2019. Prof. Rash Bihari Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Patna University graced the occasion. Dr. Komali, Chair, IGU-YECG and Lecturer at UNSW Sydney delivered the special lecture on “Advances in Geographical Research”. Dr. Gaurav Sikka, Secretary and Treasurer, IGU-YECG coordinated the event with the host and also gave a detailed presentation introducing IGU and IGU-YECG, outlining the vision, strategic areas, actions and forthcoming activities, and how to connect with the Task Force. The program witnessed more than 150 participants including young researchers, early careers, P.G. students and professors.



## **XIII IGU-India International Conference on Heading Towards Zero: Sustainable Development in Economy, Environment and Society**

Date: 19-21 October 2019 Place: Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh, Haryana

A paper session for **IGU-YECG Late Dr. Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist Best Paper Award** took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Gaurav Sikka (Secretary and Treasurer, IGU-YECG) coordinated the session.

Papers were invited from young scholars on the theme and sub themes of this conference. The award is instituted in the memory of Late Dr. Manju Singh, daughter of Prof. RB Singh (Secretary-General and Treasurer, International Geographical Union). Prof. Singh has been generous enough to provide financial support for this award.

Four oral presentations were made in this competition. Best Paper Award winner was judged by a judging committee formed at the conference. The committee included Prof. Yukio Himiyama (President, IGU), Dr. Esther Edwards (Senior lecturer, Bath Spa University) and Prof. Brij Maharaj (Chair, IGU National Committee, South Africa). Awardees were selected on the site by jury and award recipients were announced during the valedictory session of the conference. The award included a certificate of merit and monetary award of Rs 5100/-. The award was bagged by Dr. Rani Singh, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. The title of her paper was “Geospatial Assessment of the Ground Water Quality on Diseases through Health GIS in Phagi Tehsil, Rajasthan”



IGU-YECG Best Paper Awardee receiving prize

Images © IGU-YECG

## **Meeting with representative of Russian Geographical Society and YES Network**

Along the lines of XIII IGU-India International Conference at Central University of Haryana, an IGU-YECG meeting was organized with the representative of Russian Geographical Society and International Young Earth Scientist (YES) Network. Dr. Gaurav Sikka represented IGU-YECG in

the capacity of Secretary-General and Treasurer of the Task Force, Russian Geographical Society was represented by Dr. Alexey Maslakov and YES Network had Dr. Meng Wang, President, YES Network as its representative.

The meeting yielded fruitful discussion regarding bringing out an IGU-YECG special issue with *Geography, Environment and Sustainability* (Official journal of Russian Geographical Society). YES Network and IGU-YECG decided to organise common sessions and joint field trips in 2020.



Representatives of IGU-YECG, RGS and YES Network

Images © IGU-YECG

### **c. Planned Meetings for 2020**

#### **I. XIV IGU India Conference 2020**

Date: 6-8 March 2020 Host: University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India

IGU-YECG is organizing following events:

- A paper session for selecting IGU-YECG Late Dr. Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist Best Paper Award 2020. The award includes a certificate of merit and monetary award of Rs 5100/-
- Workshop on Enhancing Presentation Skills

#### **II. European Night of Geography Festival**

Date: April 2020 Place: Catania, Italy

#### **III. 34<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress 2020**

Date: 17-20 August 2020 Host: Istanbul University, Turkey

IGU-YECG is organizing following events:

- Academic Writing Workshop



- Young and Early Career Geographers Paper Sessions and Award Competition: Jointly sponsored and organized by IGU-YECG and International Association of Young Geographers (IAYG). Two student paper awards of USD 200 each.
- IGU-YECG Master Class- Finding Funding and Grant Proposal Writing
- IGU-YECG Meeting and Networking Event

#### IV. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual IGU-YECG Conference

**Date: Not final      Place: Sri Lanka/ Bangladesh**

#### V. New Zealand Geographical Society conference

Date: 24-27 November 2020, Place: Wellington

IGU-YECG workshop is being planned on the topic “Digital Storytelling”.

### C. Networking

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 between the US based International Association of Young Geographers and IGU-YECG, a new domain for the website has been made available for IGU-YECG.

Collaborated with EUGEO and AGEI (Italian Association of Geographers) to organize ‘Night of Geography’ festival in Italy.

IGU-YECG has developed an understanding with IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity and IGU-YECG is continuously shown as an important link at their official website <http://www.igubiogeography.com/page10.html>

Discussions are also on with IGU Gender Commission and IGU-AGLE to organize events together and introduce collaborative internships and field trips.

A network is developed with South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development (SAIARD), an Academic and Research Institution certified by MSME, Govt. of India and events for YECGs is being planned. Website: [www.saiard.co.in](http://www.saiard.co.in)

### D. Publications

a. A special IGU-YECG issue is being planned in *Geography, Environment and Sustainability*, the official journal of Russian Geographical Society. Guest editors for the issue will be Gaurav Sikka, Komali Yenneti and R.B. Singh. It is being planned to launch the issue at IGU Congress 2020 Istanbul, Turkey.

b. 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 members in English are the following:

Z.Wu, R.Chen, ME Meadows, D. Sengupta, Xu.Di, 2019. "Changing urban green spaces in Shanghai: trends, drivers and policy implications", *Land use Policy*. 87, 104-116, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2019.104080>

Sengupta, D.; Chen, R.; Meadows, M.E.; Choi, Y.R.; Banerjee, A.; Zilong, X. 2019. "Mapping Trajectories of Coastal Land Reclamation in Nine Deltaic Megacities using Google Earth Engine". *Remote Sens.*, 11, 2621

Sikka, G. 2019. "Emerging Inequalities in Gender Relations: A Post-Displacement Analysis of Sardar Sarovar Project Resettlement Sites, India" in *Indian Journal of Spatial Science*, 10(2), 108-115

Milaras, M. & McKay, TJM. 2019. Marginalisation of Global South Epistemics: The Case of a Soil Science Textbook. *Journal of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in the South*. 3(2):31-48. Available at: <https://sotl-southjournal.net/?journal=sotls&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=93&path%5B%5D=45>

Korson, C. 2019. Global disorder in the undead world: Teaching geopolitics with zombies, *Journal of Geography* 118(1), 35-48. DOI: 10.1080/00221341.2018.1518991

Korson, C. 2019. "Political Geography: Sovereignty, Indigenous Rights, and Governance in an Island Context", In Weronika Kusek and Nick Wise (Eds.) *Human Geography and Professional Mobility*, Routledge.

Cirelli C., Graziano T., 2019. "DMO, Destination branding e narrazioni territoriali: analisi critica di un progetto di aggregazione turistica", in *Geotema*, 57, pp. 223-230.

Graziano T., 2019. «Effetto startup» in Sicilia: innovazione e competitività territoriale, fra retorica e sviluppo, in *Geotema*, 59, pp. 35-45.

Graziano T., 2019. "Nuove tecnologie, urbanesimo partecipativo e spazio pubblico: modelli e casi di studio", in Salvatori F. (a cura di), *L'apporto della Geografia tra rivoluzioni e riforme. Atti del XXXII Congresso Geografico Italiano (Roma, 7-10 giugno 2017)*, A.Ge.I., Roma, pp. 1509-1517.

Cirelli C., Graziano T., 2019. "Le startup nel commercio: luoghi, spazi e attori dell'innovazione", in Salvatori F. (a cura di), *L'apporto della Geografia tra rivoluzioni e riforme. Atti del XXXII Congresso Geografico Italiano (Roma, 7-10 giugno 2017)*, A.Ge.I., Roma, pp. 2391-2399.

Yenneti, K., Rahiman, R., Panda, A., Pignatta, G. 2019. Smart Energy Management Policy in India – A review. *Energies*, 12(17), 3214.

Wen, C., Yenneti, K., Wei, Y.H.D., Yuan, F., Wu, J., and Gao, J. 2019. Polycentricity in the Yangtze River Delta Urban Agglomeration (YRDUA): More Cohesion or More Disparities? *Sustainability*, 11(11):3106

Samarasinghe, G., Lagisz, M., Santamouris, M., Yenneti, K., Upadhyay, A.K., De La Peña Suarez, F., Taunk, B., Nakagawa, S. 2019. A visualized overview of systematic reviews and meta-analyses on low-carbon built environments: an evidence review map. *Solar Energy*, 186: 291-299

Kantamaneni, K., Rani, N.V.V.S., Rice, L., Sur, K., Thayaparan, M., Kulatunga, U., Rege, R., Yenneti, K., Campos, L.C. A systematic review of coastal vulnerability in Andhra Pradesh, India: a critical evaluation of data gathering, risk levels and mitigation strategies. *Water*, 11(2): 393

Hawken, S., Yenneti, K., and Bodilis, C. Mapping climate vulnerability with Open Data: A dashboard for place-based action. 2019. In Hawken S, Han H, Pettit C. (ed.) *Open Cities | Open Data: Collaborative Cities in the Information Era.*, (pp. 151-175). Ch. 7, Palgrave-McMillan, Singapore.

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.**

\$600 provided to Kamalini Ramdas from National University Singapore (early career scholar) as Travel Grant to attend 33<sup>rd</sup> IGC at Beijing in 2016.

\$1156 provided as Registration Fees Waiver for young scholars to attend IGU Regional Conference at Quebec, Canada in 2018

\$556 was spent on IGU-YECG Networking event and meeting at IGU Regional Conference at Quebec, Canada in 2018

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