

# International Geographical Union

## Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers

### TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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. 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**

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###### Secretary and Treasurer

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

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###### Full Members

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- **Eleanor Darlington**, Department of Geography, Loughborough University- United Kingdom
- **Jackeline Romio**, Department of Demography, State University of Campinas-Brazil, Email: [jackeline.romio@gmail.com](mailto:jackeline.romio@gmail.com)
- **Kamalini Ramdas**, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore-Singapore, Email: [geokr@nus.edu.sg](mailto:geokr@nus.edu.sg)
- **Ravi Baghel**, Department of Geography, University of Heidelberg- Germany, Email: [baghel.ravi@gmail.com](mailto:baghel.ravi@gmail.com)

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## **Task Force Members**

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 124 (as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017).

## **B. Meetings**

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

33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Congress

Date: 21-25 August 2016

Place: Beijing, P.R. China

Organisers: IGU and The Geographical Society of China

X<sup>th</sup> IGU Thematic International Conference on Urbanization, Health and Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Goals

Date: 17-19 March, 2017

Place: Hyderabad, India

Organised by IGU Commissions on Urban Geography, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional development, Land Use/Land cover Change.

Host: Department of Geography and Geoinformatics, Osmania University, Hyderabad

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

#### **33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Congress**

Date: 21-25 August 2016, Place: Beijing, P.R. China

#### **IGU-YECG Official Launching Ceremony**

The IGU's Young and Early Career Geographers' Taskforce (IGU-YECG) was launched on 22 August 2016 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> IGC in Beijing, China. During the launch the chairs of the session, Kamalini and Komali introduced the team, and also shared with those present the aims and future plans for the Taskforce. There were more than 50 young and early career geographers present at the launch representing Africa, South Asia, East Asia and Europe. Many shared their experiences as young and early career scholars in Geography and suggested how the Taskforce could be of further help. There was animated discussion about how to showcase some of the great research by early career scholars and also promote Geography as a key discipline that straddles the physical and social sciences. The launch also provided a great avenue for connecting with other early career groups and researchers working on educating young geographers based in Beijing, Bucharest, and Moscow. Attendees participated in a survey to provide feedback and express their interest to be involved in future Taskforce events. Through the launch and feedback process, interesting ideas were generated to help meet the Taskforce's mission. These included the possibility of setting up an e-journal to showcase early career research and finding ways to connect with early career groups already operating in Europe and China.

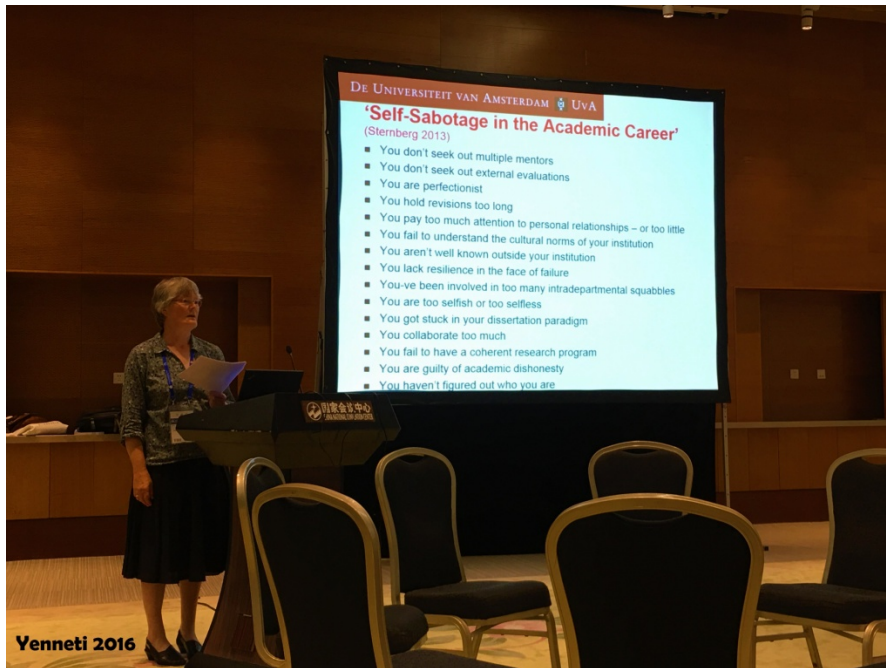


IGU-YECG Launching Ceremony, 2016

### **IGU-YECG Master Class**

The launch ceremony of the IGU-YECG on the 22nd September at the IGU Beijing Congress was followed by a Master class on finding funding and grants proposal writing. The session was organised by Dr. Alexander Sebestov, Researcher, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences and Dr. Yulia Zaika, Researcher, Faculty of Geography (Khibiny research station), Lomonosov Moscow State University, Dr. Komali Yenneti, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, Chinese Academy of Science, and Dr. Kamalini Ramdas, National University of Singapore.

An important part of our job as scientists is to manage our research, develop successful projects and collaborations, find funding, write grant applications and research proposals, and publish the outcomes of our research. These might be challenges for young geographers. Knowing where to look and how to apply for funding as well as understanding how to manage the research or project can be time consuming and frequently discouraging. This Master class aimed to provide young and early career geographers with ideas and advices on how to write successful research proposals and grant applications, and how to implement their research. Senior researchers from different parts of the world like Dr. Joos Droogleever Fortuijn, Associate Professor, Department Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam and Vice-President International Geographical Union, Professor Jarkko Saarinen, Department of Geography, University of Oulu, Finland and Dr. Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho, Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore shared their personal experiences on how to write an academic grant proposal? When and how to work in collaborative research projects? How to devise and manage the budget? What are some key strategies for getting your research published? – to put in short, how to survive academic life? A world cafe – an interactive discussion – followed the presentations, with one of the senior members answering the questions of the YECG and one of the members of the YEC facilitating each of the group.



**Dr. Joos Presentation**



**Participants in a Master Class session**

## **X<sup>th</sup> IGU Thematic International Conference on Urbanization, Health and Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Goals**

Date: 17-19 March, 2017, Place: Hyderabad, India

The IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECG) and the Organizing Committee of X<sup>th</sup> IGU International Thematic Conference had organised a poster competition



for IGU-YECG Late Dr. Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist (Poster) Award on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Gaurav Sikka (Secretary and Treasurer, IGU-YECG) coordinated the event. During the X<sup>th</sup> IGU International Conference on “Urbanization, Health & Well Being and Sustainable Development Goals” from March 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Osmania University, Hyderabad, IGU-YECG aimed to present a special poster award, to foster the excitement of younger colleagues in presenting their work in the form of a poster. Posters 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 (Vice President, 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.

Eleven poster presentations from India and abroad were made in this competition. The jury for the award competition comprised of: Prof. Yukio Himiyama (President, IGU), Prof. Celine Rozenblat (Chair, IGU Urban Commission) and Prof. Aravind Mulimani (Karnatak University, Dharwad). 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/-. Two consolation certificates were also given. The award is bagged by S. Abdul Rahaman from Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu for his poster on “Assessment Of Human-Induced Land Degradation and Its Impact Through Geospatial Based MCE Approach In Kallar Watershed Of Tamil Nadu”. The consolation certificates 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> position was won by Gaurav Kant Nigam from Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh and Tejpal Sharma from Kurukshetra University, Haryana respectively. The event was hailed by entire geographers’ community and appreciated by the young scholars.



**Participants of IGU-YECG Poster Award with jury and IGU-YECG representative**

## **"Just get on with it"- Writing Workshop**

Date: 11-13 December 2017, Place: Shanghai, China

IGU-YECG is co-hosting an academic workshop with the School of Geographical Sciences, East China Normal University from 11-13 December 2017 at Shanghai, China. The workshop is being planned for PhD scholars to orient them about the research and publication. Prof. Michael Meadows is the resource person of the workshop. Prof. Meadows, an eminent geographer is Secretary General and Treasurer of IGU and is heading the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences at University of Cape Town. The proposed sessions of the workshop are as follows:

11th December 2017: How to publish your research in a peer-review journal

12th December 2017: How to present a paper at an academic conference

13th December 2017: Developing clarity and focus in academic writing +How to cite literature and compile a reference list (Combined session)

### **c. Planned Meetings for 2018**

#### **XI IGU Commission Seminar**

Date: 8-10 February, 2018 Place: Guwahati, India

IGU-YECG is organising a competition for IGU-YECG Late Dr. Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist (Poster) Award. The award includes two prizes. Ist Prize is a monetary award of Rs 5100/- and a IInd Prize of Rs 1100/-

#### **2018 IGU Regional Conference**

Date: 6-10 August 2018 Place: Quebec, Canada

IGU-YECG is organizing oral sessions for IGU-YECG Late Dr. Manju Singh Paper Award with prize money of CAD 200 for young scholars. Task Force is also offering four IGU- YECG Student Registration Fee Waiver Awards on competitive basis.

A meeting-cum- networking event is also being planned for Quebec 2018. The event will begin by presentation of the IGU-YECG progress by the Chair and Secretary. This will be followed by an interactive discussion on the role of early career geographers in geography and how to survive academia (senior academics to join us!).

### **C. Networking**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the US based International Association of Young Geographers and IGU-YECG is under process. The two parties shall cooperate in the following fields:

1. The IAYG and the IGU-YECG will cooperate to expand and strengthen IAYG Dimensions, the first open-source, peer-reviewed academic journal of its kind for university students around the world. IGU-YECG will become a strategic partner for this programme, and both parties will work together to monitor journal quality and bring it to more university students worldwide.
2. The IGU-YECG will also become a strategic partner of the GeoInterns Connection programme, which connects young geographers around the world with valuable unpaid and paid internship opportunities. The two parties will work together to bring this deeply beneficial programme to more communities through the recruitment of local coordinators and the expansion of the IAYG Geography Society network.

3. The IAYG will become a partner of the IGU-YECG for events at the IGU Canada Conference, including the paper session, taskforce update, and network evening. Both parties will cooperate in all ways seen fit to advance shared goals for young geographers.
4. The IAYG will support and become a strategic partner of the IGU-YECG future activities aiming to empower and nurture future leaders in geography.
5. Both parties will jointly develop and organise other capacity building workshops and programmes to support young and early career geographers.
6. Any other areas of cooperation, as agreed to by the IAYG and IGU-YECG.

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

Discussions are also on with recently established IGU Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering (AGLE) regarding the important role that young geographers can play in the Global Rural Plan, an idea mooted by IGU-AGLE.

#### **D. Publications**

a. List of the articles and volumes published by the IGU-YECG members in English are the following:

- Andersson, L, Caretta, M.A. 2017. Arsenic poisoning in rural Bangladesh: an intersectional analysis of impacts on women. *wH2o The Journal of Gender and Water*, 6, 4-23
- Baghel, R., and L. Stepan. 2017. Contextualising the Anthropocene: The cultures, practices and politics of water knowledge in Asia. In *Water, Knowledge and the environment in Asia: Epistemologies, practices, locales*, eds. R. Baghel, L. Stepan, and J. K. W. Hill. London: Routledge.
- Baghel, R., L. Stepan, and J. K. W. Hill eds. 2017. *Water, Knowledge and the environment in Asia: Epistemologies, practices, locales*. London: Routledge.
- Caretta, M. A., & Cheptum, F. J. 2017. Leaving the field: (de-)linked lives of the researcher and research assistant. *Area*, Online First. <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12342>
- Caretta, M. A., & Jokinen, J. C. 2017. Conflating Privilege and Vulnerability: A Reflexive Analysis of Emotions and Positionality in Postgraduate Fieldwork. *The Professional Geographer*, 69(2), 275–283. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2016.1252268>
- Caretta, M. A., Webster, N.A. 2016. What kept me going was stubbornness. Perspectives of early career women on enablers and barriers in academia. *Investigaciones Feministas*, 7 (2) 89-113 <http://dx.doi.org/10.5209/INFE.52911>
- Caretta, M.A. 2016. Member checking: a participatory method to test and analyze preliminary results in cross-cultural, cross-language research. *Qualitative Research*, 16 (3), 305-318 DOI: 10.1177/1468794115606495
- Caretta, M.A. 2016. Practising Feminist Political Ecologies: Moving beyond the “Green Economy” by Harcourt, W., Nelson, I.L. (eds.) Book review. *Progress in Development Studies*, 16, 4
- Caretta, M.A. 2017. Striving beyond epistemic authority: results dissemination in smallholder irrigation farming research. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2016.1261686>
- Caretta, M.A., Riaño, Y. 2016. Feminist Participatory Methodologies in Geography: Creating Spaces of Inclusion. *Qualitative Research*, 16 (3), doi:10.1177/1468794116629575

- Frick-Trzebitzky, F., R. Baghel, and A. Bruns. 2017. Institutional bricolage and the production of vulnerability to floods in an urbanising delta in Accra. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 26 (Supplement C):57–68.  
[http://www.wh2ojournal.com/uploads/7/5/2/6/75265451/wh20\\_issue\\_5.pdf](http://www.wh2ojournal.com/uploads/7/5/2/6/75265451/wh20_issue_5.pdf)
- Jokinen, J.C., Caretta, M.A. 2016. When bodies do not fit: an analysis of postgraduate fieldwork. *Gender, Place & Culture* 23, 1665–1676.  
 doi:10.1080/0966369X.2016.1249343
- McKay, T.J.M. & Milaras, M. 2017. Public lies, private looting and the forced closure of Grootvlei Gold Mine, South Africa. *The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa*, 13(1), a347. <https://doi.org/10.4102/td.v13i1.347>
- Milaras, M. & McKay, T.J.M. 2017. Action Research Driving a Scaffolded Soil Science Curriculum: Within the Context of Post-First Year Academic Underpreparedness. In *Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Action Research and Action Learning*, eds. T.A Mapotse, Hershey: IGI Global, pp.193-214, DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-2642-1.ch011
- Milaras, M. & McKay, T.J.M., 2016, A scaffolded Soil Science curriculum: A practical project approach. *Proceedings of: The Society of Southern African Geographers: Centenary Conference, Stellenbosch, 25-28 September 2016.*
- Nüsser, M., and R. Baghel. 2017. The emergence of technological hydroscares in the Anthropocene: Socio-hydrology and development paradigms of large dams. In *Handbook on geographies of technology*, ed. B. Warf, 287–301. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Östberg, W., & Caretta, M. A. 2017. Kerio Valley, 1973–2013: A case study of Kenyan small holder agriculture. *African Studies*, 76(3), 402–422  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00020184.2017.1285664>
- Ramdas, K. 2016. Feminist Ethics of Care, Becoming Area. *Environment and Planning D*, 34(5): 843-849.
- Sikka, G. 2017. Arguing from Planning from a Gender Perspective in Royal Geographical Society Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group Blog Post, United Kingdom can be accessed at <http://www.gfgrg.org/arguing-for-planning-from-a-gender-perspective-by-gaurav-sikka/>
- Sikka, G. & Mathur, V. 2017. Gender analysis of post resettlement transformation in livelihood opportunities at Sardar Sarovar Project resettlement sites, India. *Journal of Land and Rural Studies*, online first  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2321024917731839>
- Sikka, G. 2016. The Case of Missing Toilets in Sardar Sarovar dam resettlements in Vadodara, Gujarat. *Geo Journal*, 81 (2), 257-266 DOI: 10.1007/s10708-014-9617-z
- Sikka, G. 2017. Tagged-and tied- to geography. *Teacher Plus*, 15 (3), 32-35
- Sikka, G. 2017. [The Gender Shocks from Nagaland](http://www.gfgrg.org/the-gender-shocks-from-nagaland-by-gaurav-sikka/) in Royal Geographical Society Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group Blog Post, United Kingdom can be accessed at <http://www.gfgrg.org/the-gender-shocks-from-nagaland-by-gaurav-sikka/>
- Webster, N. A. Caretta, M.A. 2016. “Women in groups can help each and learn from each other”. The role of homosocial practices in shaping and renegotiating the local gender contract. *Géneros. Multidisciplinary Journal of Gender Studies*, 5(3), 1072-1095. doi: 10.17583/generos.2016.1992
- Wimark, T., Lewis, N. M., & Caretta, M. A. 2017. A life course approach to the field and fieldwork. *Area*, online first. <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12362>
- Yenneti, K., Wei, Y.D., Chen, W. (2017). The Urbanization of Poverty in India: Spatio-temporal disparities in Consumption expenditures. *Geographical Review*, 107 (2), 360–383  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1931-0846.2016.12167.x/abstract>



- Yenneti, K., Day, R., and Golubchikov, O. (2016). Spatial Justice and the Land Politics of Renewables: Dispossessing Vulnerable Communities through Solar Energy Mega-Projects. *Geoforum*, 76, 90-99 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2016.09.004>
- Yenneti, K. (2016). The grid-connected solar energy in India: Structures and challenges, *Energy Strategy Reviews*, 11-12: 41-51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esr.2016.06.002>
- Yenneti, K. and Day, R. (2016). Distributional justice in solar energy implementation in India: the case of Charanka solar park. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 46:35-46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2016.05.009>
- Yenneti, K., Tripathi, S., Wei, Y.H.D., Chen, W., Joshi, G. (2016). The Truly Disadvantaged? Assessing Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in Urban India. *Habitat International*, 56:124-135. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2016.05.001>
- Yenneti, K. (2016). Industry perceptions on feed in tariff (FiT) based solar power policies – A case of Gujarat, India. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Review*, 57: 988-998. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2015.12.173>
- Zhang Juan, Yeoh, B.S.A. & Ramdas, K. 2017. Self-fashioning exceptionality: Flexible workers in Singapore's casino resorts. *Asian Anthropology*, 16(1): 4-19.

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

<https://iguyecg.wordpress.com/>

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 web blog represents the major tool for exchange of information among the members of the Task Force and other young scholars.

### **E. Archival Contributions**

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

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