

EAST - WEST BORDERSCAPES.

IMPRINTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE EUROPEAN BORDER LANDSCAPES

Trieste, Italy / Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia

October 2 – 4, 2014

From October 2 - 4, 2014, the Association of Slovenian Geographers (ZGS), in co-operation with the Association of Italian Geographers (AGEI), the University of Trieste (UNITS), Italy and the University of Primorska (UP) will host the meeting of the IGU's Commission on Political Geography (IGU CPG). The conference will elaborate on spatial imprints of WW 1 on the European border areas. The meeting will consist of sessions and one-day excursion (including field-work related sessions). The conference locations are Trieste, Italy and Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia; the excursion will take participants to the WW 1 Isonzo battle fields, the EU award winning WW 1 museum in Kobarid, Slovenia and to places where post-WW 1 imprints of the have left substantial marks in the natural, cultural and political landscape of Europe. After the closing of the IGU CPG conference a round table discussion on Dark Tourism is envisioned at the location of the Faculty of Tourism Studies TURISTICA in Portorož-Portorose, Slovenia.

Subject:

The centennial of the beginning of WW 1 is the occasion to discuss the war tragedies and multiple effects of the post-WW1 political decisions. The spatial arrangements after WW1 have strengthened new political players in Europe and have produced new spaces of confrontation. For example, in the Alps-Adriatic Europe the fragmentation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the geographical enlargement of the Italian Kingdom, and the evolution of Central European nation-states, induced by the US democratic ideals, have produced new borders and a variety of states on Europe's political map. The post-WW 1 peace settlements in Europe are by some academicians and politicians still considered as unjust. Ethnic, economic and political boundaries do not coincide; the quest for territory was for a substantial amount of time the urge of irredentist fascist, national-socialist and communist regimes in the post-WW1 and WW2 era.

Building on a tradition of previous borderscape conferences, we are looking forward to examine the relationship between spaces of governance in places where substantial change has taken place (as the result of the winning powers). This conference will explore how the post-WW 1 order has impacted the European geographical space and their cultural substance. Political and cultural geography will be the mainframe of the conference. The conference should particular identify major arrangements which have been and still are experienced in the European border areas:

- Spatial and political imprints of past empires;
- Spatial and political imprints of post-WW1 nationalism;
- Imprints of WW1 and post-WW1 arrangements in contemporary politics, culture and economy.

Case studies from all European borderscapes are welcome. The discussion, and in particular the excursion, will take into consideration the reality of the Alps-Adriatic region where the "Battle of Caporetto" (Kobarid) became synonymous for a total defeat of a nation (for a short while). Other similar European topics and, in particular cross-cultural comparisons of imprints left in border spaces by war and post-WW 1 arrangements are welcome. We would also like to place the attention to the general political, ethnic and economic spheres resulting out of brutal facts as closed borders have for decades separated nations. Illegal migration turned, with the loosening of the regimes, into shopping tourism and finally into tourism with motives related to the WW 1 confrontation areas and arrangements resulting out of it. Key-note speakers will be invited.

Conference Program:

The preliminary program envisions the following activities:

Thursday, October 2: Trieste, Italy: UNIVERSITY OF TRIESTE

11:00 – 13:00 registration;

13:00 – 15:00 opening and plenary session;

16:00 – 18:00 parallel sessions;

18:30 evening stroll/sightseeing of Austrian Empire's and fascist heritage.

Friday, October 3: Field Work Experience: Trieste – Kobarid – Koper-Capodistria (Bus).

8:00 Trieste – Monfalcone - Redipuglia – Doberdo del Lago-Doberdob – Opatje selo – Cerje – Miren – Gorizia – Dobrovo - Cividale del Friuli – Kobarid (Caporetto) - Nova Gorica – Koper-Capodistria /accommodation in Koper-Capodistria /.

21:00 Conference Dinner

Saturday, October 4: Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia: UNIVERSITY OF PRIMORSKA (UP)

9:00 plenary session;

11:00 parallel sessions;

13:00 concluding session

15:30 transfer to train/plane (Trieste/TRS).

(on **Monday, October 6:** Portorož- Portorose: University of Primorska, Faculty of Tourism Studies TURISTICA (UPFTS Turistica) organizes a whole day round table on **Dark Tourism**, with student participation, related to the greater region of the Alps-Adriatic and South-Eastern Europe. Interested participants (of the above conference) are welcome to attend and contribute to the success of sessions at UPFTS Turistica. No registration fee required! For more information contact the organizers below.)

Conference Language:

The conference language is English.

Call for papers:

Consider this letter as First Call for Papers, directing those interested to forward the title of the paper and abstract to the E-mail addresses below by **May 15, 2014** at the latest. This will enable us to put out the program and forward further information on registration. Namely later, after May 15th, 2014, in the Second Call for papers, only **professionals who will respond and show interest to participate** will be contacted again and asked to forward the registration fee to the Association of Slovenian Geographer's bank address.

Publishing:

The organizers are envisioning a book of proceedings. Respective papers will go through a process of evaluation. Full papers are expected by December 15, 2014. The expected time of publishing is set for the Fall of 2015.

Registration:

The conference fee is set at **€ 250.-** (Two hundred twenty Euros) as Early Bird Registration (before August 1, 2014); and **€ 300.-** (Two hundred fifty Euros) as Regular Registration (after August 1st, 2014) and includes the following services:

Conference program and conference abstract brochure;

Snacks and coffee/tee/water at conference breaks;

Conference dinner on Friday, October 3, 2014;

Bus excursion (Trieste – Kobarid – Koper-Capodistria) on Friday, October 3, 2014;

Bus transfer (Koper-Capodistria – Trieste and TRS at 15:30) on Saturday, October 4, 2014;

Hotel accommodation on Friday, October 4, 2014 in Koper-Capodistria

Proceedings (in the Fall of 2015).

IMPORTANT: Only participants/presenters who will forward the registration fee until September 1, 2014 - along with the title of the paper and abstract - could be named in the final program of the conference.

Logistics:

Transportation to and from the conference site is within your own responsibility (except for the transfer to the Trieste railway station and airport from Koper-Capodistria on October 4, 2014.

You should make your own hotel reservation on the day of your arrival (in Trieste) and the days after the conference - if you are interested to join sessions on Dark Tourism at the Faculty of Tourism Studies TURISTICA on October 6, 2014 in Portorož-Portorose, 15 kilometers south of Koper-Capodistria.

Organization:

Please hold the dates October 2 – 4, 2014 if you are interested in joining us in the Italo-Slovenian borderscape area. You are also welcome to prolong your stay at the round table on DARK TOURISM.

The Organizational Committee of the conference EAST-WEST BORDERSCAPES : IMPRINTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE EUROPEAN BORDER LANDSCAPES: Dr. Elena dell’Agnese, Dr. Milan Bufon, Dr. Igor Jelen, Dr. Sergio Zilli; Dr. Luka Juri, Dr. Miha Koderman, Dr. Stanko Pelc and Dr. Anton Gosar.

Head of the Conference: Prof. Dr. Anton Gosar, Honorary Vice-President of the IGU Commission on Political Geography, with the collaboration of Dr. Sergio Zilli, Vice-President of the Association of Italian Geographers (AGEI).

Please show interest to attend the conference EAST-WEST BORDERSCAPES. IMPRINTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE EUROPEAN BORDER LANDSCAPES (Trieste, Italy / Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia October 2 – 4, 2014) by filling out and returning the enclosed form (title of your paper and abstract) and by writing/E-mailing it to: anton.gosar@guest.arnes.si and/or zillis@units.it.

Sincerely

Prof. Dr. Anton Gosar, Hon. Vice-Pres.
IGU Commission on Political Geography.

Registration Form

EAST-WEST BORDERSCAPES.

IMPRINTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE EUROPEAN BORDER LANDSCAPES

Trieste, Italy / Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia

October 2 – 4, 2014

Name:

Work:

Home:

GSM: FAX:

I am interested to attend the conference **EAST-WEST BORDERSCAPES. IMPRINTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE EUROPEAN BORDER LANDSCAPES** (Trieste/Koper, October 2 – 4, 2014):

- with the paper entitled:

.....

- without a paper.
- I am enclosing the abstract of my paper.

I am also interested to attend the Round table on **Dark Tourism** (UP Faculty of Tourism Studies TURISTICA) in Portorož-Portorose on October 6, 2014. My discussion will cover the subject:

.....

I will forward the outline of my discussion in accordance with the information received on a later date.

Date:

Signature:

E-mail to: anton.gosar@guest.arnes.si or zillis@units.it