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# IGU COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

## Newsletter

*The Commission on Political Geography (CPG) of IGU-UGI aims at encouraging geographical research on these various dimensions of the connections between power, politics, and spaces, and at stimulating the exchange of findings and insights among political geographers from different countries. It is also focused on the analysis of the connections between political geographies (that is all the discursive praxis pertaining with the representation of the world in its political organization) and the making of the world itself.*



### Chair's Column – Peace and Political Geography

Peace might be much sought after, it is seldom found. Even as a concept it remains elusive. Political geographers, like other (human) geographers, have long neglected analyzing it, although many of them have tried to promote peace in concrete situation, not least through their geographical expertise and through the teaching of geography. As a discipline however, (political) geography has been more often associated with war than with peace. As the French geographer Yves Lacoste famously stated in the 1970s “La géographie ca sert d’abord à faire la guerre”, geography has been a knowledge instrument for war waging, as well as colonialism and top-down societal planning. Since the revival of political geography in the early 1980s, academic geography has distanced itself from statecraft and tends to keep the power that be at bay. The backlash is that geographers and the knowledge and insights they produce are overlooked by policy makers.

Peace has been paid relatively little attention, although the commitment to peace of individual geographers is nothing new (Mamadouh 2002) and the strength of the anarchist geographical networks of the late 19th century and early 20th century has recently been rediscovered (Pelletier 2006, 2009, Springer 2016). Slowly peace geographies have emerged as a small but lively field of studies (Megoran 2011, McConnell et al 2014, for overviews see Megoran 2013 and Koopman 2017a and 2017b. Noteworthy is also a forthcoming special issue of *L’Espace Politique* on borders and peace guest edited by Cattaruzza and Amilhat Szary 2018) and Stan Brunn’s initiative for an online International Atlas of Peace (see further in this Newsletter).

It is often pointed out that peace is not just the absence of violence (sometimes called “negative peace” in a phrase attributed to Johan Galtung one of the founders of peace studies). We need a more nuanced and complex understanding of peace. Likewise peace promotion is not simply the opposition to war: pacifists (including pacifist geographers) have sometimes supported military resistance and operations with the aim of achieving peace (see for a discussion of geographers in the Italian pacifist movement Dell’Agnese 2018). In short, peace is a contested concept, both regarding its abstract conceptualization, and its conditions in specific, concrete situations. Contingencies of peace building and peace making need to be studied more systematically and methodological choices and ethical issues need to be discussed. Political geographers have much to contribute to both geographies of peace and geographies for peace.

La Paz was in April 2017 the venue of the first IGU Thematic Conference Geographies for Peace / Geografías para la paz. The Commission on Political Geography was very much involved in the organization of the event, not in the least because it was an initiative of the former chair Elena dell’Agnese, now vice-president of the International Geographical Union. The conference aimed at foregrounding and promoting peace geographies and encouraging exchanges between geographers studying and/or promoting peace through geography in very different places in the world. More specifically it was meant to foster the integration of South



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American geographers in the International Geographical Union. It brought geographers from all continents to Bolivia, had two working languages (English and Spanish) and was scheduled just before the annual conference of the Latin American Geographers EGAL (XVI Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina) in the same venue in La Paz, to encourage EGAL participants to attend and to encourage IGU participants to attend EGAL.

Thanks to the organization of our Bolivian and Peruvian colleagues and their students, participants can look back on an inspiring meeting, including a fascinating visit of La Paz and its teleferico. The Commission on Political Geography was strongly represented. The panels (in English or in Spanish, sometimes mixed, sometimes with simultaneous translations, often with bilingual slides) were lively and very diverse, including political geography, critical geopolitics and critical border studies but also indigenous studies, historical geography and education geography.

Regarding the history of political geography and peace two moments were particularly important: the plenary intervention of John O'Loughlin reflecting on the work done since he and Herman van der Wusten called political geographers to contribute to stable peace thirty years ago (in the Cold War Van der Wusten & O'Loughlin 1986) and the conversation between Nick Megoran and Simon Dalby about the engagement of political geography and geopolitics with peace (Megoran and Dalby 2018). Regarding peace in the region, the conference hosted several panels reflecting on the Colombia peace process (Cairo et al 2018). It was also very promising to see many advanced students and early career geographers attending and presenting their work. The diversity of the empirical cases was impressing. La Paz will be remembered as a significant conference. As always in the case of a fruitful conference, the exchanges led to new conversations, friendships, networks and collaborative efforts. Let's hope they will be sustained and sort some effect in the world out there. It is deeply needed and one can't formulate any more relevant research agenda than this.

Virginie Mamadouh  
CPG Co-Chair

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## CPG Travel Grants

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brazilian Congress on Political Geography, Geopolitics and Territorial Management (CONGEO) in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, the 2018 Thematic Conference “Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges” in Moscow, Russia, and the IGU Regional Conference – CAG Annual Meeting “Apprécier la difference/Appreciating difference” in Québec, Canada, PhD students and early career geographers can apply for a CPG Travel grant (US\$ 500) to support attendance and present a paper (one grant for each conference). The grant is reserved for participants coming from outside Brazil (for the CONGEO conference), Russia (for the Moscow thematic conference), and Canada (for the IGU Regional Conference). Applicants for Quebec and Moscow should submit an abstract and a note from session organizers confirming that the paper has been accepted, a 2-page summary, a CV, and a letter of motivation to both the CPG Co-Chairs, Virginie Mamadouh ([V.D.Mamadouh@uva.nl](mailto:V.D.Mamadouh@uva.nl)) and Alec Murphy ([abmurphy@uoregon.edu](mailto:abmurphy@uoregon.edu)) via email by 1 March 2017. A decision will be communicated by 8 March. Deadlines for Rio will be announced later. Grants to the awardees will be in the form of cash payments in USD after presentation have been made.

## Past Events

### Co-sponsored IGU Regional Conference Geographies for peace / Geografias para la paz. La Paz, Bolivia, 23-25 April 2017, 120 participants

Anna Casaglia

The conference has gathered together scholars from various parts of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia in La Paz, Bolivia, offering the possibility to meet with geographers from Latin America and know more about their work and research agenda.

In the three days of the conference, the concept of peace has been analysed from different theoretical point of views, and through diversified examples from research experiences, giving the opportunity to all participants to reflect on their role as geographers and to critically examine the idea of peace.

The plenary that opened the conference has set its general framework, with an overview of the historical relation between political geography and war/peace, some initial reflection on the different possible interpretations of peace and its distinction from pacifism, and its relationship with fear and insecurity, with interventions by Virginie Mamadouh, Heriberto Cairo Carou, Emiliano Díaz Carnero, Michael Shapiro, and Freddy Morales Ruitiña. After the initial plenary sessions, the conference reception has offered the attendants the opportunity to

enjoy a traditional dance show organized by the students of the Faculty of Geography of La Paz.



Virginie Mamadouh opening the Conference during the initial Plenary Session

Despite some absences among the presenters, the parallel sessions organized in the following days were participated and rich in discussion, either in Spanish or English, depending on the attendees, and in some cases facilitated by simultaneous translation. In the various slots, peace has been analysed and discussed in terms of ecology, tourism, activism, borders, and from a historical perspective. The sessions were characterized by very different approaches and an impressive variety of geographical origins and/or focuses. Many presentations dealt with case studies based in Latin American, particularly interesting for scholars who have rarely the occasion to confront with non-Anglophone literature and research.

The theoretical and analytical level of presentations was very high, and it was interesting to see how scholars, besides those who already worked on the topic, were able to re-examine their research within the framework of peace.



Images from the parallel sessions

The concept was almost always used critically, both when applied to case studies analysis and when presented throughout the history of geographical thought. This was evident in plenary conversation between Simon Dalby and Nick Megoran, whose overview on the geographies of and for peace was broadly appreciated and concluded proposing an agenda for future



research topics of great importance for maintaining the attention on peace, not just as a word emptied of meanings. The second plenary event was the ACME lecture with Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, a feminist activist, sociologist, historian, and subaltern theorist from Bolivia, who gave an inspiring lecture about the landscape and its relationship with indigenous knowledge. The final plenary, held by Marina Calloni, John O' Loughlin, Sara Koopman, and Maria Lois, has also given interesting insight to continue reasoning around the concept of peace in geography and beyond, and some ideas for further research.



The conversation between Simon Dalby and Nick Megoran

The relatively small size of the conference, together with its openness in terms of approaches and areas of study, made it a very successful event, socially enjoyable and rich in contents. People could easily meet and discuss during and after the sessions, and this encounter was also facilitated by the participation in the different field trips proposed by the conference organizers, especially the cable-cab tour held on the morning before the conference opening, which saw a large participation and was the occasion to know the social and geographical history of La Paz and El Alto.



The final Plenary Session

Two travel grants were awarded to Arthur Luna Borba Colen França, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil) and to Inocent Moyo (University of Zululand, South Africa).

**CPG session at the 12th Korea-China-Japan Joint Conference on Geography.  
Jeju, Republic of Korea, 23-26 August 2017, 200 participants**  
Takashi Yamazaki

The 12th Korea-China-Japan Joint Conference on Geography was held on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, in August 23-26. The Conference was first held in 2006 in Beijing, China for younger geographers. Since then it has been held annually in one of the three countries and extended to include senior researchers. This year's main theme was "Toward Sustainable Environments and Human Societies." The venue was Ara Convention Hall, Jeju National University (Photo 1) on Jeju Island where Chinese visitors need no visa, resulting in more Chinese participants. The Conference was very successful in attracting approximately 200 participants from 10 countries across Asia.

For this Conference, former IGU-CPG Co-chair Takashi Yamazaki (Osaka City University, Japan) organized a session specialized in political geography which was probably the very first one on the sub-field for the tri-country Conference. The session featured "The Development and Challenges of Political Geographies in Northeast Asia."

Broadly speaking, Northeast Asia in an age of deepening globalization illustrates how countries and sub-regions in the region not only become interconnected but also show the symptoms of potential conflicts as seen in intra-regional historical and territorial disputes. While both factors have affected public consciousness and can promote ethno-centric nationalism in localities, increasing trans-local interactions and exchange particularly in border regions have demonstrated that the situation is not so simply conflictual. Political geographies developed in the postwar period have long dealt with such issues at various geographic scales and can provide a vision for peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia.



Sang-Hyun Chi at the session on August 24.  
(Taken by the KCJ Conference Organizer)

Thus this session consisted of the following four papers on the development and challenges of political geographies in Northeast Asia presented by leading political geographers from the region. It became the first step to create a forum to discuss the possibility of cooperative political geographies of Northeast Asia beyond the state-centric tradition of the sub-discipline.

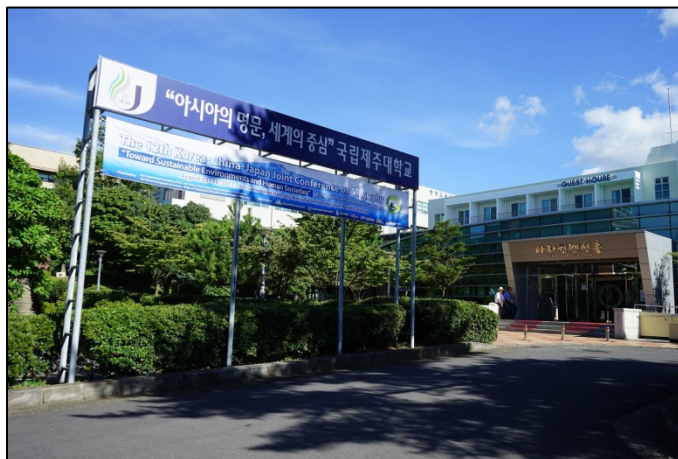
Bae-Gyoon Park (Seoul National University, Republic of Korea)  
State Territoriality and Spaces of Exception in East Asia: Universalities and Particularities of East Asian Special Zones

Sang-Hyun Chi (Kyung Hee University, Republic of Korea, Photo 2)  
Geopolitics of Conflicts and Cooperations in Northeast Asia: Geopolitics of Northeast Asia in Korean Academia

Takashi Yamazaki (Osaka City University, Japan)  
Reemerging Political Geography and Classical Geopolitics in Japan: Do We Repeat the Shadowy Past?

Yungan Liu (Sun Yat-sen University, People's Republic of China, Session Chair)  
The State of Art of Chinese Political Geography

Part of the speakers has already met with each other in occasions such as AAG and IGU meetings. This session, however, was the very first attempt for them to get together and discuss political geographic matters that can be commonly shared. So they will keep in touch with each other and plan to publish a book on geopolitics in East Asia to shed more light on forgotten aspects in political geographies led by the West.



Ara Convention Hall, Jeju National University.  
(Taken by the KCJ Conference Organizer)

### **“The Belt and Road & Political Geography.” Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, 27 August – 9 September 2017, 120 participants**

The Summer Program on “The Belt and Road & Political Geography” focused on the development of Political Geography in China, as well as the self-improvement of and communication among political geographers and young researchers from various universities and research institutes. The School of Geography and Planning in Sun Yat-Sen University hosted 15 domestic and foreign leading experts engaged in the study of political geography, geopolitics, and the Belt and Road. The Summer Program provided a forum for exposing young researchers and students to the most important ideas and recent developments in studying and understanding Political Geography and the Belt and Road Initiatives. Youth outreach and interaction was a key part of the conference, and young researchers engaged in discussion of research topics and ideas for future work.

## **Future IGU Events**

### **2018 IGU Regional Conference – CAG Annual Meeting “Apprécier la difference/Appreciating difference.” Québec, Canada, 6-10 August 2018**

This bilingual English-French conference is a truly international event bringing together more than fifty IGU and CAG Commissions and Study Groups in Human, Physical and Education Geography. We are equally pleased to be joined by the National Council for Geographic Education. Numerous field trips will take advantage of Québec's stunning mountain, marine

and rural environments as well as urban and cultural centres. Come for the geography and stay for the natural and cultural attractions!

### **2018 Thematic Conference “Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges.” Moscow, Russia, 6-8 June 2018**

The conference which will be held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) - the largest world-renowned geographical research organization in Russia. This occasion provides an opportunity to make an overview of the domestic and international trends in geography's development – to analyze the growing impact of scientific research internationalization, the aggravation of global problems, changing theoretical paradigms, radical renewal of research methods and predictions' validity, as well as to strengthen the integration between social and environmental branches of geography.

### **IGU Commission 'Geography of Governance' 2018 Annual Conference "Fifty Years of Local Governance 1980 – 2030." Lisbon, Portugal, 4-5 September 2018**

The Conference marks the establishment 30 years ago of the IGU Commission on Geography and Public Administration, after an initial period as a Study Group of the International Geographical Union, from 1984 to 1988. The conference seeks to revisit the main research issues addressed by the Commission since the mid 1980s and to explore the current trends and future challenges confronting local governance in the context of the new global urban agendas, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs that came officially into force on 1 January 2016, the New Urban Agenda adopted in the Habitat III Conference, in October 2016, and the Paris Agreement or Paris Climate Agreement adopted in December 2015.

### **III CONGEO (Brazilian Congress on Political geography, Geopolitics and Territorial Management). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 10-14 July 2018**

CONGEO has become a unique opportunity to meet scholars, professors, practitioners, as well as graduate and undergraduate students interested in sharing their findings and updating their discussions. The theme of 3<sup>rd</sup> CONGEO is “Crisis and reinvention of the spaces of politics”, attuned with the current crisis context and its reflections on the possibilities and limits to action and to political decision in Brazil and elsewhere.

### **IGU Commission on African Studies Inaugural Conference. 17-18 May 2019, Windhoek, Namibia.**

The International Geographical Union (IGU), recently approved the formation of the IGU Commission on African Studies, whose overarching aim is the promotion of African and Africanist scholarship on issues around and in Africa, ranging from social sciences to natural sciences, but informed in the main by geographical, multi and interdisciplinary perspectives. This materialises in the form of inter alia, Thematic Conferences run under the IGU Commission of African Studies. In pursuit of this mandate, the IGU and the University of Namibia (UNAM), therefore, brings you the Launch of the IGU's Commission on African Studies and the inaugural Conference in May 2018. UNAM and IGU hope delegates will want to converge on Windhoek to explore and play a part in identifying how Africa can respond to global challenges now and in the future.



## Other Future Events

### **American Association of Geographers (AAG) 2018 Annual Meeting. 10-14 April 2018, New Orleans, USA.**

Join fellow geographers, GIS specialists, environmental scientists, and other leaders for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. The meeting will be held April 10-14, 2018 and will feature more than 6,000 presentations, posters, workshops, and field trips by leading scholars, experts, and researchers. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be headquartered at the Marriott French Quarter New Orleans.

The Preconference of the AAG Political Geography Specialty Group takes place on April 9 in New Orleans.

### **Beyond Planetary Apartheid. 9-11 May 2018, Lisbon, Portugal.**

The contemporary physical, socio-cultural and political worlds are being increasingly compartmentalised. In this conference, we want to discuss whether, and to what extent, are the global society and space moving toward a state of generalised and planetary, if creeping, apartheid. While we observe settler colonialism becoming a global and transnational phenomenon, apartheidisation represents one of its forms in a continuous relationship with other political forces/processes, and in the consolidation of multiple (in)visible borders. Be they justified in the name of fear and insecurity or rather progress and development, a myriad of inter-related factors and processes (at micro-, meso-, and macro-levels) are pushing toward the proliferation of spaces of (in)voluntary exclusion often characterised by states of exception. While some thinkers have reasons to believe that all such trends will be intensified in the foreseeable future as a result of climate change and the subsequent socioeconomic and ecological crises, it is high time for an in-depth, grounded and forward-looking discussion of contemporary forms of apartheid.

### **5<sup>th</sup> European Workshop in International Studies. 6-9 June 2018, Groningen, the Netherlands.**

EWIS 2018 will be held at University of Groningen, an increasingly important centre for IR in Europe. The university is situated in the heart of the city, which allows easy access to Groningen's rich history (including as a seat of the Hanseatic league) as well as its dynamic and diverse contemporary life. Easily reachable by direct train from Amsterdam Schiphol airport – and many other cities – Groningen combines the accessible charm of a small university town with the outlook and diversity of a big city. The workshops that have been selected allow for exploration of the EWIS 2018 theme - 'The Return of Politics to International Relations' - and will zoom in on the manifold ways in which knowledge produced in the field of International Relations is increasingly politicized, considered as inherently political and confronted with ongoing efforts to reconceptualise politics and the political beyond the confines of IR.

### **"Border deaths and migration policies. State and non-state approaches" International Conference. 14-15 June 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.**

At the end of its research project on border deaths (<http://www.borderdeaths.org>), the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, in collaboration with IOM, MSF and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, invites researchers from across the disciplines, policymakers, state and non-state actors involved in border control and/or search and rescue activities, international organizations, non-governmental

organizations, activists, civil servants and practitioners from across the world to engage in a dialogue and confront each other with their findings, experiences and insights about the issue of migration-related border deaths.

**Conference Homeland–Diaspora Relations in Flux: Greece in Crisis and Greeks Abroad. 22-23 June 2018, Oxford, UK.**

Greece's long drawn out economic crisis is by now an indisputably pivotal event in the country's history and as such, it cannot but redefine the nature and role of Greece's diaspora. The modern Greek state was constructed by and for a trans-territorial national community and since its establishment the proclaimed aim of its diaspora policy has been the strengthening of ties between the Greek 'national centre' and Greeks abroad. The latter have historically demonstrated high levels of homeland orientation and have had a major input in Greece's evolution in economic, political, social and cultural terms. But how is the interrelationship between Greece and its diasporic communities shaping up in the current context and conjunction of the crisis? To what extent are Greeks abroad willing and able to contribute to the crisis' resolution and, more importantly, to Greece's long-term transformation? Aiming to answer these questions the Greek Diaspora Project at SEESOX is organizing the conference "Homeland-Diaspora Relations in Flux: Greece and Greeks abroad at times of Crisis" on June 22-23, 2018 at the University of Oxford.

**Second Association for Borderland Studies (ABS) 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference "Border-Making and its Consequences: Interpreting Evidence from the "post-Colonial" and "post-Imperial" 20th Century." 10-14 July 2018, Budapest, Hungary and Vienna, Austria.**

The second edition of this quadrennial event is organized by the University of Vienna and partners and is hosted in Vienna and Budapest from July 10th to 14th, 2018. The organizing theme is Border-Making and its Consequences: Interpreting Evidence from the "post-Colonial" and "post-Imperial" 20th Century. We expect more than 400 participants from around the world, including renowned scholars as well as students, spanning all fields of the humanities and social sciences. Please take your time to discover the many intriguing aspects of this conference, from the multitude of panels and the keynote speeches to the special programs within the frame of the convention.

**RGS-IBG Annual International Conference. 28-30 August 2018, Cardiff, UK.**

The annual conference provides the perfect opportunity to find out more about the latest geographical research from across the discipline, while networking with over 1,800 delegates from around the world. This year, we are looking forward to welcoming delegates to Cardiff, capital city of Wales.

**16th International 'Lodz' Political Geography Conference. 12-14 September 2018, Skorzecin, Poland**

The Department of Political and Historical Geography and Regional Studies, University of Lodz is organizing the 16th 'Lodz' International Political Geography Conference that will be held on September 12–14, 2018. The subject of the conference is the role of the State in the era of Globalization.

**World Social Science Forum 2018: Security and Equality for Sustainable Futures. 25-28 September 2018, Fukuoka, Japan.**

A broad range of topics which are open to interdisciplinary and worldwide interrogation fall under the theme “Security and Equality for Sustainable Futures.” In recent years, global crises have compelled people throughout the world to reconsider the sustainability of human societies. Human activities are also recognized as having a significant global impact on Earth’s geology and ecosystems. This in turn requires inclusive and coordinated action to ensure equality and security for human beings. The social sciences and humanities have a vital role to play in achieving such a sense of security in dialogue among citizens and policy makers. This forum seeks to create a platform for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research which will contribute to the creation of a sustainable world.

**BRIT 2018 Conference “North-South Dialogue on Border Management” co-hosted by Nigeria and Benin Republic. 15-18 October 2018, Ibadan, Nigeria and Cotonou, Benin.**

The 16th edition of the BRIT conference will be co-hosted by the Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies (IPSS), University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Benin Republic from October 15 - 18, 2018. The theme of the conference is “North-South Dialogue on Border Management”. The theme would enable scholars and practitioners from the global North and South to critically exchange ideas on how to improve border management for the betterment of the two parts of the world in the context of the emerging problems of human migration. For now, borders in the global North are under pressure from migrants from the global South. What are the push and pull factors for both regular and irregular migration from the South to the North in the modern world? What global, regional and national border control mechanisms exist for dealing with the problems and how adequate are they? What can be actionably done towards improving good border management practices in a way beneficial to the two worlds? What form should the dialogue between the North and South on border issues take? How do we feed the outcomes of this kind of exercise into the global mechanisms on border management? These and related issues would be addressed during the conference. Responding to these questions in a meaningful way requires a coordinated, systematic and structured approach, while answers generated must be hinged on the principles of complementarity, partnership and shared responsibility given the fact that dialogue promotes buy-in and sustainable solutions among all stakeholders.

## International Atlas of Peace

The purposes of the electronic International Atlas of Peace are to generate, collect and disseminate maps, graphs, tables and other materials about peace, conflict resolution, and peace/social justice initiatives, policies, and strategies at multiple scales. The project seeks to be "International" in terms of inclusive global participation, an "Atlas" in that it primarily uses cartographic and spatial representation techniques from multiple cultures and disciplines, and interprets "Peace" in all its connotations, whether as absence of conflict, or the promotion of all aspects of a more just and sustainable quality of life.

Contributions to the on-line project will come from scholars, students, program directors, independent scholars, organizational volunteers and policy representatives around the world. Interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and multilingual contributions are encouraged and welcomed; these include specific peace and social justice groups and organizations, but also those interested in environmental and sustainable initiatives with peace and justice themes, and all groups and individuals engaged in art, education and recreation forms devoted to peace issues. The major objective is to provide a comprehensive and on-going atlas that will contain historical, contemporary and future-oriented maps, tables, photographs and references for diverse audiences.

Executive Committee Members: Stanley D. Brunn; J. Clark Archer; Vandana Wadhwa; Jennifer Pomeroy; Jeremy Tasch; Daniel Z. Sui; John C. Kostelnick; Matthew W. Wilson; Jennifer L. Fluri; Virginie Mamadouh

More information can be found at the project's website:

<https://www.ycp.edu/academics/academic-departments/history-and-political-science/programs/geography/atlas-of-peace/>



## Publications



### **Rehearsing the State: The Political Practices of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile**

Fiona McConnell | Wiley | 2016

Rehearsing the State presents a comprehensive investigation of the institutions, performances, and actors through which the Tibetan Government-in-Exile is rehearsing statecraft. McConnell offers new insights into how communities officially excluded from formal state politics enact hoped-for futures and seek legitimacy in the present.

- Offers timely and original insights into exile Tibetan politics based on detailed qualitative research in Tibetan communities in India
- Advances existing debates in political geography by bringing ideas of stateness and statecraft into dialogue with geographies of temporality
- Explores the provisional and pedagogical dimensions of state practices, adding weight to assertions that states are in a continual situation of emergence
- Makes a significant contribution to critical state theory -*Publisher*

### **Predator Empire: Drone Warfare and Full Spectrum Dominance**

Ian G. R. Shaw | University of Minnesota Press | 2016

What does it mean for human beings to exist in an era of dronified state violence? How can we understand the rise of robotic systems of power and domination? Focusing on U.S. drone warfare and its broader implications as no other book has to date, Predator Empire argues that we are witnessing a transition from a labor-intensive “American empire” to a machine-intensive “Predator Empire.” Moving from the Vietnam War to the War on Terror and beyond, Ian G. R. Shaw reveals how changes in military strategy, domestic policing, and state surveillance have come together to enclose our planet in a robotic system of control. The rise of drones presents a series of “existential crises,” he suggests, that are reengineering not only spaces of violence but also the character of the modern state. Positioning drone warfare as part of a much longer project to watch and enclose the human species, he shows that for decades—centuries even—human existence has slowly but surely been brought within the artificial worlds of “technological civilization.” Instead of incarcerating us in prisons or colonizing territory directly, the Predator Empire locks us inside a worldwide system of electromagnetic enclosure—in which democratic ideals give way to a system of totalitarian control, a machinic “rule by Nobody.” As accessibly written as it is theoretically ambitious, Predator Empire provides up-to-date information about U.S. drone warfare, as well as an in-depth history of the rise of drones. -*Publisher*

### **Atlas politique de la France: Les révolutions silencieuses de la société française**

Jean-Nicolas Fauchille, Jacques Lévy, Ogier Maitre & Ana Póvoas | Autrement | 2017

Plus de 70 cartes pour présenter la géographie politique de la France, de 1992 à aujourd'hui.

- Géographie politique : dans quelle mesure le lieu de résidence détermine-t-il le vote?
- L'ascension du Front national : un vote porté par les espaces périurbains

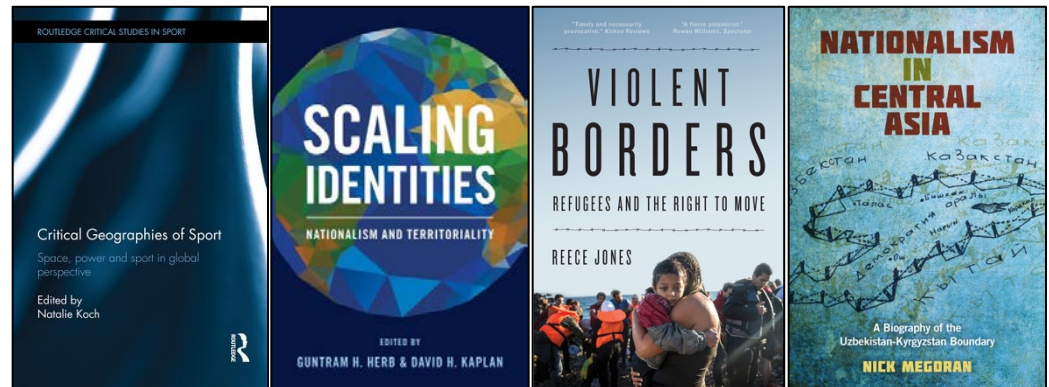
- Dynamisme économique et redistribution des richesses : la France fait-elle le choix du développement et de la justice?
- Terrorisme, migrations, mondialisation : la France en Europe et dans le Monde
- Quels enseignements tirer de l'élection présidentielle de 2017?

De référendums en élections, sur une période de vingt-cinq ans, la cartographie fait apparaître les nouvelles lignes de force de l'espace français, mettant en évidence des changements profonds et durables. -*Publisher*

### Diplomatic Material: Affect, Assemblage and Foreign Policy

Jason Dittmer | Duke Univers | 2017

In *Diplomatic Material* Jason Dittmer offers a counterintuitive reading of foreign policy by tracing the ways that complex interactions between people and things shape the decisions and actions of diplomats and policymakers. Bringing new materialism to bear on international relations, Dittmer focuses not on what the state does in the world but on how the world operates within the state through the circulation of humans and nonhuman objects. From examining how paper storage needs impacted the design of the British Foreign Office Building to discussing the 1953 NATO decision to adopt the .30 caliber bullet as the standard rifle ammunition, Dittmer highlights the contingency of human agency within international relations. In Dittmer's model, which eschews stasis, structural forces, and historical trends in favor of dynamism and becoming, the international community is less a coming-together of states than it is a convergence of media, things, people, and practices. In this way, Dittmer locates power in the unfolding of processes on the micro level, thereby reconceptualizing our understandings of diplomacy and international relations. -*Publisher*



### Critical Geographies of Sport: Space, Power and Sport in Global Perspective

Natalie Koch | Routledge | 2017

Sport is a geographic phenomenon. The physical and organizational infrastructure of sport occupies a prominent place in our society. This important book takes an explicitly spatial approach to sport, bringing together research in geography, sport studies and related disciplines to articulate a critical approach to 'sports geography'. *Critical Geographies of Sport* illustrates this approach by engaging directly with a variety of theoretical traditions as well as the latest research methods. Each chapter showcases the merits of a geographic approach to the study of sport – ranging from football to running, horseracing and professional wrestling. Including cases from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, the book highlights the ways that space and power are produced through sport and its concomitant infrastructures, agencies and networks. Holding these power relations at the center of its analysis, it considers sport as a unique lens onto our understanding of space. Truly global in its perspective, it is fascinating reading for any student or scholar with an interest in sport and politics, sport and society, or human geography. -*Publisher*

### **Scaling Identities: Nationalism and Territoriality**

Guntram H. Herb & David H. Kaplan (Eds.) | Rowman and Littlefield | 2017

This comprehensive book examines the crucial connections between national identity, territory, and scale. Providing a powerful theoretical and organizational framework, the volume identifies four ways in which scale operates dynamically in the formation and maintenance of national identity. Consolidating identities considers the strategies necessary to keep all parts within the fold through educational systems, minority policies, immigration controls, and other forms of traditional state power. Magnifying identities examines the consequences of shifting the scale up and unifying territories that have a sense of a larger, supranational identity. Connecting identities assesses how nations can bridge physical distance, water barriers, or sovereign boundaries. Fragmenting identities looks into the disintegration of national identities and those forces that have the potential to unravel a nation or block its effective formation. Nationalism and national identity remain critical flashpoints in the geopolitical order, as we have seen in the development of a quasi-independent Kurdistan in Northern Iraq, the resurgence of Native American identities in response to the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Chinese crackdown on its minority regions. Offering a rich set of case studies from around the world, this essential book affirms the global importance of national identity and scale. -*Publisher*

### **Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move**

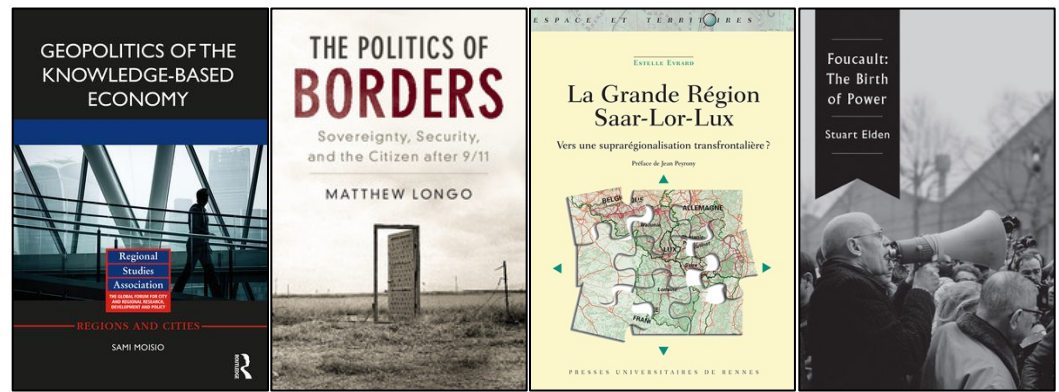
Reece Jones | Verso | 2017

Forty thousand people have died trying to cross between countries in the past decade, and yet international borders only continue to harden. The United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union; the United States elected a president who campaigned on building a wall; while elsewhere, the popularity of right-wing anti-migrant nationalist political parties is surging. Reece Jones argues that the West has helped bring about the deaths of countless migrants, as states attempt to contain populations and limit access to resources and opportunities. "We may live in an era of globalization," he writes, "but much of the world is increasingly focused on limiting the free movement of people." In *Violent Borders*, Jones crosses the migrant trails of the world, documenting the billions of dollars spent on border security projects and the dire consequences for countless millions. While the poor are restricted by the lottery of birth to slum dwellings in the ailing decolonized world, the wealthy travel without constraint, exploiting pools of cheap labor and lax environmental regulations. With the growth of borders and resource enclosures, the deaths of migrants in search of a better life are intimately connected to climate change, environmental degradation, and the growth of global wealth inequality. -*Publisher*

### **Nationalism in Central Asia: A Biography of the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan Boundary**

Nick Megoran | University of Pittsburgh Press | 2017

Nationalism in Central Asia explores the process of building independent nation-states in post-Soviet Central Asia through the lens of the disputed border territory between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. In this rich "biography" of the boundary, Nick Megoran employs a combination of political, cultural, historical, ethnographic, and geographic frames to shed new light on nation-building processes in this volatile region. Grounded in his extensive research in Uzbek and Kyrgyz newspapers covering key events in the border region during a twenty-year period, combined with field interviews, observation, and participation, Megoran provides tangible evidence to back his thesis on this pivotal geopolitical space left in the void of the post-Soviet era. He considers the problems of elite national discourse versus local vernacular, border closures, riots, violence, and massacre, all of which have enflamed territorial anxieties. Megoran revisits theories of causation, such as the loss of Soviet control, poorly defined borders, natural resource disputes, and historic ethnic clashes, to show that while these serve to heighten tensions, political actors and their agendas have driven territorial aspirations, and are the overriding source of conflict. -*Publisher*



### **Geopolitics of the Knowledge-Based Economy**

Sami Moiso | Routledge | 2018

We live in the era of the knowledge-based economy, and this has major implications for the ways in which states, cities and even supranational political units are spatially planned, governed and developed. In this book, Sami Moiso delves deeply into the links between the knowledge-based economy and geopolitics, examining a wide range of themes, including city geopolitics and the university as a geopolitical site. Overall, this work shows that knowledge-based "economization" can be understood as a geopolitical process that produces territories of wealth, security, power and belonging. -*Publisher*

### **The Politics of Borders: Sovereignty, Security, and the Citizen after 9/11**

Matthew Longo | Cambridge University Press | 2017

Borders sit at the center of global politics. Yet they are too often understood as thin lines, as they appear on maps, rather than as political institutions in their own right. This book takes a detailed look at the evolution of border security in the United States after 9/11. Far from the walls and fences that dominate the news, it reveals borders to be thick, multi-faceted and binational institutions that have evolved greatly in recent decades. The book contributes to debates within political science on sovereignty, citizenship, cosmopolitanism, human rights and global justice. In particular, the new politics of borders reveal a sovereignty that is not waning, but changing, expanding beyond the state carapace and engaging certain logics of empire. -*Publisher*

### **La Grande Région Saar-Lor-Lux: Vers une suprarégionalisation transfrontalière?**

Estelle Evrard | Presses Universitaires de Rennes | 2018

Au-delà des discours et des symboles, quelle signification peut recouvrir la notion de région transfrontalière ? En définissant la région comme une construction identitaire, territoriale et institutionnelle se perpétuant dans le temps, cet ouvrage identifie et questionne les spécificités de ce processus dans le contexte transfrontalier. Cette problématique est explorée à partir du cas emblématique de la Grande Région qui a initié une stratégie de long terme en 2008 en associant la Lorraine, le Luxembourg, la Rhénanie-Palatinat, la Sarre et la Wallonie. -*Publisher*

### **Foucault: The Birth of Power**

Stuart Elden | Polity Press | 2017

Michel Foucault's *The Archaeology of Knowledge* was published in March 1969; *Discipline and Punish* in February 1975. Although only six years apart, the difference in tone is stark: the former is a methodological treatise, the latter a call to arms. What accounts for the radical shift in Foucault's approach? Foucault's time in Tunisia had been a political awakening for him, and he returned to a France much changed by the turmoil of 1968. He taught at the experimental University of Vincennes and then moved to a prestigious position at the Collège de France. He quickly became involved in activist work concerning prisons and health issues such as abortion rights, and in his seminars he built research teams to conduct collaborative work, often around issues related to his lectures and activism. *Foucault: The Birth of Power* makes use of a range



of archival material, including newly available documents at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, to provide a detailed intellectual history of Foucault as writer, researcher, lecturer and activist. Through a careful reconstruction of Foucault's work and preoccupations, Elden shows that, while Discipline and Punish may be the major published output of this period, it rests on a much wider range of concerns and projects. -*Publisher*

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