S-6 – Geography as an international science: historical perspectives and present challenges

Commission on the History of Geography

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Abstract:
Along the lines of the general theme of the 25th International Congress on the History of Science and Technology (“Science, Technology and Medicine between the Global and the Local”), the IGU & IUHPST Commission on the History of Geography will organise a themed session on “Geography as an international science: historical perspectives and present challenges”.

Papers are welcome especially dealing with the following questions and topics:
• What is “the international” with regard to science and, particularly, to geography? What are the main factors, actors and problems determining the internationalization processes?
• What are the major landmarks and periods in the internationalization of geography? In which way are they connected with broader processes affecting the internationalization of other sciences?
• How world geopolitical, economic, etc. issues have influenced/do influence internationalization of geography?
• Scientific languages and internationalization processes (including, among others, the question of “Anglocentrism”).
• The “North – South” problem in geography.
• Processes of circulation and dissemination of geographical concepts, ideas, theories, paradigms, etc.
• International cooperation in geography and cartography.
• History and major contributions of international geographical congresses and organizations (such as the International Geographical Union, the International Cartographic Association, etc.) both to the internationalization of geography (and more broadly, to science and civil society), as well as to the evolution of the discipline in national contexts and schools.
• Evolution of certain geographical topics, subdisciplines or technologies as reflected in the international geographical meetings.
• The role of internet and open access journals in the internationalization of geography.
• Interdisciplinarity, fragmentation and synthesis in international geography.
• Contributions of geography and geographers to internationalism and global thinking.
Involvement of geography and geographical knowledge in international non geographical programs and associations (such as UN, ICSU, etc.) whether scientific or not. We also welcome proposals of additional topics to be incorporated into the final program.

**Keywords:** Geography – International science – Circulation of ideas – International institutions and cooperation – Global thinking.

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