



Joint ICA/IGU Commission on toponymy



NEWSLETTER

Ljubljana, December 2024

Dear Distinguished Colleagues!



Following Matjaž Geršič's presentation, I would also like to take this opportunity in the newsletter to introduce myself to all of you as the new Co-chair of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, on behalf of the International Geographical Union.

As a first step, I believe it is necessary to thank my predecessor, Cosimo Palagiano, for the excellent work carried out during their term and for the promising prospects they have opened up for the future. I would also like to express my gratitude to those who have entrusted me with this role. Finally, I would like to thank Matjaž Geršič for providing this space for my introduction;

I am excited to begin this new journey together.

A few words about myself: I am a historical geographer and a professor at the University of Trento (Italy). I believe that Trentino, historically a border area between different worlds and cultural areas, with a long history of toponymic layering, is a perfect example of the complexity, but also the fascination, of studying place names.

The themes, approaches, and research interests involved in the study of toponymy are numerous, just as there are many different perspectives that animate this commission. In particular, I hope that in the future, some strategic research avenues may open up, such as the one that connects toponymy and migrations, or the study, recovery, and enhancement of historical toponymy, which serves both as a source for studying the relationship between society and space and as intangible cultural heritage in its own right.

In conclusion, I can only welcome Matjaž's invitations for closer integration and fruitful scientific exchange within our community. For this reason, I hope there will be many opportunities to meet in person, in the form of conferences, seminars, and panels, and I will personally commit to organizing some of these, in the hope of meeting and greeting you all.

Elena Dai Prà

Recent events

26th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms

Prague, Czechia, 14-15 and 18 May 2024

Opening and introduction

Přemysl Mácha (Czech Academy of Sciences)

Irena Švehlová (Czech Cadastral Office)

Pierre Jaillard (UNGEEN)

Ing. Karel Brázdil (director Land Survey Office)

Session 1

David Michalec: About the Czech gazetteer “Jména Evropy (Names of Europe)”

Andrea Bölcskei, Gábor Mikesy: Hungarian names of European regions and administrative units

Peter Jordan: Reasons for the emergence of exonyms

Sungjae Choo, Jihwan Yoon: Reducing the use of exonyms in Korean

Ivana Crljenko: Ukrainian place names in the Croatian language

Pierre Jaillard: UNGEEN and exonyms: what have we already done? What remains to be done? How can we do it?

Session 2

Peter Jordan: Draft proposal of the WG for the 2025 UNGEEN session

Vladimir Liščák: Toponymy of Macau (history and today), with field examples

Paulino Baptista Rafael Bata: Exonyms in the context of multilingual countries - Case of Mozambique

Boguslaw Zagórski: Some modern renderings of toponyms in Mauritania – difficult question of standardisation, exonymisation and popularization

Matjaž Geršič: Challenges in transliterating European geographical names into Arabic

Session 3

Márja Kubicová: Slovak exonyms

Maciej Zych: Streets of Warsaw named after foreign geographical features. An example of the use of exonyms in the city space

Open discussion 2 on draft proposal

Business Meeting of the Working Group



Figure 1: Group photo (Český úřad zeměměřický a katastrální).

Workshop "Naming the Community: Identity Reconfiguration in Central and Eastern Europe"

Prague, Czechia, 16-17 May 2024

The aim of this workshop was to bring together researchers working on the politics of toponymy in Central and Eastern Europe to look for similarities and differences in the development of national and regional (re)naming ideologies and practises. What role did place names play in the transformation of Central and Eastern European identities? How did they support or hinder the transformation processes? How democratic were the changes to place names and who was included or excluded from the process? What role do official and unofficial names play in public and private discourse in the process of identity formation and memory reproduction? And what role will place names play in the region in the near future?

The two-day workshop was a friendly meeting of like-minded researchers with the aim of building a professional network for future collaboration on joint research projects and joint publications.

Session 1

- Liubov Ostash (Ukraine): New facts in the urbanonymy of Ukraine
- Halyna Zymovets (Ukraine): Ideological Dimension of Proper Names (the case of Ukraine)
- Žaneta Dvořáková (Czechia): Reflection of Russian-Ukrainian war in urbanonyms and in the linguistic landscape of other countries
- Přemysl Mácha (Czechia): Russian Street and Moscow Street – Lessons from an Unsuccessful Renaming Attempt
- Vlad Cojocar (Romania): Toponymy and identity
- Daniela Butnaru (Romania): Current trends of official hodonymy in Romania

Session 2

- Tiina Laansalu, Marit Alas (Estonia): Estonian street names in the ideological turbulence through centuries
- Maria Vrachionidou, Eleni Papadopoulou (Greece): Linguistic and political strategies of toponymic renaming in Greece during the 20th century
- Tereza Klemensová, Michal Místický (Czechia): National identity through the lens of Czech urbanonyms
- Maya Vlahova-Angelova (Bulgaria): The struggle over the city-text of Sofia
- Eric Iwanski (Germany): Place name changes during National Socialism between 1933 and 1939
- Ivana Crljenko (Croatia): Commemoration of the Homeland War (1991-1995) in Croatian Street Names: Practices and Identities
- Michal Místický – Jaroslav David (Czechia): The Dative Empowered: Case Distributions of Toponyms in Anti-Establishment Media

Session 3

- Ágnes Erőss (Hungary): The ambiguity of heritagisation of minority place names in multiethnic cities
- Peter Jordan (Austria): Multicultural identity building supported by place names. The example of the Val Canale in the Northeast of Italy
- Patrik Tátrai (Hungary): The effect of displaying minority place names on local identity: lessons from Romania
- Kohei Watanabe (Japan): Past and Recent Discussions on Exonyms at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
- Gábor Mikešy, Andrea Bölcskei (Hungary): An overview of the history of conceptual place-name changes in Hungary
- Christian Zschieschang (Germany): Eastern Germany as part of the East Central European onymic landscape in the 20th century
- Artur Żołędź (Poland): Decommunize a socialist city. Decommunization of urban space in Poland on the example of Jastrzębie-Zdrój
- Soňa Wojnarová (Czechia): Identity and Place-names of the Finnish Evacuees from the Regions Ceded to the Soviet Union

28st meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations

Prague, Czechia, 16 May 2024

Session 1

- Klára Steinerová: 3. UNGEGN Session
- Irena Švehlová: Information from virtual meetings within UNGEGN
- Kohei Watanabe: WG on Exonyms - summary of the meeting

Session 2

- Petra Zelená: National Report of Czechia
- Helena Pavletić, Tomislav Ciceli: Activities in the Field of Standardization of Geographical Names in the Republic of Croatia in 2023
- Zuzana Michalková: National Report of Slovakia
- Maciej Zych: Report of Poland on the situation in the standardization of geographical names of the period since May 2023
- Matjaž Geršič: National Report of Slovenia

Session 3

- Vladimír Liščák: Macau - history and changes of the name(s)
- Mária Kubicová: Tatry
- Andrea Bölcskei, Gábor Mikézy: Czechs in Hungary
- Eva Miklušová: Highly accurate and detailed digital terrain model and its use in the field of geographical names
- Matjaž Geršič: Online Atlas of the Field Names

Session 4

- Marija Brnot: Storage and data management of geographical names in Slovenia
- Peter Jordan: The difficult approach towards a decision/resolution on exonyms as parts of the cultural heritage
- Ivana Crijenko: Collecting, storing, and publishing of Croatian exonyms
- Miroslav Kronus: Collections of the Central Surveying Archive (introduction to the exhibition)



Figure 2: Group photo (Český úřad zeměměřický a katastrální).

35th International Geographical Congress 2024

Dublin, Ireland, 24-30 August 2024

The 35th International Geographical Congress 2024 was organised by the Geographical Society of Ireland and hosted by Dublin City University. Two sessions were organised on the topic of geographical names:

Session C.40: Toponymy: Cloning the place names (Chair: Cosimo Palagiano)

- Rossi, Sebastiano, Tirone, Junio Valerio, Ciola, Marcello (Italy): Naming along the front: an investigation into the birth and survival of cloned toponyms in the Italian military cartography of the First World War
- D'Ascenzo, Annalisa (Italy): Cloning of names, onomaturgy and construction of a new mappa mundi in the Letter of Giovanni da Verrazzano
- Casagrande, Gianluca, Frigeri, Alessandro (Italy): From Earth to planets: assigning and cloning place names to extend humankind's reach
- Dai Prà, Elena, Novella, Luca (Italy): A toponymic study of Veneto emigration: cloned toponyms in founded towns and neighbourhoods



Figure 3: Cosimo Palagiano (Matjaž Geršič).

- De Santis, Giovanni, Bartolini, Annamaria (Italy): From Abruzzo to the Americas: San Giovanni da Capestrano as an emblematic case
- Geršič, Matjaž (Slovenia): Cloning geographical names - some examples from Slovenia
- Matthews, Philip Walter (New Zealand): The relevance of the concept of "cloning" in an analysis of place names in New Zealand
- Kang, Peter (Taiwan - Province of China): The place names cloning from Europe in contemporary Taiwan

Session C.40: Toponymy: Bi- or multilingual place names as markers of national, regional and local space-related identity (Chair: Peter Jordan)

- Siwek, Tadeusz (Czechia): German place names in contemporary Czechia
- Pioletti, Anna Maria, Favro, Marta (Italy): Toponymy and linguistic identity in the Aosta Valley: prospects for the creation of new cultural itineraries
- Violante, Antonio G. (Italy): Bosnia: The road to identity is paved with multiple toponymies
- Tiun, Hak-Khiam: (Taiwan - Province of China): From Invisible to Visible: The Status and Corpus Planning of Hakka Place Names in Taiwan
- Rautio Helander, Kaisa (Norway): Introduction of Sámi toponymy in linguistic landscapes in Norway: Challenging the history of monolingual namescapes
- Pap, Norbert, Ács Marianna, Reményi, Péter, Kitanics, Máté (Hungary): Place names, identity, and national cohesion in a multicultural region – the case of Mohács Plain (SW Hungary)
- Jordan, Peter (Austria): Dialect place names as markers of local and regional space-related identity. The example of Austria
- Cherry, Jonathan, O Reilly, Gerry (Ireland): Place and street naming in Ireland: identity, conflict and resistance
- Dervieux, Zénaïde (France): Linguistic, memory and geopolitical issues surrounding toponymic recompositions in the Hwange district



- Khamaisi, Rassem Mohy-Elden (Israel): Shaping the Linguistic Landscape and Naming under national conflict; the case of Palestinian communities
- Huang, Wenchuan (Taiwan - Province of China): Memory and identification: Streetscape narrative in Taipei and Hong Kong
- Ferrante, Giulia (Italy): Co-creating "plural" development in Italian inner areas. A geolinguistic action-research proposal

Figure 4: Rassem Mohy-Elden Khamaisi (Matjaž Geršič).

EuroCarto 2024

Vienna, Austria, 9-11 September 2024

Session: S23 - Toponymy and Topography

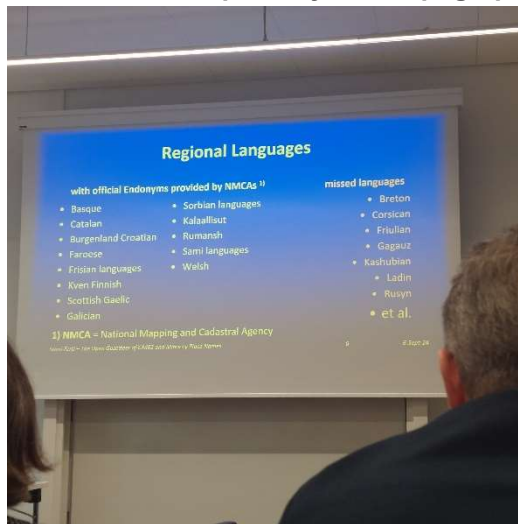


Figure 5: Presentation of Roman Stani-Fertl (Matjaž Geršič).

- Francis Harvey, Eric Losang: Making the World a Better Place: Map by Map, Toponym by Toponym
- Roman Stani-Fertl: The OpenGazetteer of Open Maps for Europe and Minority Toponyms
- Klaus Freitag, Johannes Liem, Philipp Mitterschiffthaler: Austrian vecMap – Vector Tiles for the Austrian Map Online
- Günter Kyncl, Jakub Lysák: Automatic digital rock drawing using a "ladder style" representation
- Nikos Tzelepis: Multi-directional Analytical Hill-Shading for Enhanced Cartographic Relief Presentation
- Piotr Owczarek, Małgorzata Wieczorek, Michał Łopuch: Changes in the extent of a glacier based on topographic maps and satellite images – possibilities and limitations on the example of the de Ferpecle glacier

International Scientific Symposium "Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples' cultures"

Roma, Italy, 11-13 September 2024

Greeting addresses and introduction:

- Luigi Postiglione, General Commander of the Italian Geographic Military Institute (Italy)
- Pierre Jaillard, Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (France)
- Helen Kerfoot, Honorary Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Canada)
- Carla Masetti, University of "Roma Tre", on behalf of the Italian Geographical Associations (Italia)

Session 1

- Pierre Jaillard (Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names - France): Exchanges of geographical names among lexical borrowings
- Helen Kerfoot (Honorary Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names - Canada): Some thoughts on geographical names as source of conflicts
- Simonetta Conti and Domenico Proietti (University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” - Italia): ‘With feet on the ground’: toponymy as an object and research tool between geography and linguistics
- Cosimo Palagiano (Emeritus Sapienza - University of Roma and Academy of Lincei - Italia): The renewed attention to Toponymy by Italian scholars
- Giuseppe Muti (University of Insubria - Italia) :In the name of peace. Toponymy, conflict, peace making and peace building processes

Session 2

- Andrea Cantile, Gabriele Ciacci, and Claudio Rocchini (Commission for Italian official toponymy of Italian Geographic Military Institute - Italia): The first version of new Italian National Toponymic Database (INTDB 1.0)
- Paolo Benetton, Francesco di Pede, and Gianpiero Zaffi Borgetti (Revenue Agency, Italian Institute for Statistics, Institute for Finance and Local Economy and National Ass. of Italian Municipalities - Italia): House numbers and street names’ national registry (ANNCSU)
- Camilla Giantomasso (Sapienza - University of Roma), and Bruno Di Stefano (University of Roma Tre - Italia): The politics of naming between aesthetics of power and identity construction: the case-study of the Quartiere Africano of Rome



Figure 6: Group photo (Istituto Geografico Militare).

- Anna Rosa Candura, Luca Fois, and Emanuele Poli (Universities of Pavia, Modena and Reggio - Italia): For a toponymy of Somaliland: cartographic premises
- Lombardo Girolamo (Former Director of Landscape Units of Sicilian Region - Italia): The toponymy of the ancient Sicilian road system
- Cosimo Palagiano (Emeritus Sapienza - University of Roma and Academy of Lincei - Italia): Central Places and their Changes in the History of Cartography
- Domenico Proietti (University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” - Italia): “Di qua dal Faro”: toponymic and onomastic reflections of the organization of the territory in the Norman and Swabian ages in Southern Italy
- Arturo Gallia and Mirko Castaldi (University of Roma Tre - Italia): Adriano Balbi and the Naming of the World. The relationship between geography and cartography in the

construction of a scientific geographical lexicon (first half of the 19th century)

- Tika Dwi Saputri, Harry Ferdiansyah, and Yohanes Seffan Handana (Geospatial Information Agency - Indonesia): The Evolution of the Mountain Names in the West Java

Province Based on Cartographic Sources

- Mandana Kolahtouz Mohammadi (Payam-e Noor University, Teheran - Iran): Navigating Corpus-Driven Approach Toward Decoding Village and Town names of East and West Azerbaijan

Session 3

- Stefano Piastra (University of Bologna - Italia): Cloning a placename: the toponym 'Shanghai' in Italy
- Annamaria Bartolini and Giovanni De Santis (University of Perugia - Italia): From Italy to America: the Franciscan legacy in toponymy
- Brahim Atoui (Former Vice-Chair of UNGEGN - Al Jazā'ir): Toponym as title deed in Algerian pre-colonial societies
- Junio Valerio Tirone (University of Trento - Italia) and Ileana Schiavelli (Aeronautical Geo-topographic Information Center - Italia): Regulatory processes and systematization of toponymy in Italian territories of Africa in the 1930s
- Serena Lo Monaco and Emanuela Zammarchi (Graduating students at University of Firenze - Italia): The White gold of Prato and the hydronyms of the "gore" (ancient artificial canal system)
- Catherine Cheetham (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names - United Kingdom): Toponymy in the United Kingdom
- Rebekka Dossche and Carla Pampaloni (University of Genova - Italia): Enclaves without borders: the toponomastic case of Carrega Ligure (Piedmont, Italy)
- Annalisa D'Ascenzo (University of Roma Tre - Italia): Toponymy: traveling and naming from the Earth to the Cosmos
- Gianluca Casagrande (European University of Roma - Italia): "Naming the first steps": geographical remarks about outposts and the act of exploration at the extreme boundaries of human reach

Exhibition

- "Maps and Toponyms from our World to other Worlds" curated by Gianluca Casagrande, Annalisa D'Ascenzo, and Alessandro Frigeri

Session 4

- Guido Lucarno (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milano - Italia): Complexity of toponymy in the Aosta Valley, between officiality and recovery of vernacular terms
- Federica Cugno and Federica Cusan (University of Torino - Italia): Place names of Piedmont (Italy): orality and writing, tradition and officiality
- Ettore Sarzotti, Dino Buffoni, Nicola Gabellieri and Federico Gestri (University of Trento - Italia): From place names to environmental resources: analysis of the nineteenth-century toponyms of Alpine woodlands through the use of geohistorical sources and Historical GIS
- Elena Dai Prà and Sebastiano Rossi (University of Trento - Italia): Conquering the names: the use of toponymy as a symbol of territorial control in a multiethnic region. The case of Eastern Trentino during the Great War
- Andrea Masturzo (Independent researcher PHD in Geography at University of Bergamo - Italia): Cartography and toponymy in the dynamics of dominion, the case of Alto Adige-Südtirol
- Peter Jordan (Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of the Free State [South Africa] - Austria): Multicultural identity building supported by place names. The example of the Val Canale in the Northeast of Italy
- Gerardo Tolentino, Goran Floridan, and Laura Sgubin (Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region - Italia): The importance of preserving the toponymic heritage of historical linguistic minorities in Friuli Venezia Giulia

- Matjaž Geršič (Co-Chair of Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Anton Melik Geographical Institute - Slovenija): Italian geographical names in Slovenia - from roots to standardisation
- Valentina Campesi (Graduating student at Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Milano - Italia): Toponymy policies in alloglot towns of Calabria: Case studies of Guardia Piemontese, San Demetrio Corone, Bova, and Bova marina
- Silvia Siniscalchi, Pierluigi De Felice, and Emiro Hernan Rodriguez Vargas (University of Salerno - Italia): Toponymy as a Source for the Recovery and Enhancement of Territorial Identity: The Case of Aragonese Toponyms in the Province of Salerno



Figure 7: Forma Urbis Romae (Matjaž Geršič).

The 10th Arab Forum for the Geographic Names

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 10-12 November 2024

Experts from 22 Arab nations and international organizations gathered for the start of the 10th Forum of the Arab Division of Experts in Geographical Names, which is scheduled to run for three days.

The event is being held under the theme “Strengthening Relations and Links Between Arab States in the Field of Geographical Names,” and is hosted under the auspices of Prince Khalid bin Salman, the minister of defense and chairman of the board of directors of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information.

The conference, which was opened by Jeddah Gov. Prince Saud bin Abdullah bin

Jalawi, aims to facilitate joint Arab action in various fields, including the documentation of geographical names; unifying geographical names in Arabic, avoiding the use of colloquial dialects; and launching new national committees.

Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Sayel, president of the authority, noted that Saudi Arabia placed great importance on the topic of geographical names.

The authority on the opening day signed 10 memorandums of cooperation with a number of entities in the government sector, the academic sector, and the nonprofit sector.

Tim Trainer (ICA), a part-time consultant to the UN and former chief geospatial scientist for the US Census Bureau, told Arab News: “The collaboration, from a regional perspective, is very impressive, and it seems there is a positive path to that collaboration.”

(source: Arab News)



Figure 8: The venue of the event was The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Jeddah (Matjaž Geršič).

Greeting addresses and key note speeches by:

- Dr. Eng Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Sayel, President of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA)
- H.E. Ambassador Mohammedi Ahmed Ni, Secretary-General of the Arab Economic Unity Council (The Importance of Exchanging Arab Expertise in Geographical Information)
- Brig. Muammar Kamel Hanna Haddadin, Chairman of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names and Director-General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center (Report of the Arab Division of Geographical Names Experts)

- Miss. Cecille Blake, Secretary of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Best practices, standards and new developments in Geographical Names management and standardization)
- Dr. Khalifa Mohammed Al Rumaithi, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Federal Geographic Information Center, United Arab Emirates (UAE) (The Cultural Heritage of Geographical Names in the UAE)

Panel Discussion on Strengthening Relationships and Connections Between Arab Countries in Geographical names (Moderator: Fatima bint Fahd)

- Eng. Talal bin Rabee Al Shafaey - Assistant President of Survey and Geospatial Activity Sector (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- Eng. Hamed Khamis Al Kaabi - President of the Federal Geographic Information Center (The United Arab Emirates)
- Col. Yousuf Harith Al Nabhani - Director General of National Survey Authority (Sultanate of Oman)
- Dr. Muhammed Alassiry - President of the Syrian Astronomical Association (Syrian Arab Republic)
- Eng. Adel Salem Ali - Chairman of the Survey Department of Libya (State of Libya)
- Dr. Hamini Sidy Kijat - Chairman of the National Committee on Geographical Name (Islamic Republic of Mauritania)

Session 1

- Ibrahim Musa Mohammad Al-Zaqrati: Standardizing Geographical Names in the Arab World (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)
- Eng. Majdi Hamed Al Harbi: New Developments in the Management and Standardization of Geographical Names in Saudi Arabia: Geographical Names Portal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- Sinan Qarabouj: Developing an Electronic Platform for Managing Geographical Names in Tunisia: Towards Enhancing National and International Communication and Collaboration (Republic of Tunisia)
- Dr. Wijdan Dirar Omar Ahmed: Geographical Names in Sudan and Their Cultural Significance: An Analytical Study (Republic of Sudan)

Panel discussion on Language policies, computing and their applications for geographical names: The experience of the King Salman International Academy of the Arabic Language (Moderator: Fatima bint Fahd)

- Prof. Dr. Khaled Al-Qawsi: Planning and linguistic policies and their relationship to geographical names
- Dr. Afrah Al-Tamimi: The role of the Suwar platform for digital dictionaries in documenting and unifying geographical names and enhancing joint Arab work).
- Dr. Yahya Al-Latini: Standardization in the lexicographic industry: The Natural Parks Dictionary as a model

Panel Discussion on Modern Trends in Geographical Names (Moderator: Dr. Pierre Jaillard, Chair of the UNGEGN, The French Republic)

- Dr. Tim Trainor, Past President of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) (The United States of America)
- Dr. Matjaž Geršič, Assistant Director, Research Associate International Cartographic Association (ICA) (Republic of Slovenia)
- Dr. Peeter Päll, Leading Language Planning Expert, Former Convener of UNGEGN's Working Group on Romanization Systems (Republic of Estonia)

- Miss. Cecille Blake, Chief Secretary of the UNGEGN (The Republic of Jamaica)
- Dr. Fatima Baothman, President of the Saudi AI Society, Expert in Artificial Intelligence and Languages (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)



Figure 9: Panellists on modern trends in the study of geographical names, from left to right Fatima Baothman, Cecille Blake, Peeter Päll, Matjaž Geršič, Tim Trainor and Pierre Jaillard (GEOSA).

Session 2

- Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Salam Hussein: The Cultural Significance of Village and City Names in the Northern Upper Egypt Region (Arab Republic of Egypt)
- Prof. Dr. Ammar Jassim Mohammed Al Khafaji: Non-Invasive Geophysical Surveys of Several Rest Stops on Darb Zubayda (Republic of Iraq)
- Prof. Dr. Mousa Fathi Mousa Atlam: The Geographical Dimensions of Place Names in Urban Areas in Monufia Governorate (Arab Republic of Egypt)
- Dr. Sherif Kouaish: The Experience of Algeria in Compiling a Gazetteer of Geographical Names (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)
- Prof. Dr. Abdel Salam Abdel Sattar Ismail: The Significance of Religious Urban Place Names in Gharbia Governorate and Their Relation to Egyptian Personality and Culture – A Geographical Perspective (Arab Republic of Egypt)
- Dr. Safaa Sobeh Sbabha: The Impact of Intangible Cultural Heritage on Preserving and Documenting Geographical Names in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)
- Mr. Khaled Abdul Hamid Al Hammadi, Mr. Fathi Issa Labourshid: The Impact of Geographical Names on Cultural Identity in the Kingdom of Bahrain (Kingdom of Bahrain)

Session 3

- Matjaž Geršič, Co-chair of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy: Challenges in Transliterating European Geographical Names into Arabic (Republic of Slovenia)
- Dr. Sakinah Youssef Al-Rawashdeh: Standardizing the Romanization of Geographical Names in the Arab World Using Classical Arabic (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)
- Dr. Faten Nahaas: Using Romanization Programs to Label Geographical Names on Maps (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- Dr. Badr bin Juma bin Suwailem Al-Ghanami: Employing Geographical Names in Omani Cultural Heritage: Poetry as a Model (Sultanate of Oman)
- Dr. Mohammed Al-Mahfali, Ahmed Al-Rumaili: Socotra's Heritage on the Map: A Study

- of Geographical Names and Their Integration into Digital Content (Republic of Yemen)
- Col. Yusuf bin Harith bin Nasser Al Nabhani: Oman Encyclopedia in Arab Heritage (Sultanate of Oman)
 - Prof. Ibrahim bin Atiyah Al Salmi: Historical Narrative of Geographical Names and Their Significance (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
 - Dr. Abdirahman Akhyar Osman: Coastal Cities: Their Names (Past and Present) and Cultural Significance (Federal Republic of Somalia)

Special presentations

- Dr. Tim Trainor: The Role of Geographical Names in Enhancing Geospatial Data Accuracy and Mapping (United States of America)
- Dr. Peeter Päll: Arabic romanizations (Republic of Estonia)

Session 4

- Dr. Mohammed Habash: The Impact of Geographical Names on Cultural Identity (United Arab Emirates)
- Dr. Amer Abdullah Al Jumaili: The Risks and Negatives of Changing Geographical Names on the Spirit of the Place and the Nature of the Location (Republic of Iraq)
- Dr. Mohammed Al-Anqari: The Use of Geographic Information Systems in Archaeological Fields (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- Dr. Said Abdullah Al Farsi: Interpretation of the Meanings of Khor Names and the Challenges They Face in North Al-Batinah Governorate (Sultanate of Oman)
- Dr. Faisal bin Eid Al-Juaid: A Semantic View of Geographical Place Names (Makkah as a Model) (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- Dr. Tariq Yachi: The Historical Significance of Geographical Names: Multiple Interpretations, and Hypothesis Evaluation – The Case of the City of Fez (Kingdom of Morocco)

Session 5

- Dr. Mutlaq bin Fayhan Al-Buqami: Integration of Geographical Names and GeoAI (Geospatial Artificial Intelligence) (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
- Prof. Dr. Lotfi Kamal: Modern Trends in Geographical Names Using Geospatial Technology (2024-2014) (Arab Republic of Egypt)
- Sahar Al Lozi: Addressing Amman City Using Artificial Intelligence (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)
- Naha bint Hamad Al-Sobhiya: Developing a Digital Gazetteer of Geographical Names in Oman Using Open Source Software (Sultanate of Oman)
- Mohammed Nasser Al Hilali, Arwa Nassar Al Milb: The Role of Geospatial Metadata in Enhancing Geographical Names Retrieval from the National Archives and Documentation Center (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Upcoming events

2025

2025 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

 28 April - 2 May 2025

 UNHQ, New York, USA

 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>

32nd International Cartographic Conference (ICC 2025)

 16-22 August 2025

 Vancouver, Canada

 <https://icc2025.com/>, info@icc2025.com

 Mapping the Future: Innovation, Inclusion, and Sustainability

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10th EUGEO Congress 2025

 8-11 September 2025

 Vienna, Austria

 <https://www.eugeo2025.eu/>, eugeo2025@oeaw.ac.at.

 Geographies of a Changing Europe

 20 January 2025

8th International Symposium on Place Names (ISPN)

 26-29 November 2025

 Clarens, South Africa

 kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za

 Harmonising toponymic heritage: balancing standardisation and local diversity

 4 April 2025

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Upcoming online lectures

Onomastics and Sign Language: An Unexplored Terrain

Jani de Lange (University of the Free State, South Africa)

Moderator: Marga Stander (Sol Plaatje University, South Africa)

12 December 2024

17:00-18:00 CET

Kindly note that (free) preregistration is required:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f97dbb2d-3757-4e39-b352-3d3907909412@8efc1bb9-b90f-4a48-bf6c-ba0686193b80>

To see the list of upcoming and past lectures, please visit our webpage at:

<https://icosweb.net/onomastics-online/>.

Previous lectures can be found on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE-DZXOsJNKAO6K-0fTEdpA>.

A Topography Base Map through Words

Transformation of annotations to graphs to identify spatial data semantics using a grammar ontology

Dr. Dalia E. Varanka (United States Geological Survey, USGS)

17 December 2024

15:00 UTC

Please register for the event at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7LS2WFRG0ONVAWSXIXMW7Kw-FOAafLxdULgYBijjN6AjOHw/viewform?usp=header>

Publications

BOOKS

Public place naming: Towards a gender inclusive cityscape

This policy brief is proposed by the UNESCO Chair in Inclusive Toponymy from the University of Geneva. It is devoted to promote a gender-balanced public space through place names.

It is aimed at all stakeholders involved or wishing to become involved in place naming and its social enhancement, in particular local authorities, their elected representatives and administrations, neighborhood and heritage associations, feminist activist groups and educational institutions.

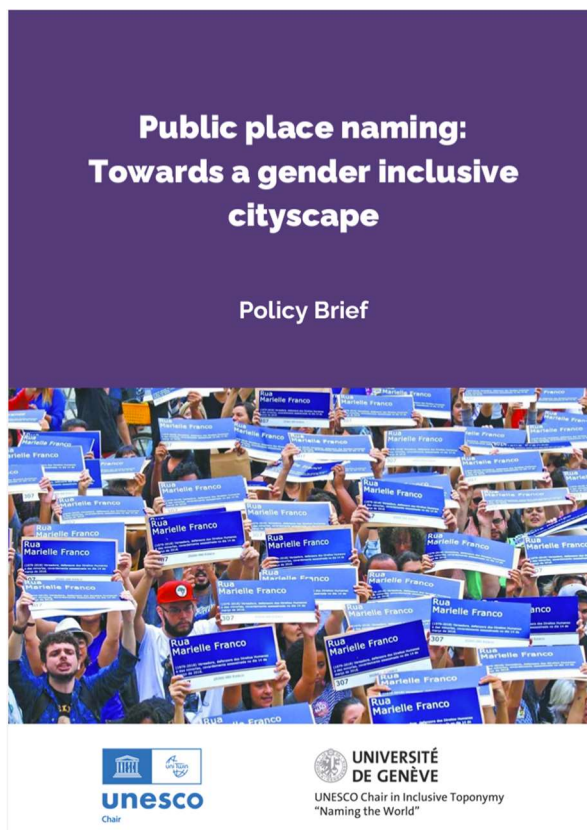
It was drawn up following a multi-stakeholder forum and is based on a critical analysis of a number of remarkable and/or inspiring experiences. In particular, Geneva's proactive experience is a point of reference and the City of Geneva is partner in the project.

The recommendations and examples are divided into four stages, each representing a potential area for action:

- Mapping the issue
- Identify eligible female personalities for naming
- Inventing places to name
- Naming qualitatively

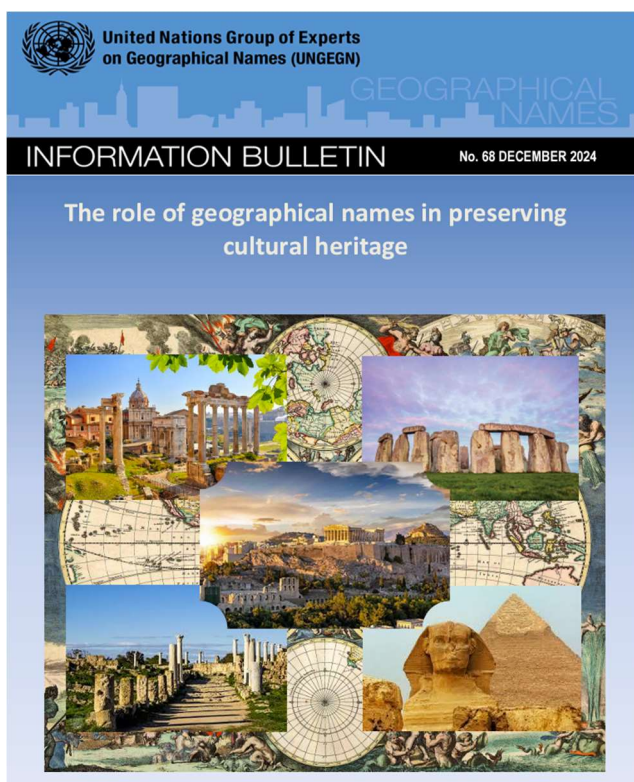
In this way, all the actors involved can participate with inspiration and creativity in an approach to renovating and opening up public space that combines functionality, inclusion, participation and an understanding of the social and historical aspects of places.

Link: https://www.unige.ch/sciences-societe/geo/index.php/download_file/view/1418/672/



UNGEGN Bulletin no. 68

Link: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN_bulletin_no._68.pdf



ARTICLES

Jordan, Peter (2023). Functions and principles of geographical names. In: ICA Commission on Atlases (ed.), *The Atlas Cookbook. Ten ingredients how to edit an atlas*, pp. 61–67. Zurich: ICA Commission on Atlases.

Jordan, Peter (2023). Place names as ‘condensed narratives’. Some reflections from the perspective of Critical Toponomastics on Walter Sperling’s book “Trees and Forest in the Geographical Names of Central Europe: The Bohemian Lands” (2008). *Onomastica* 9: 111–124.

Jordan, Peter (2023). Die Verwendung von Exonymen in mittel- und südosteuropäischen Schulatlanten als Ausdruck des politischen Wandels [The use of exonyms in Central and Southeast European school atlases]. In: Dahmen, Wolfgang; Himstedt-Vaid, Petra; Schubert, Gabriella (eds.), *Nomen est omen. Die Bedeutung von Namen in südosteuropäischen Kulturen (= Forschungen zu Südosteuropa. Sprache – Kultur – Literatur, 21)*, pp. 3–18. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.

Jordan, Peter (2023). The Crucial and Contested Concept of the Endonym/Exonym Divide. In: Bijak, Urszula; Swoboda, Paweł; Walkowiak, Justyna B. (eds.), *Onomastics in Interaction with Other Branches of Science. Proceedings of the 27th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, Volume 1: Keynote lectures, toponomastics*, pp. 27–45. Kraków: Jagiellonian University Press.

Jordan, Peter (2023) (Guest editor). *Place Names as a Part of the Cultural Heritage (= Onoma, 58)*. Uppsala: International Council of Onomastic Sciences.

Jordan, Peter (2023). Exonyms as parts of the cultural heritage. *Onoma* 58: 241–254.

Jordan, Peter (2023). Adequate Minority Place-Name Representation on Topographic Maps. *Kartographische Nachrichten/Journal of Cartography and Geographic Information* 73: 289–299.

Jordan, Peter (2023). Zweisprachige Ortstafeln und andere Visualisierungen mehrfacher raumbezogener Identitäten [Bilingual town signs and other visualisations of multiple space-related identities]. In: Scheffbeck, Günther; Kreuzbauer, Hanna Maria; Handstanger, Meinrad (eds.), *Strukturen und Symbole des Rechts. Festschrift für Friedrich Lachmayer*, pp. 471–497. Bern: Editions Weblaw.

Jordan, Peter (2023). Die gesellschaftliche und kulturelle Bedeutung geographischer Namen am Beispiel der Flur-, Haus-, und Hofnamen sowie der Verkehrsflächenbezeichnungen [The societal and cultural meaning of geographical names by the example of field, house and farm names as well as designations of traffic areas]. In: Krapf, Peter; Platzer, Werner; Platzer, Wolfgang; Polzer-Srienz, Mirjam; Puschnig, Udo Peter (eds.), *Dialog und Kultur. Beiträge zum Europäischen Volkgruppenkongress 2022 und Sonderthemen (= Kärnten Dokumentation, 38)*, pp. 93–107. Klagenfurt am Wörthersee: Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung, Landesamtsdirektion, Volksgruppenbüro.

Other

NEW STEERING COMMITTEE

The 35th International Geographical Congress 2024 also approved the new Steering Committee of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy. Its members are:

Dai Prà, Elena (Italy, Chair from IGU side)
Du Plessis, Theodorus (South Africa)
Geršič, Matjaž (Slovenia, Chair from ICA side)
Pereira de Souza Pinto, Beatriz Cristina (Brasil, Common IGU/ICA vice chair)
Tátrai, Patrik (Hungary)
Tort-Donada, Joan (Spain)
Vescovo, Adriana (Argentina)
Zych, Maciej (Poland)

We would like to thank the former members for their work!

NEW WEBPAGE

The Commission's new website is available at <https://toponymy.icaci.org/>



Home

Welcome to the website of the Joint Commission on Toponymy of the International Cartographic Association and the International Geographical Union. The Commission is composed of experts involved in the study of geographical names. If you would like to join us, please send your email address to Matjaž Geršič (matjaz.gersic@zrc-sazu.si)

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PROF. COSIMO PALAGIANO – HONORARY PRESIDENT



The Steering Committee of Commission on Toponymy

hereby elects

Cosimo Palagiano

as an Honorary Chair

in recognition of his scientific merits and commendable international activities promoting toponymic studies

Filena Dai Prà
Chair IGU Commission on Toponymy

Steering Committee, 2024-28

Filena Dai Prà, Italy, Chair IGU/
Matjaž Geršič, Slovenia, Co-Chair ICA/
Hector Urbina, Forum de Saïza, Paris, Brazil, Vice-Chair/
Ikeodous Di Plessis, South Africa, Steering Committee member

Petrik Tárai, Hungary, Steering Committee member/
Juan Tor Donado, Spain, Steering Committee member/
Adriana Vecovato, Argentina, Steering Committee member/
Maciej Zych, Poland, Steering Committee member

Filena Dai Prà, Chair of IGU Commission on Toponymy jointly with the International Cartographic Association,
Department of Humanities, University of Trento, Università degli Studi di Trento

Via Tommaso Gar 14 - 38122, Trento, Italy
Vox: +39 0461 281141; Mobile: +39 328 8817563
E-Mail: filena.dai@unitn.it
URL: <http://www.igu-toponymy.org>

The IGU Commission for Toponymy has appointed its former President, Prof Cosimo Palagiano, as Honorary President.

Congratulations to our esteemed colleague!

Until his retirement, Prof Palagiano was Professor at the Department of Document Studies, Linguistics and Geography at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", where he was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus.

Two of the four "founding fathers" of the Joint Commission have now been honoured with honorary degrees (last year the ICA was awarded to Peter Jordan, as reported in the last newsletter).

ICA NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2024

eCARTO News November 2024

eCARTO News captures the latest cartographic news and developments from around the world. If you have any general cartography items of interest then please email them to David Fraser, editor of eCARTO News. To read the news in the following categories, please go to the web version of this post.

- Opportunities
- Gatherings
- Land Use Mapping
- Climate Mapping
- Applications of Mapping
- Consequences
- Technology & Science
- Imagery
- Collections
- Related

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by the weblink authors are their own and do not represent the official position of the ICA. The links are assembled for information and education purposes only.

Invitation to the Barbara Petchenik Competition 2025

Dear friends and colleagues,

It's a great pleasure and honor to announce the Official Call for the Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition 2025.

This year we have a new theme of the competition: Maps in everyday life (as selected by our colleagues from 11 countries).

All documents related to the organization of the next competition can be found here:

- General rules for the Barbara Petchenik Competition 2025

- Rules for the national coordinators

- Rules for teachers and parents

- Parent permission form: the permission form that should be signed by parents or legal representatives

- Author data form: an optional data form to be annexed to the drawings selected for the international competition

This year the most significant change for the member states and/or affiliate members planning to participate in the competition is that we have a new international coordinator starting from 2025: Our colleague Monika Kopecká from the Institute of Geography at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. We would like to reiterate our deepest thanks to Monika for accepting this key task in the running of the competition. Peter van der Krogt (The Netherlands), who has been the international coordinator since 2000, retired in 2022, but nevertheless continued to coordinate the competition in 2023. By means of this letter we would like to thank him again on behalf of the ICA for his very valuable contribution together with his brother René to the success of the competition in the last 24 years.

As became usual in the last years, national coordinators will be invited to participate in an e-mail-based voting process to select the winner works, which is planned for June 2025. By this reason it is very important to send names and e-mails of national coordinators by e-mail for the Chair and Vice-Chair of ICA Commission on Cartography and Children, otherwise we cannot ensure our direct contact for the invitation.

For more detailed information about the competition, please visit the Petchenik section on the ICA website, the website of the Commission on Cartography and Children or their Facebook page.

Feel you free to forward the call to other colleagues and anyone else potentially interested in participating in the competition. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

Silvia Marinova
Chair, ICA Commission on Cartography and Children

Jose Jesus Reyes Nunez
Vice-Chair, ICA Commission on Cartography and Children

Upcoming events

8 Dec 2024–10 Dec 2024 AsiaCarto 2024

27 Jan 2025–29 Jan 2025 The First Cartography and Sustainable Development Workshop in Aruba

28 Jan 2025–31 Jan 2025 RIMMA2025, International Conference on Forecasting, Preparedness, Warning, and Response - Visualization, Communication, and Information Management

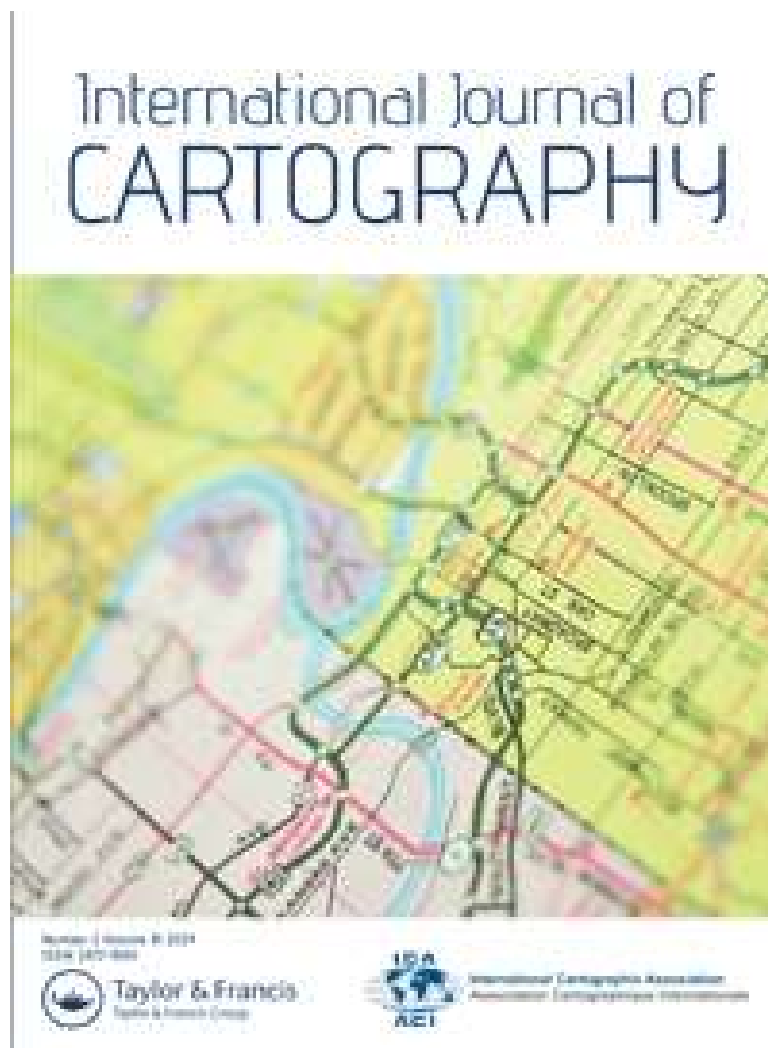
7 May 2025–9 May 2025 19th International Conference on Location Based Services (LBS)


INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CARTOGRAPHY

International Journal of Cartography 10-1 and 10-2 were published
Papers are available via journal web site:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tica20/10/1?nav=toClist>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tica20/10/2?nav=toClist>





„ ... look on life as a game and the
world as a playground!“

Robert Baden-Powell

Wishing you happy holidays
and a playful New Year!