International Geographical Union
Union Géographique Internationale


IGU Commission on Global Change and Human Mobility (GLOBILITY)

http://www.globility.org
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The number of Globility Commission members

The total number of members of the Commission is 179 (as of 17 November 2017) and the number of countries involved is 52. The increase in the number of members since 2012 has been 38.7% (from 129 to 179 members). The number of countries has increased 8.3% at the same time (from 48 to 52 countries).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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2. Meetings

2.a. The Globility Commission meetings organized during 2015-2017 with summary information on their locations, dates, and number of participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of sessions</th>
<th>Oral Presentations</th>
<th>Participants (average per session)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>31-01</td>
<td>August-September 2015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Paz</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.b. A brief summary of the topics addressed at each meeting and the findings or conclusions resulting from the discussions if appropriate. Please highlight the new ideas and insights identified at each meeting and their immediate and long-term theoretical and practical implications (do include a photograph or two if you have them).

2.b.1. In the Moscow Meeting (2015), four different topics in four sessions were discussed.

- The first of them ‘Human mobility and latest Census data: new evidences, new insights’ tackled the issue of the information available in last Censuses to study human mobility. The conclusions of the session confirmed that the statistical data still vary from country to country. However, human mobility is still a phenomenon very difficult to measure and track. Data arising from Population Censuses in terms of both flows and stocks enhance the possibilities of researchers on this matter, as demonstrated in the papers defended by Genghe Gao (China) with respect to the inter-provincial spatial flow of rural population in Henan province and by Rajan Bhandari (India) regarding the Tibetans immigrants in India. In the paper presented by D.V. Zhitin and A.I. Krasnov, the information provided by the last Census from Russian Federation allowed them to offer a new ethnic perspective of the population in St. Petersburg from the point of view of the spatial segregation.

- The topic of the second session was ‘Responses to displacement from Asia Pacific’. By focusing on forced displacement, the Session addressed these main themes: urban environment, climate change, and regional sustainability. The staggering global dimensions of forced displacement of people from their homes, and livelihoods due to development, disasters and environmental change were increasingly engage attention at key intersections of research and practice. The session examined these issues through the lens of people’s responses to forced displacements in the cases of the Three Gorges Dam (China) (Brooke Wilmsen, Australia) and in the case of Fukushima (Japan) evacuees (Jane Singer and Winifred Bird, Japan). A theoretical reflection was also defended by Susanna Price (Australia) with respect to the negotiation of settlements in forced displacements.

- The third session revolved around ‘People on the move. The perspective of the life cycle and the role of gender’. The mobility processes explained as a consequence of the interaction between migration policies, trade, labour market and welfare policies, on the one hand, and the people’s decisions and practices, on the other, were examined in the example presented by Parreño-Castellano, Domínguez-Mujica and Díaz-Hernández, from Spain, linking the labour life courses of migrants with their lifestyle preferences in the Spanish tourism destinations.
The presentation of Manuela Bauer, from the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München (Germany), focused on the close relationship between labour market, international volunteering, tourism and education, through the perspective of the young mobility in the called ‘gap year’. The findings of a research conducted in Germany indicated that there is a difference in the gap year migration behaviour of young women and men. This theoretical contribution was not only a characterization of the target group, but also a scientific contribution to geographical life cycle research in questions of adolescent behaviour and role of gender.

Josefina Domínguez-Mujica. Chair of the Commission

An important turn was given in the last presentation of this session from people to places. Alexander Fetisov, from Russian Federation, defended the importance of spatial proximity in the intensity and scope of the neighbourhood interactions, concluding the need to reinforce the study of distance as a key variable in all models of human mobility.

- In the last session, with the title ‘Real and virtual borders, the challenge of human mobility’ were presented four contributions. The building of fortress-spaces with solid physical borders occurs simultaneously with the tendency to fluidization of borders because, further the control measures, perceptions and wills of people contribute destroying barriers to move. This was demonstrated in the presentation entitled ‘Beyond the migration policies: understanding the emigration of young-skilled Spaniards in the context of economic and financial crisis’ by Josefina Domínguez-Mujica, Ramón Díaz-Hernández and Juan Parreño-Castellano, from Spain.
Transnationalism was the theoretical framework of analysis developed in the contribution defended by Maria Savoskul, from Russian Federation, ‘Emigration of Russian Germans to Germany and transnational links with Russia’. In this presentation the classification of Russians living in Germany in three different groups of ethnic identity was the target of the research: “Real Germans”, Russian Germans and “Russaki (Russacks)”. Kira Morachevskaia, from Russian Federation, focused the attention on the transborder connections in the Russian-Belorussian borderland, applying to them the Core-periphery model. The purpose of the study was to determine the role of central or peripheral position of the settlement/town in the intensity of transborder connections.

Finally, in this session, Montasser Abdelghani, from Oman, developed an analysis of ‘The hierarchy of workers, according to nationality, in the labour market of the Sultanate of Oman’, shedding light with regard to the peculiar socio-geographical location of immigrants in Gulf countries.

A group of attendants in one of the sessions of the Moscow meeting

2.b.2. In the Budapest Meeting (2015), the session entitled ‘Changing world, changing human mobilities: global convergence and divergence’ consisted of six slots.

- Theoretical approaches and interpretations of the concept of human mobility were presented. Progresses and advancements made in the field since the year 2000 were analyzed and summarized, and possible tracks for future developments were indicated.

- Migration (permanent, temporary, circular, return; voluntary, forced; legal, illegal; international, intra-European, domestic, regional; gendered; highly skilled, low-skilled; pre-
and post-world economic crisis; pre- and post- EU enlargement;) was one of the main topics of the session. Explanatory factors were identified and spatial, social, economic and political impacts of migration were discussed with reference to specific case studies - mostly in Eastern Europe - and, also, specific minorities (ex. Roma). Attention was paid to rural-peripheral vs. urban-central areas, to the changes occurred in Eastern Europe after the political and economic transition, to the difficulties in hosting societies in accepting immigrants. The role of recruitment agencies was explored for the specific case of Japanese highly-skilled workers in Germany and the role of national policies in favouring the return of migrants was explored for Hungary.

- Tourism (medical and thermal tourism; cross-border; VFR; ecotourism; rural tourism; food tourism; cultural tourism) was an important topic of the session. A multifaceted perspective characterized presentations and discussions: tourists’ needs and attitudes, perceptions of tourists in tourist areas, tourist industry and enterprises (especially hotels), tourist resources, marketing techniques and tools, innovative tourist products, tourism as a modifier of the borders and boundaries (French-Andorran and US-Mexican borders), etc. Problems such as the seasonality of tourism in some areas were tackled and new parameters for the statistical analysis were proposed.

- Residential mobility was presented in the specific case of Riga (LV), explanatory factors and spatial patterns were identified.

- Daily commuting and new modes of transportation were two topics discussed in the session. Car sharing as a form of networked mobility in Hungary, difficult accessibility of educational facilities in Latvian rural areas, gender differences in the use of public transportation in Croatia, were good examples of divergences in the contemporary world.

A group of attendants in the Budapest Meeting
2.b.3. The Globility Commission organized four own sessions and two joint sessions in the 
Beijing Meeting (2016).

- The first was entitled ‘Moving World, Moving Actors: Global Changes and Personal 
Challenges’. It had the aim to anticipate a comprehensive interpretation of the factors 
determining and resulting from processes of human mobility, and of their challenges. The 
contributions linked the human mobility theories, empirical cases of study with the 
geographical global changes that shape different world experiences. Fifteen contributions 
were presented in this first session, organized around three slots. In the first, six papers from 
Spain, Netherlands, Japan, Nepal, Czech Republic and China were presented. In the second, 
the contributors came from Spain, Germany, United States, India and Germany. Finally, in 
the third, the members of universities involved were from Germany, United States, Ghana 
and Romania. All of them developed interesting perspectives regarding different processes 
of migration (borders, motivational profiles, marginal areas, gendered responses, mobility 
in tourism islands, refugees’ allocation, guest workers’ visas, cultural impacts, integration of 
skilled migrants, everydayness mobility and elderly travel behaviour).

A group of attendants the Globility sessions of the Beijing Congress

- The second session, with four presentations and developed in one slot, was titled 
‘Information, communication, new media and human mobility’. The presenters came from 
United States, China, Bangladesh and India. The topics of social networks and the feelings of 
identity of migrants, the media representations of crime, the trans-local livelihoods and the 
social media modelling activity patterns opened the perspectives to the relation between 
media and human mobility.
- The third topic referred to ‘Development Safeguards, Forced Displacement and Resettlement - Inside China and Going Out’ and put the focus on these processes of forced mobility. The eleven contributions, coming from Australia, Japan, China and Ghana were presented in two different slots. The premises of social risks in dam buildings, investment projects, governmental initiatives, innovation and resettlement from a win-win approach, effectiveness and assessment of these actions, policies and practices in the Chinese case, its sociocultural effect, the sustainability of these projects and their adaptation to local socioeconomic contexts inside and out of China generated a stimulating debate between presenters and attendants.

Exhibition of Globility posters and the program of Globility sessions
- The fourth session corresponded to the issue of youth mobility. Ten contributions were presented under the title: ‘Youth Mobility: An Emerging phenomenon at the Global Scale’. These contributions analysed the current processes of youth mobility in Romania, Switzerland, Spain, Latvia, Italy, United Kingdom and South Korea with a special focus on: academic achievements and their consequences on youth mobility, policies facilitating repatriation processes, trends and challenges of youth mobility, the use of longitudinal register data, the impact of economic crisis in youth mobility, the statistical analysis harmonizing stocks and flows, the barriers of international youth mobility in Europe and the processes of acculturation among young North Korean refugees.

- In collaboration with the Commission C12.39 Urban Geography a session entitled ‘Human Mobility and Urban Vulnerabilities’ was organized. The number of contributions was six, in one slot. The presenters, from United Kingdom, Spain, South Africa, France, China and India, debated around disabled people and vulnerable mobilities, the urban vulnerability linked to foreign immigration, the gender violence in refugees’ areas and the vulnerability in traditional dwellings.

- Jointly with the Commission C12.34 Population Geography a session on ‘Demographic sources and methodologies to study human mobility’ was proposed. Only two contributions were presented in this specialized topic, one of them from the United States Census Bureau and another from Nanjing University. The first was on ‘Mapping Methods and Datasets’ and the second on the ‘Spatial Mechanism to study Inter-provincial Migrations in China’. Despite the scarce number of contributions they generated interest for the attendants given the outstanding data availability on population and migration by the United States Census Bureau with respect to the most of the countries of the world.

- Finally, besides the oral presentations four posters were exhibited. They were entitled ‘Return to Volcano: Resilience of Human Mobility Facing Natural Hazards. Ilha Do Fogo (Cape Verde)’; ‘Crisis, Migration and Return: New Mobility of Young Spaniards and its Consequences’; ‘Gender, Migration, Remittances and Development in Uganda’; and ‘Mapping the Spatial Evolution of Urban Innovation Structure at the Zip-code Region Scale: A Comparison of Beijing and Shanghai’.

2.b.4. La Paz Meeting (2017) was promoted by the IGU Commission Political Geography in collaboration with the IGU Commission Latin American Studies under the title of Geographies for Peace. In the framework of this Conference, the Global Change and Human Mobility Commission organized a session entitled ‘Human mobility resulting from
vulnerability in the service of peace’, with the aim to receive contributions on: (i) theoretical and methodological reflections on forced migrations; (ii) analysis of migration as a consequence of the effects of the policies of the sending and receiving migrants states; (iii) challenges of human mobility facing the construction of fortress-spaces (processes of trans-bordering, de-bordering and re-bordering); (iv) transnational, gender and inequalities frameworks on refugees; (v) processes of development and social transformations linked to the refugee settlement; (vi) mobility of the members of NGO and other institutions in charge of humanitarian attention to forced migrants.

A group of attendants and the Chair of the Commission in La Paz Meeting

The session was combined with one promoted by the Commission on Marginalization, receiving the name of ‘Mobility, marginalization and conflicts’ and their eleven contributions were developed in two slots. Switzerland, Slovenia, Mexico, Argentina, Greece, South Africa, Czech Republic, France and Spain were the countries where the researchers came from. The contributions dealt with civil society vs. globalization and marginalization; armed conflicts as generators of marginalization; marginality and opportunities through action-research and educational practices; the example of Mytilen (Greece) in the reception of refugees; the politics of new regionalism in the bordering of municipalities in South Africa; the marginalization of seasonal migrants in the South of Mendoza (Argentina); the marginalization of Orthodox Ukrainians in Czechia; the theoretical perspective of the local governments as interface between local and international political positions; and the political Spanish role in the context of European Union on the named refugees’ crisis. After the mentioned presentations, an average number of 40 persons took part in an interesting debate about the role of Europe in front of the refugees’ Mediterranean crisis.
2.b.5. With the name of ‘Youth Mobility in Europe’, the Commission Global Change and Human Mobility participated in Brussels, in the Sixth EUGEO Congress on the Geography of Europe (2017) in collaboration with the HORIZON2020 Research Project YMOBILITY. The 15 contributions, from Latvia, Italy, Spain, Germany, Luxembourg, and Norway, were presented in four slots. The topics under examination were: residential satisfaction and mobility behaviour; youth mobility facing the crisis; policies and initiatives supporting young mobile people in Europe; youth perceptions on agency in mobility structures; youth mobility science dissemination; pan-European identity among young EU citizens; the social, political and economic macro-drivers in European youth mobility; youth mobility in Europe eight years down the economic crisis; aspirations and reality of young returnees; youth mobility and regional development; youth mobility in East Germany, in Spain, in Italy and the regions of provenance of young people in Europe.

A group of attendants and the Scientific Secretary of Globility in the Brussels Meeting

2.c. Planned meetings of the Commission to be held in 2018 and topics to be addressed

For the upcoming 2018 International Geographical Union Regional Conference in Québec (August 6-10, 2018, Canada), under the topic “Appreciating Difference”, the Globility Commission will propose two own sessions and two joint sessions. The first own session is entitled ‘Highly-skilled migration and international student mobility: the steady links between education and labour market’. It invites to think about the implications of these two types of migrations in the case of skilled young people: to study abroad and to work
abroad, given the nexus between both flows as an integral part of transnational migration systems.

The second is entitled ‘Migration, diasporas and development: the perspective of mobility and transnationalism’ and has the aim of collecting contributions highlighting the new paradigms interpreting the logic of new time-spaces relations.

By the other hand, regarding joint sessions, the Commission Population Geography and the Globility Commission have promoted one session entitled ‘Population Mobility in a context of Climate Change and its demographic consequences’. The focus of contributions will be related to the links between environmental degradation and population mobility/migration. Consequently, this session will attempt at providing an overview of recent empirical results of the nexus between climate change and human mobility from a geographical and demographic point of view.

In addition, the Commission Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change and the Globility Commission have also proposed a session entitled ‘Revisiting the nexus of tourism and migration’. This session will offer contributions linked to the complex assemblage of lifecycle of tourist destinations and life courses of tourists and labour migrants, with the aim to anticipate a comprehensive interpretation of the factors determining and resulting on the linkages between human mobility processes and tourism evolution. Human mobility and tourism theories as well as empirical cases of study will be welcome.

3. Networking, communication and dissemination

3.a. Networking. As it has already been mentioned, Globility has kept contacts with other IGU Commissions to promote joint sessions in the IGU congresses or regional conferences. The IGU Commissions on ‘Population Geography’, ‘Urban Geography’ and ‘Global Change and Human Mobility’ developed successful joint sessions in the IGU Congress in Beijing. In ‘Geographies for Peace’ (La Paz Meeting), Globility collaborated with the Commissions Political Geography, Latin American Studies and Marginalization and there are two joint sessions planned for the upcoming 2018 Québec Meeting in order to strengthen the collaboration between Globility and other Commissions; in this case, the Commission Population Geography and the Commission Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change.

The Globility Commission also collaborated with the Commission Population Geography sending to the Québec organizers a joint proposal from both Commissions (accepted
unanimously by the two Steering Committees) suggesting the following candidate for Luminary Speaker: Prof. David LEY, Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia, but this proposal was not considered by the Québec organizers.

Finally, in the context of the International Conference ‘World Social Sciences Forum’ that will be held in September 2018 in Fukuoka, Japan, the former Scientific Secretary of the Globility Commission and member of its Steering Committee, Prof. Yoshitaka Ishikawa, has promoted an invited session by the National Committee of Japan for International Geographical Union. The session’s speakers are affiliated to the Global Change and Human Mobility Commission.

3.b. Communication and dissemination. The most important obstacle to Globility Commission is to promote the organization of meetings out of the context of IGU events, because in recent years, universities around the world have experienced significant financial constraints; these have made difficult for a very large number of researchers to take part in the planned meetings, despite their interest in the Commission activities, expressed to the Globility meeting organizers by email.

Nevertheless, in 2015 the collaboration between the Universities of Chemnitz (Germany) and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain) through the Globility Commission obtained funds to deepening in the study of new flows of young skilled Mediterranean citizens to other EU countries. As a consequence of this collaboration, was published a book by Transcript Verlag, edited by Glorius, Birgit & Domínguez-Mujica, Josefina, in 2017, with the title: ‘European Mobility in Times of Crisis. The New Context of European South-North Migration’. The most of the authors of the different chapters are members of the IGU Globility Commission.


It is also remarkable the call for papers, in the framework of the past Sixth EUGEO Congress,
taken by Prof. Christian Vandermotten, former member of the Globility Steering Committee, on behalf of the BELGEO journal, with the purpose to collect articles for a thematic issue on Youth Mobility. This special number will be published in 2018. The 17 abstract proposals are being reviewed by the coordinators of this special issue, Prof. Montanari and Prof. Domínguez-Mujica and each of the articles resulting by the proposals accepted will be anonymised and assessed by two referees.

4. Publications

4.1. Articles and volumes published

A list of the articles and volumes published by some of the Globility members on issues of global change and human mobility during 2016-2017, in English and/or their national languages, is the following:


Glorius B and Domínguez-Mujica J (2017) “Past Migration Inertia and New Mobility Paradigm between Southern and Northern Europe”, The European Financial
IGU COMMISSION ON GLOBAL CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY

Review https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318815233_Past_Migration_Inertia_and_New_Mobility_Paradigm_Between_Southern_and_Northern_Europe


“Grenzüberschreitende Mobilität von medizinischem Fachpersonal aus der Tschechischen Republik nach Sachsen. Prozesse, Barrieren und Chancen”, Chemnitzer Beiträge zur Humangeographie online, 3, Chemnitz.


Salazar N B (2016) “Keywords of mobility: A critical introduction”. In Salazar N B and Jayaram K (Eds.) Keywords of mobility: Critical engagements, Oxford, Berghahn, 1-12.


Zapletalová J, Stefanova D, Vaishar A, Stefanov P, Dvořák P and Tcherkezova E (2016) Social development of ecologically sensitive rural areas: Case studies of the Moravian Karst (Czech Republic) and the Devetashko Plato (Bulgaria), Problems in Geography, 3-4, 65-84.


4.2. New accurate URL of the commission’s website.

http://www.globility.org/

The Globility website is run by an IT independent supporter, webmaster, under the supervision of the Chairperson of the Globility Commission, Prof. Josefina Domínguez-Mujica, and under the management of the Scientific Secretary, Dr. Barbara Staniscia. The website has a new domain since 2014 and represents the major tool for exchange of information among the members of the Globility Commission.
5. Continuation. Statement of the mission of the Commission/Task Force

The Commission appeals to scholars interested in the issue of change and mobility across the world. Owing to its ability to link locations and societies, human mobility is receiving an increasing academic attention among scholars. The ‘Globility’ Commission (Global Change and Human Mobility) promotes a new reading and recognition of human mobility in the context of globalization, to deepen in the exchange of knowledge with regard its different forms such as migration and tourism, namely, the diverse practises in which human mobility is displayed through different countries and societies. The geographical perspective allows researchers to find this common nexus as an important issue in the process of interrelation between global phenomena and local manifestations.