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Task Force Sessions of the Commission on Political Geography

Each registered participant may submit no more than two abstract by 15 Januari 2014. Each abstract must be submitted to a particular session, ONLY via the on-line registration system.

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C12.33 Political Geography

80 - Contemporary conflicts and new/old forms of belligerence

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It has been widely stated that 21st century organized violence is different, in many ways, from the “old wars” of the 20th century. Indeed, most of the contemporary belligerence does not fit in the conventional definition of war, or even in the classic distinction between political and/or criminal violence (World Bank, 2011). Following Mary Kaldor (2013), “various terms have been used to conceptualize contemporary conflict – wars among the people, wars of the third kind, hybrid wars, privatized wars, post-modern wars”. However, the most successful definition is “new wars”, a label suggested by the same Kaldor in 1999. Generally speaking, “new wars” are considered to be different from conventional warfare because they do not implicate regular armed forces of States, because they are sometimes funded by international crime, because they involve ethnic cleansings and terrorist attacks, more than battles and direct encounters, and, eventually, because they are characterized by a large amount of violence against civilians. All the same, not everyone agrees with the newness of the “new wars” logic, giving way to a stimulating debate, between those who believe that the contemporary forms of belligerence can be analyzed with the existing categorizations of conflict, and those who have doubts about the possibility of using this definition. In the same time, the “humanitarian war myth”, which has accompanied many external interventions in these “new wars”, is faltering away. This session aims at highlighting the debate about new wars and old wars, in the hope of engaging both theoretical and empirical contributions to the topic

81 - Globalisation, sharing/gift economies, and contested everyday futures

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Globalization, as an uneven process of proliferating connections across space, has become a central marker of society, recasting the spatialities of our world. While capitalist accumulation and state control have intensified through globalizing processes, new economic avenues for confronting and circumventing these systems have emerged. Many have emerged, not as localist reactions against global processes, but through the same spatial configurations and technologies. These new ‘sharing’ (Gold 2004) or ‘gift’ (Mauss 1954) economies often involve the co-production of resources and value beyond both capitalist markets and state regulations.

Many, if not most, of these non-financial economies are not explicitly political, however they destabilize or circumvent the commodity form, constructing and mobilizing ways of being, relating in, and performing a globalised world that indicate a “politics of economic

possibility” (Gibson- Graham 2006) and alternative notions of value. Indeed, these everyday sharing/gift practices echo some of the most revolutionary ideas of the past century, including Kropotkin’s anarchist vision of mutual aid (1972 / 1912) and Marxist theories of workers’ “general intellect” as driving social change (Virno 2001).

This panel considers the everyday spaces and practices of sharing and gift economies, and what they can tell us about alternative global futures. In what ways are they resisting, evading, recuperated by, or entangled within, spatialities of statist-capitalist globalization? To what extent are they re- shaping constructions of value? How might we take inspiration from the self-organised intellectual and material generosity of sharing economies to address the profound challenges society now faces?

82 - Political geographies of multilingualism

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Dealing with linguistic diversity is a particular challenge for political institutions that want to promote smooth communication between state and citizens and between political and economic actors on their territory. Territorial arrangements based on territorial monolingualism as a way to enhance both social cohesion and institutional performance have often been adopted, in particular in Europe where the principle of “one state, one nation, one language, one territory” has been widely endorsed and implemented both by states pursuing nation building policies and by nationalist movements advancing linguistic argument to establish their own state. Monolingualism has often been seen as a sine qua non for the public sphere deemed necessary for a democracy to function. Traditionally this has led to heated conflicts about linguistic justice, linguistic rights, regimes and policies in areas where people were using several languages next to each other and relations between linguistic groups were strained. In recent decades, many globalization processes, most notably transnational migration, have increasingly boost linguistic diversity (both in terms of the numbers of multilingual persons and the numbers of languages used in any specific place), especially in cities and poses an increasingly pressing challenge to political institutions (state and non-state) to accommodate it. This session aims at advancing new political geographies of linguistic diversity, by examining the geographical aspects of the ways it is represented and the ways it is practiced and performed or opposed.

We welcome papers dealing with the conceptual methodological and theoretical aspects of political geographies of multilingualism, with cases studies including historical cases, and with comparative studies, at all scale levels (local, regional, national, supranational) in and outside Europe.

83 - European integration, conflict resolutions and persisting divides

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Ten years after the 2004 enlargement that was supposed to definitively brought the postwar division of Europe in a Western and Eastern bloc to the dust bin of history, the integration of new Member States in the European Union turns out to be a complex matter and structural differences between old and new member states persist. In addition the 2008 US banking crisis and the subsequent financial, fiscal, economic, and political crisis that hit EU member states and the Eurozone in particular, has brought to the front the persistence of numerous divides inside Europe. New social divides and conflicts, epitomized by grassroots mobilization against austerity policies, have added up to older ones. Moreover, enduring territorial conflicts in several member states regarding the status of specific territories (Catalonia, Basque Country, Scotland, Northern Ireland, North Cyprus etc.) have not benefited from further integration and enlargement, despite EU’s attempt to cope with its self- definition as a multicultural and security actor protecting minorities and human rights.

Meanwhile the hardening of the external border of the EU has aggravating the divide between EU and non-EU territories, despite the rhetoric of European Neighbourhood Policy. This session welcomes papers addressing various aspects of the political geographies of European integration to advance our understanding of the European Union as a new political system and the way it evolves under the present economic and political crisis as well as analysis of the enduring pervasiveness of Westphalian state territoriality, as a norm, if not as a practice. The session also addresses issues related to the impact of the EU rebordering/debordering practices in situations of territorial conflict, with respect to the institutional, physical and identity features of borders.

We welcome papers dealing with: • the challenges of European integration in the light of the financial crisis, the political crisis of the Eurozone, and the re-emerging relevance of the North-South divide; • the Europeanization of new member states and the persistence of the East-West trope in the representation of Europeans and of the European Union; • the potential role of the EU in hindering or enhancing conflict resolution processes within its borders, through both its bordering impact and at its normative projection. Papers could address conceptual, methodological and theoretical aspects of the political geographies of European integration and Europeanization, territorial conflict, territoriality and bordering processes, as well as case studies pertaining to specific Member States, conflicts or divides.

84 - Here, there, everywhere: social movements spatializing dissent

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Since the end of the last decade, the resurgence of waves of protests has turned social movements into a trendy topic among political geographers. While mass media are interrogating whether this is the time for revolution going global, the making of collective action is globalizing their struggles, creating new maps of grievance, producing new topographies of resistance (Featherstone, 2007). Over recent years, geographers have been exploring the relation of concepts such as place, space and scale to the core literature of social movements. However in the light of recent events, there is still the urge to problematise the spatial dimension and trans-scalar action of those social movements moving here and there challenging the current hegemonic order.

85 - Concepts of power and space in 'post political' approaches

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Whether Arab Spring, European crisis protests or riots in the suburbs of London: since the outbreak of the global financial and economic crisis, the world seems in turmoil. Some prominent poststructuralist theorists see in the riots and occupations a new and radical form of political action which seems to undermine hegemonic modes of policy and raise more fundamental questions on 'the political' as it is conceptualized in the writings of scholars like Ernesto Laclau & Chantal Mouffe, Alain Badiou or Jacques Rancière.

The session discusses the possibilities and limits of post-political approaches, the way they frame the conceptual and political role of "space" (spatial representations, productions, practices), and their possible impact on traditional forms and concepts of political spaces (e.g. sovereignty).

86 - The political geographies of 'post-growth' discourses

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'Post growth' concepts challenge the hegemonic framings of western societies in which economic growth and expansion are the keys to greater well-being. Instead, in the face of global change and environmental risks they design concepts for the future, in which the protection of natural resources, sustainable forms of economic, political and social practices form the normative guidelines of so called post-growth societies. Such conceptions not only demand deep and conflictual social transformations. They are at the same time re-framing the political geographies of traditional growth-oriented societies, e.g. by re-focusing on local and regional scales, networks and practises. In this manner they challenge the political and geographical patterns of globalization. The session provides the opportunity to present papers discussing different post-growth approaches and their political geographies.

87 - The politics of the commodification of nature

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The commodification of nature is one of the important issues in the wider field of the so called neo-liberalization of society. All over the globe it has been leading to political conflicts on issues like the privatisation of water rights, land grabbing, the exploitation of biological reserves and so on. Meanwhile the commodification of natural resources has even reached the field of environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. For the session papers are welcome that introduce either conceptual approaches or empirical case studies.

Joint Sessions

C12.10 Gender and Geography and C12.33 Political Geography

5 - Climate change, environmental discourse and gender

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“Human influence on the climate systems is clear” as declared in the 2013 Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC working Group I this influence is “evident in most regions of the globe”. At the same time, quoting Mike Hume (2008), “we are living in a climate of fear about our future climate”. The discursive dimension of climate change and, more generally, of environmental changes is a consolidate issue of the contemporary debate. This debate emphasizes the relevance of relationships between cultures and environmental narratives. Reading this relationship in a gender perspective is a promising approach to understand global phenomena such as climate change, to interpret environmental narratives and to study local responses to environmental crises. Aim of the session is both to question how the environmental discourse represents gender differences and to stress the role of women in mitigation, adaptation and resilience policies and strategies.

6 - Gender, human rights and citizenship

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As a result of increased human migration in this age of globalisation, host countries in both the global North and South have not only witnessed deep changes in their social and political landscapes, but also faced serious challenges of dealing with new and increasing numbers of immigrants, resulting in discrimination, segregation and xenophobia, which are serious challenges among others. Issues of gender and ethnic minorities in terms of their position, struggles and contests in host countries aptly demonstrate changes and challenges, brought about by migration. Furthermore, increased migration has challenged the territorial fixity of citizenship and thus pulverized the geographic limits of belonging. If this is the case, do we have deterritorialized citizenship and forms of belonging? How does increased migration challenge and change the structures of host societies? How do the dynamics of these changes and challenges play out in immigrant receiving countries and regions?

C12.15 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change C12.33 Political Geography

12 - Tourism and political borders

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Borders can be both attractions and constraints for tourism development. Boundaries are an important element of the geopolitical landscape. While they sometimes hinder economic growth, they also have political and economic functions that stimulate regional and local development, often on the basis of tourism. New tourist spaces and functions are currently being observed at international boundaries, and the relationships between borders and tourism are becoming increasingly interesting to researchers, government agencies and the private sector. Within many borderlands, tourism is considered the most important sector of the economy and one that

is often the sole opportunity for development. At the same time tourism is becoming a primary focus of transboundary collaboration and integration.

International borders have significant implications for tourism, especially in terms of planning, promotion, human mobility, taxes, and socio-economic development. Boundaries influence the development of tourism in several ways, including motivating and stimulating travel, facilitating or hindering the development of tourism infrastructure, marketing and promotion, as well as regional branding. Borders are also important tourist attractions, and emerging tourism products associated with the border are based on the "otherness" associated with cross- boundary travel. Borderlands are often home to natural attractions or areas of natural and cultural importance. As well, they are often zones of cultural blurriness, where different cultures, religions and ethnicities co-mingle and meld, and where unique cultural landscapes exude a tourism appeal. Many borderlands are home to historic monuments and heritage cities with unique urban patterns. The border-related "otherness" is also expressed through different land uses, dissimilar feasts and holidays, distinctive cuisines (culinary tourism) and merchandise variety available in shops (shopping tourism). This proposed session focuses on the relationships between tourism and political borders through: - The development and dissemination of theoretical, conceptual and methodological knowledge - The discussion of wide-ranging empirical and policy issues in different national, regional and institutional contexts. We particularly welcome papers addressing the following topics: -Globalization and border tourism -Borders as innovative spaces for tourism development -Tourism and changing border functions -Cross-border attractions and emerging tourism products - Cross-border shopping tourism -New trends and processes in the regionalization of cross-border tourism -Cross-border policy and governance in (for) tourism development -Natural and cultural heritage in tourism development in borderlands.

13 - Dark Tourism, Heritage and War

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Visits to heritage sites have been an important phenomenon within today's tourism. However heritage does not only comprise places of natural beauty and spectacular architecture. Instead heritage sites associated with catastrophes, war and other dark history are as well developed into tourism attractions. This implies numerous challenges, not least related to dissonant interpretations of the heritage in place. Against this background this session invites papers focusing both empirical and theoretical aspects of the dark tourism – heritage nexus.

C12.20 History of Geography

C12.33 Political Geography

15 - What (political) geography ought to be? Theoretical approaches to and historical perspectives on geography and geopolitics as instruments of peace

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"Geography is mostly useful for making war" is a very famous catch phrase, highlighted by Yves Lacoste's well-known book, "La Géographie, çasert, d'abord, à faire la guerre (1976)". But geographical knowledge can also be considered as a tool for fostering peace, cultural tolerance and mutual understanding at different scales, as argued and demonstrated by many authors and works in the past, such as Immanuel Kant and his cosmopolitan theory; Piotr Kropotkin, Élisée Reclus and other relevant anarchist geographers; the various prominent scholars involved in the discussions and preparations related to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference and the subsequent Treaties; or Griffith Taylor's plea for "geopacifics". Stimulated by the IGU initiative for a UN International Year of Global Understanding, this session is aimed to attract papers examining how geography and geographers have contributed to this kind of perspective throughout the modern and contemporary history of the discipline.

Papers are welcome especially dealing with: - historical roles of geography and geographers in promoting peace; - relationships between various geographical knowledges and peace movements and initiatives; - academic and non-academic geographers and their

ideas on the regional, national and global peace; -involvement of geographers in Peace Treaties and other analogous diplomatic instruments; - solutions for the local, national and global conflicts from the geographer's perspective; -geography and education for peace; - imaginative geographies as potential tools for fostering peace. Participants are welcome to submit abstracts on the topics listed above, but are not limited to those mentioned.

C12.33 Political Geography

C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World

20 - Beyond global cities' system: cities as geopolitical actors in the complex world

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Substantial academic literature in the last decades has been dedicated to the analysis of global cities, their interconnections, the networks they are part of and their role in the global economy. Those cities able to compete worldwide have become the parameter to observe and assess urban systems, and the derivation of general theories or taxonomies has come mainly from the observation of few empirical examples (Allegra et al. 2013). Small cities, cities in the global South and less influential urban centres have also undergone changes and reassessments in such features as city size, economic specialization, migration, interactions through social, economic, communication and transport networks and control functions. Moreover, it is interesting to analyse if and how these cities have been affected by urban government restructuring, in the dialectic between national and urban powers, and what kind of transnational networks they are able to constitute and maintain. The aim of the session is to collect case studies from various cities in order to allow a comparative analysis of cities as geopolitical actors.