
United Nations Group of Experts On

Geographical Names

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Agenda item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda *

Cooperation and liaison with other organizations: International Organizations

Report of the Liaison Officer, International Council of Onomastic Sciences

Submitted by Liaison Officer, ICOS**

Summary

The full report contains six sections. In the first section, the author provides general information about the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, including a short description of its aim, official languages and website (<https://icosweb.net/drupal/>), as well as its membership terms and its congresses. In the second section, the author describes the newsletter, delivered in English, French and German, of which issues 10 to 27 can be found on the Council website. In the third section, the author gives information about the journal *Onoma*, which is the official publication of the Council. The author highlights recently published as well as upcoming volumes of the journal, including their titles and themes and guest editors. In section four, the author mentions the terminology group of the Council and the list of key onomastic terms that can be found on the website. In section five, the author describes the organization of a student network and a summer school on onomastics to be held in Helsinki in 2019. In the sixth section, the author indicates the venues, themes and dates for the most recent congress, held in 2017, and for the upcoming congress, to be held in 2020.

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

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1. The International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) (<http://www.icosweb.net/>)

The International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) is the international organization for all scholars who have a special interest in the study of names (place names, personal names, and proper names of all other kinds). The aim of ICOS is the advancement, representation and coordination of name research on an international level and in an interdisciplinary context. Everyone who is actively engaged in scholarly name research may become a member of the ICOS. The official languages of ICOS are English, French, and German.

The annual membership subscription is 20 Euros (10 Euros for students) which implies reduced fee at the ICOS congresses. The congresses, which normally are held every three years, are organized on behalf of ICOS by one or more of its members. The General Assembly of ICOS, including the election of officers, is usually held in conjunction with the congresses. Dr., docent Paula Sjöblom (Finland) was elected president in 2017 and will serve until the next congress in 2020.

ICOS' statutes can be found on the website.

2. Newsletters

The ICOS board issues newsletters in English, French, and German with information of interest to the members. Links to all the newsletters from no. 10 are available on the website. Since the last UNGEGN session nos. 26 and 27 have appeared.

3. Onoma

Members receive the journal *Onoma*, the official publication (yearbook) of the council. It contains topical research reports as well as basic theoretical articles concerning all areas of scholarly name research, including name standardization. Since vol. 34 (1999), each issue has been thematic with a guest editor (or guest editors) appointed for each volume. At the moment both thematical and other, non-themed volumes are being prepared. Currently Dr. Oliviu Felecan of Romania is acting editor-in-chief supported by an editorial board.

Recent volumes:

- *Onoma* 47 (2012, publ. 2015) 'Names and Law' (ed. by Katharina Leibring and Andreas Teutsch)
- *Onoma* 48 (2013, publ. 2017) 'Names and Religion' (ed. by Per Vikstrand)
- *Onoma* 49 (2014, publ. 2018) 'Medieval multiculturalism: The Evidence from Names' (ed. by Sara Uckelman, Jennifer McGowan, Genora Grim, and Nina Shiel)

Forthcoming themed volumes (some volume numbers TBC):

- Contact and Interference Phenomena in Onomastics (guest editors Wolfgang Haubrichs and Max Pfister)
- Asian Onomastics (guest editors Sungjae Choo, Peter Kang and Multamia Lauder)

4. Terminologi Group of ICOS

ICOS has a working group on onomastic terminology. The group has published a short list of key onomastic terms on the website in English, French and German. Several countries are now working on national versions of this list in different languages. Advisers from several language areas – members of ICOS or not – have been invited to join the working group in order to cover more of the world's languages. The group has from time to time been cooperating with members of the UNGEGN working group on Toponymic Terminology.

5. Summer School

ICOS will organize its first Summer School in Helsinki, Finland, 26–30 August 2019. The idea of an ICOS Summer School is to bring together young onomastic researchers from all over the world, to help them network and expand their onomastic knowledge. The theme of the Summer School 2019 is 'Methods of Onomastics'. The fast technological development – especially new tools and large datasets – are changing the nature of onomastic research. The course gives students an overview of the most crucial current methodological issues on various sub-areas of onomastics (e.g. toponomastics, anthroponomastics, literary names, commercial names, and socio-onomastics). The course will be held in English. See <https://icosweb.net/drupal/node/139>

6. Congresses

The 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was arranged at the University of Debrecen, Hungary, from August 27 to September 1, 2017. The topic of the Congress was 'Locality and Globality in the World of Names'. Some 230 participants from 41 countries listened to 200 papers (most of which in English). The papers are published in five digital and printed volumes of the journal *Onomastica Uralica*: <http://mnytud.arts.unideb.hu/onomural/>

The 27th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, with the conference theme 'Onomastics in Interaction with Other Sciences' will take place in Krakow, Poland, 23–28 August 2020.