

2019 UNGEGN Session
29 April – 3 May 2019, New York

Side Event

Presentation of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy
“Main toponymic research directions in geography and cartography”

30 April 2019, Time 8.15-9.30 (CR-E)

Background

While toponymic research in cartography has some tradition due to the obvious importance of place names for map reading and the various choices a map editor has when defining the place-name system of a specific map, in geography toponymic research has to a significant extent only evolved in recent decades, however, in the kind of a boom. This is certainly due to the fact that the constructivist approach, i.e. to conceive geographical space and geographical features as human constructs, has become the prevailing paradigm in this science. In the context of this approach place names can be regarded as indicators of how people perceive and construct their environment.

Objectives

The presentation will highlight some major research currents such as looking at place names as mediators between humans and space, place names as identity markers, place-name changes, commercial naming, indigenous names, place names and migration or the meaning of having their names presented in public space for linguistic minorities. When addressing all these fields, the relevant activities of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy will be mentioned.

Activity

A presentation of about 40 minutes may be followed by questions and comments.

Agenda

Addressing the main research fields on toponymy in geography and cartography and thus outlining (potential) tasks of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy

Moderator: Peter Jordan