

IGU COMMISSION ON THE DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC SPACES

2024 REPORT

A. Membership

1. *Steering Committee:*

The Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces (CDES) consists of eleven members from different countries. The Steering Committee was renewed this year, with six new members (their names are in italics). There are three female and eight male members in the Committee, who represent mostly European, North American and Asian countries. The members of the Steering Committee, 2024-2026:

1. **Chair:** *Eva Kiss*, HUN-REN RCAES Geographical Institute, Budapest, HUNGARY. Email: eva.kiss@igu-cdes.org, kisse@mail.iif.hu,
2. **Vice-chair:** *Patrick Heidkamp*, Department of the Environment, Geography & Marine Sciences, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven CT, USA. Email: heidkampc1@southernct.edu
3. *Harald Bathelt*, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto, Toronto, CANADA. Email: harald.bathelt@utoronto.ca
4. *Gavin Bridge*, Durham University, Durham, UNITED KINGDOM. Email: g.j.bridge@durham.ac.uk
5. *Sharifah Dawood*, Geography Section, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, MALAYSIA. Email: sdawood@usm.my
6. *Yigit Evren*, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, TURKEY. Email: evren@yildiz.edu.tr
7. *Robert Hassink*, Department of Geography, Kiel University, Kiel, GERMANY. Email: hassink@geographie.uni-kiel.de
8. *Canfei He*, College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University, Beijing, CHINA. Email: hecanfei@urban.pku.edu.cn
9. *Erja Kettunen-Matilainen*, University of Turku, Turku, FINLAND. Email: erja.kettunen-matilainen@utu.fi
10. *Robert Kudlak*, Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, POLAND. Email: robert.kudlak@amu.edu.pl
11. *Edilson A. Pereira Junior*, Ceará State University, Fortaleza, Ceará, BRAZIL. Email: edilson.junior@uece.br

The members of the Steering Committee, 2022-2024:

1. **Chair:** *Eva Kiss*, HUN-REN RCAES Geographical Institute, Budapest, HUNGARY. Email: kiss.eva@csfk.org, kisse@mail.iif.hu
2. **Vice-chair:** *Nuri Yavan*, Faculty of Language, History and Geography, Department of Geography, Ankara University, Ankara, TURKEY. Email: nuri.yavan@ankara.edu.tr
3. *Harald Bathelt*, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto, Toronto, CANADA. Email: harald.bathelt@utoronto.ca

4. Robert Hassink, Department of Geography, Kiel University, Kiel, GERMANY. Email: hassink@geographie.uni-kiel.de
5. Canfei He, College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University, Beijing, CHINA. E-mail: hecanfei@urban.pku.edu.cn
6. Patrick Heidkamp, Department of the Environment, Geography & Marine Sciences, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven CT, USA. Email: heidkampc1@southernct.edu
7. Yangmi Koo, Department of Geography, Seoul National University, Seoul, SOUTH KOREA. Email: yangmi@snu.ac.kr
8. Armin Kratzer, Platform for climate change, energy and circular economy, Standortagentur Tirol GmbH, Innsbruck, AUSTRIA. Email: armin.kratzer@standort-tirol.at
9. Rene Matlovic, Institute of Geography, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, SLOVAKIA. Email: rene.matlovic@saavs.sk
10. Özge Öner, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UNITED KINGDOM. Email: oo263@cam.ac.uk
11. Piotr Pachura, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, Czestochowa University of Technology, Czestochowa, POLAND. Email: piotr.t.pachura@wz.pcz.pl

2. Commission Members:

In the last decade, the number of members of the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces (CDES) continued to increase. This was related to the efforts that we made for the visibility of our community (e.g. updating the website, creating social media platforms). At the end of 2024, the number of members was 640 people, who came from 42 countries (Table 1).

Table 1: Members of the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces by country, as of 1 December 2024

Country	Number of members
United Kingdom	125
USA	105
Germany	80
Canada	47
Turkey	37
Australia	29
New Zealand	21
Sweden	19
Netherlands	18
Spain	17
Poland	14
China, Hong-Kong, Taiwan	11
South Korea	11
Norway	11
Italy	10
Finland	9

Japan	7
Hungary	6
France	6
Greece	5
Switzerland	5
Austria	5
Brazil	5
Denmark	4
Singapore	4
India	4
Romania	3
Israel	3
Ireland	2
Russia	2
Slovakia	2
South Africa	2
Egypt	2
Belgium	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Ethiopia	1
Nigeria	1
Portugal	1
Slovenia	1
Jordania	1
Estonia	1
Malaysia	1
Total: 42 countries	640

B. Meetings

a. Annual Conference of CDES, which was held in **Beijing** on June 21-22, 2024. There were not any CDES events here before. This is partly why this event was of great importance. The conference topic "Asia in the transforming global economy" was also significant as Asia plays a very important role in the global economy. The venue of the conference was the University of Peking. During the two-day event, 3 keynote lectures and 26 lectures were given. The number of participants exceeded 30 people, the majority (about 60%) were male. The participants mainly came from different parts of China, but there were also speakers from India, Hungary, Germany, Turkey and South Korea.

The 35th Congress of the IGU, which was named "Celebrating a world of difference", was held in Dublin between August 24-30, 2024. In addition to the Committee's Business meeting, which was attended with great interest, the members of **CDES organized 13 sessions on six topics**: A world of difference in economic spaces, Blue justice, blue economy, sustainability and just (coastal) transitions, Economic dynamics of (smaller) urban places, Financial innovations for transformative climate and economic justice, Places of work and work in places, The financialization of Latin-American territories: what has been happening recently? The interest in the announced session topics was very high, as indicated by the high number of submitted abstracts. But finally less speakers could come for the congress. The participants held

a total of 43 lectures under the umbrella of CDES. The sessions were usually attended by 20-30 people. The gender ratio was relatively balanced.

b. The world economy has radically changed over the past decade, especially in these uncertain times (COVID-19, technological disruptions, de-globalization, climate change, etc.). Against this background, Asian regions have become more and more important and are increasingly at the centre of various global crises and disruptions. This is coupled with some complex challenges for contemporary governance approaches (e.g., political alliance and state power) and institutional constructions when preventing the social and economic conflicts and inequality among various Asian regions. The emerging technologies (e.g., Artificial General Intelligence and green technologies) have been crucial in the transformation of Asian economies. The conference aimed to bring together scholars interested in conceptualizing and empirically exploring the dynamics of Asian regions in the context of the transforming global economy (Photo 1).



Photo 1. Prof. Canfei He greets the participants at the Beijing Conference

The first keynote speaker Prof. Dev Nathan gave a lecture on "Asia in the age of AI: Competition and Cooperation in the world economy". The basic factor in the transformation of the global economy is the creation of knowledge, its transformation into technology and spread in the production of goods and services. Are we in a period of a similar transition in the techno-

economic paradigm? And what potentially is the role of Asian countries in this transition? This paper sought to answer these two questions. The title of Chun Yang's presentation was "The reconfiguration of the Asian electronics production networks and regional evolution in the geopolitics and risks of the global economy". She drew attention to the fact that the changing geopolitics and heightened risks in the global economy have triggered the reconceptualizing strategic coupling of regional development in the Global Production Networks (GPN) theory. The third keynote speaker was Godfrey Yeung, who gave a lecture entitled "Latecomer's advantages, national production networks, and regional production networks: the case of battery electric vehicles' production networks" (Photo 2).



Photo 2. Listening to presentations

The other presentations of the conference presented the economic processes taking place in Asian countries from various aspects. They dealt with the economic role of women in East Asia, the impact of reducing administrative barriers on the upgrading of companies, the role of trans-regional and trans-national communities in GPN, the investments of Korean electronics companies in Vietnam, the impact of Asian investments on Hungarian industry, the effects of new technologies on the Chinese manufacturing industry, the relationship between geopolitical risks and global investment networks, the impact of strategic connectivity on regional changes, AI applications and the choice of location for new energy vehicle factories.

The presentations of sessions of Dublin Congress dealt with theoretical, methodological and practical issues, while we also got to know the changes, processes and phenomena taking place in different economic areas of the world during this extraordinary period (Photo 3).



Photo 3. Participants of the session called “A world of difference in economic spaces”

Some sessions dealt with “Blue justices” and the economic and social issues of the blue economy, coastal sustainability in the age of permacrisis, the possibilities of coastal transition, the critical analysis of sand mining, and with the relationship between deprived seaside towns and the blue economy (Photo 4).



Photo 4. Session of Blue justice and blue economy

Several interesting presentations were also given in the framework of “Financial innovations for transformative climate and economic justice”. Two sections dealt with the financial affairs and financialization processes taking place in Latin America, what exactly is going on there these days. In addition to the sessions, there was also a panel discussion with the title: "Quo vadis financial geography?", which demonstrated new directions and trends in financial geography.

c. Further meetings planned for 2025:

IGU CDES 2025 Annual Mini-Conference, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. September 24-26.

IGU Thematic Conference “Geography, Global Countrywide Changes and Sustainability, April 12-19, Cairo, Egypt,

7th Global Congress on Economic Geography, Worcester, MA, USA. June 4-8, 2025.

IGU Thematic Conference on “Diverse Geographies of Peace and War in the Contemporary World, October, 2025 Colombia.

- d. The number of participants at CDES Beijing Conference exceeded 30 people. At the Dublin Congress about 20-30 participants visited the CDES sessions.
- e. In the Steering Committee there are 3 female and 8 male members.
- f. At the Beijing Conference there were 3 keynote speakers, two of them male and one female.

C. Networking

- a. There were not any cooperation with other commissions in 2024.
- b. There were no other collaborations with international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary bodies.
- c. There were no cooperative efforts with the International Science Council (ISC) and International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) programs, etc. in 2024.

D. Publications

- a. Neise, T. Verfürth, P. and Franz, M. eds. 2024. The changing economic geography of companies and regions in times of risk, uncertainty and crisis. Routledge Publishers, 204p. DOI <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003457626>, eBook ISBN9781003457626

This book is based on the CDES Osnabrück conference held in 2022.

The 2024 Beijing conference papers of CDES will be published in a special issue of a high-quality journal.

b. –

- c. The current URL of Commission's website: <http://igu-cdes.org>

The social media links:

Linkedin: <https://linkedin.com/company/igu-cdes>

X: https://twitter.com/igu_cdes

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/igu.cdes/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553866137765>

E. Popularization (to highlight the expertise of geographers on social issues):

- a. Publications: newspapers or reports for public or private actors (from local to national in the local languages of the members) ---
- b. Interviews as expert in media (radio, TV, etc.): Bridge, G. :Tides of Transformation: an oil story (4-part series, output from Fraying Ties project)
Bathelt, H.: was interviewed with the Curious Campus podcast on "The nature, causes and consequences of inter-regional inequality" (it will be available online in January, 2025)
- c. Events promoting geography education (GeoNight and others)

Bridge, G.: *The Future of UK Oil* - RGS-IBG Monday Night Lecture (March 2024) – public lecture, highlighting role of geographic research and education on a topic of significant importance/interest

F. Archival Contributions

Neise, T. Verfürth, P. and Franz, M. eds. 2024. *The changing economic geography of companies and regions in times of risk, uncertainty and crisis. (The Dynamics of Economic Space)* 1st Edition. Routledge Publishers, 204p. DOI <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003457626>, eBook ISBN9781003457626

Photographs



Participants of the 2024 annual conference of Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces in Beijing



Participants of the Dublin sessions of CDES



Discussion on financial geography at the Dublin Congress