



International Geographical Union / Union Géographique Internationale
Commission on the History of Geography / Commission sur l'Histoire de la
Géographie

2017 IGU-UGI Thematic Conference 23-25 April 2017

Geographies for Peace/Geografías para la paz

Call for papers:

Peace in history and philosophy of geography: which possible approaches?

In the last years, a flourishing international literature is addressing the “Geographies of Peace”, by problematizing the idea of peace as a negative definition, i.e. the mere absence of war, and by subverting the classical assertions geography as a discipline “structurally” allied with armies and warfare.

Nevertheless, recent literature often quotes two forerunners of contemporary geographies of peace, the anarchist geographers Elisée Reclus (1830-1905) and Pyotr Kropotkin (1842-1921) who were not only prestigious “Founding Fathers” of contemporary critical geographies, but also scholars who can still provide useful critical tools to understand the complex significations and contexts of peace: for them, peace was not an abstract concept, but a principle to build day by day in social struggles, as true peace, they argued, “cannot exist without justice”.

In the United States, Mary Arizona (Zonia) Baber (1862-1956) dedicates her last book, *Peace Symbols* (1948) to the cause of World Peace.

These suggest that early geographer’s approaches to peace, more or less “critical”, are still underplayed by present scholarship. In this session, we are interested in filling this lacuna and thus we call for contributions mainly (but not exclusively) on:

- Early geographers’ empirical or theoretical approaches to peace and related topics
- The ideas of peace and war in geography in different linguistic and cultural areas than the

European ones

- The emergence of 'peace studies' as an academic discipline and how this intersects with the historiography of geography
- Approaches to the possible relations between spaces, places and peace outside of what is consecrated as “the geographical tradition” or “institutional geography”
- Possible engagements for peace in the field of history and philosophy of geography
- Historical geographies of peace and war
- Geographers and the peace movement/anti-nuclear movement after World War II (i.e. Vietnam War Protests, Nuclear Armament Protests, ...)
- Geographers in international peace organizations and NGOs (e.g. UN, IRC, Peace Societies, religious groups, ...)
- School geography and pacifism/international understanding in the 20th century
- Mapping of borders to preserve/create peace and use of cartography to subvert borders and disrupt peace

Please send an abstract up to 250 words to marcella.schmidt@unimib.it (in English, French or Spanish), the deadline is December 1. Decisions will be made by December 15