

Pan American Geography And History
Geography Commission Quadrennial Report
2014 to 2017

President Jean Parcher, USA

Vice President Patricia Solis, USA



Background

During the 2014 to 2017 Quadrennial period the Geography Commission of PAIGH was led by the United States under the leadership of Jean Parcher, Geographer, Emeritus U.S. Geological Survey and Dr. Patricia Solis, Geographer, Texas Tech University. The major objective of the Geography Commission is to provide leadership to the geography discipline in the Americas under a multi-discipline approach that integrates the analytical science of geography with other sciences to provide solutions at the local, national, and global levels. The 2014-2017 Geography Commission work plan was established during the 2013 General Assembly and Technical Consultation meetings provided the guidance and objectives for the Commission (http://comisiones.ipgh.org/GEOGRAFIA/files/Plan_ComisiondeGeografia_20132017.pdf).

In order to carry out the mission objectives the Geography Commission established three committees, formed three working groups, enhanced the Journal of Geography (Revista Geográfica), and funded numerous technical assistance projects. In summary these objectives are:

- Strengthening geography's leadership as an analytical and integrative discipline by taking a leading position in inter, multi and transdisciplinary work,
- Assuring that contributions from geographic research become a fundamental requirement for decision-making, public policy on land use planning and disaster risk management and,
- Promoting the exchange, discussion and cooperation in conjunction with different organizations and institutions that make up the Pan American geographic community.

Summary of Success of the Geography Commission during 2013-2017

The following successes were obtained by the members of the Geography Commission under the guidance of the President, Vice President, Committee Chairs, Editor of the Journal of Geography (Revista Geográfica), and the researchers funded by the technical assistance projects.

1. Empowered PAIGH geography committees and technical projects to focus on high value strategic actions and seed projects that connect across countries in order to leverage resources for bigger impact. Researchers of single isolated geographic studies were encouraged to seek other sources of funding.
2. Drew closer academic actors to commissions work by engaging members in universities and students with the government sector actors of PAIGH in order to strengthen institutions in both sectors.

3. Advocated for open data, shared harmonized geographic data and incorporation of citizen generated Volunteer Geographic Information (VGI) open data within the ecosystem of information available to decision makers in order to improve evidence based decision making.
4. Associated more strongly the work of the commission to relate to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) in order to support nations contributions and commitments to these UN global targets.
5. Advanced the status and reputation of the Geography journal to an indexed level within the LatinIndex process. Continued to explore ways in which to navigate a volatile publishing landscape in order to maintain and increase the quality and reach of the commission's work.
6. Conducted outreach by participating in meetings and working groups of the Organization of American States, supporting researchers to attend International Conferences, and submitting research grant applications to support PAIGH projects.

Geography Commission Committees

The three Committees, their leads, and their objectives are:

1. Research Committee led by Dr. Nancy Aguirre, Colombia
 - To advance interdisciplinary and international research in the Americas by facilitating collaboration among researchers from across the continent of the Americas. This is accomplished by supporting capacity development to actively pursue funds from external resources to leverage funding from PAIGH for relevant geographic research in the Americas.
2. Education Committee led by Bertha Olga Balbin Orday, Peru
 - Promote distance learning (online) approaches for geographic education to disseminate the interdisciplinary role of Geography and the use of geospatial information and remote sensing tools to assist decision makers.
 - Increase the visibility of PAIGH by participating in multinational forums related to the promotion of the value of geographic education, both at regional and national levels.
3. Institutional Strengthening led by Isis Tejada, Panama
 - Strengthen the network among PAIGH Geographers at regional and international conferences
 - Promote virtual communication among institutions and sectors.

More information on the Committees can be found in the 2013 – 2017 Workplan.

Revista Geográfica – Geography Journal, Editor Dr. Hermann Manriquez, Chile

During this Quadrennial the Geography Journal underwent tremendous change. Immediately it was decided to limit the journal to a yearly publication and to put forth effort to elevate it to an indexed version with peer reviews. The Editor, Dr. Hermann Manriquez of Chile inherited from the previous quadrennial, a Journal that had been late in publishing two previous editions #153 and #154. During this quadrennial four journals were published #155 (2014 year), #156 (2015 year), #157 (2016 year) and #158 (2017 year). The Journal #159 for 2018 already has several articles under peer review. Below is a breakout of articles per author and source country.

Country	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Articulos	Autores	Articulos	Autores	Articulos	Autores	Articulos	Autores
Argentina	2	3	1	2	1	3	2	5
Brasil								
Chile	1	4	2	5				
Colombia			1	4	1	1	2	4
Ecuador					1	1		
Estados Unidos					1	2		
Cuba					1	1		
Mexico	2	2			2	3	3	12
Costa Rica	1	1	1	2				
Paraguay	1	1						
Guatemala				8				
El Salvador						1		
Uruguay							1	1
Total de artículos	7		9		14		15	
Artículos aceptados	7		5		7		8	
Artículos rechazados	0		4		7		7	
Autores	11		21		12		22	
Países	5		5		7		4	

Dr. Solís proposed a collaborative effort across all of the journals to PAIGH and Dr. Hermann Manriquez established and led a working group of PAIGH editors responsible for all the journals published by the PAIGH Commissions with the objective to increase the professional level of the journals and where appropriate, submit them through a process of peer review and journal indexing. Beginning in 2015 with journal #156 the Revista Geográfica is indexed through the LatinIndex process. Additionally the journal is being offered in PDF format soft copy through the PAIGH website in order to assure open public access - <http://publicaciones.ipgh.org/revista-geografica.html>

Geography Commission third annual Joint Technical Consultation Meeting

The third annual Joint Technical Consultation meetings were held in Mexico City from June 16-18th, 2015. 30 attendees attended the two-day working meeting of the Geography Commission from 12 countries. The technical meeting was structured to allot time for both technical presentations and for discussion and formation of working groups. The report of the meeting can be found at:
<http://comisiones.ipgh.org/GEOGRAFIA/3rtc.html>

A new participatory meeting format put into place by Parcher and Solís, allowing time for discussion and networking, was very well received with additional countries volunteering to lead working groups. The working groups that were formed were:

Working Group for an Online Geographic Learning Network (Education Committee) - Osvaldo Muñiz Solari

Geography Census Working Group 2015 (Committees for Institutional and Research Strengthening) - Patricia Solis and Nancy Aguirre

Working Group on an Atlas of Climate Change in the Americas (Research and Education Committees) - David Salisbury

Conference and Meetings Attended in representation of PAIGH

President Jean Parcher represented PAIGH at the following meetings and conferences in Washington DC:

Organization of American States:

- Observatorio Seguridad Hídrica (2016)
- Los Mecanismos de Atención, Respuesta y Manejo de Desastres en la OEA (2016)
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) ^[1](2016)
- PAIGH Annual Report to the OAS (2017)
- Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee (2017)

Inter-American Development Bank (2016)

Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) (2016 and 2017) (These meetings resulted in an MOU between PAIGH and PADF)

International Cartographic Conference

Ms. Parcher provided the technical presentation on “A New Integrated and Seamless Map of the Americas” at the International Cartographic Conference in July, 2017.

Vice President Dr. Patricia Solis represented PAIGH at the following events, workshops, conferences, and meetings:

- 2017 “Humanitarian Mapping Education: A View on Curriculum,” Speaker, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Summit, with Tom Mueller, September 13, Ottawa, Canada.
- 2017 “Creando jóvenes mapeadores, no sólo mapas,” Keynote Speaker, Conference Theme on Geography Education, Encuentro de la Geografía en America Latina, April 27, La Paz, Bolivia.
- 2017 Geographies for Peace / Geografía para la Paz, Participant, International Geographical Union Conference, April 25-26, La Paz, Bolivia.
- 2017 “Open Mapping for Resilience: YouthMappers in Latin America.” Paper presentation, Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, January, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 “El Reto y la Oportunidad del Mapeo Abierto.” Invited Speaker, Directing Council Meeting of the PanAmerican Institute for Geography and History of the OAS, November, Asunción, Paraguay.
- 2016 “YouthMappers: Open Mapping for Resilience Network of Universities,” Invited Speaker, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Summit, September, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2016 “Aprendizaje basado en Proyectos,” Invited Speaker, Ministry of Education (MEDUCA), Panama, August, City of Knowledge, Clayton, Panama.
- 2016 White House Mapathon. Invited Participant, student facilitator coordinator. White House Executive Office Building, July 7, Washington, DC.
- 2016 “The Power of Youth Mapping for Resilience.” Invited Speaker, Organization of American States PAIGH, US National Section Annual Meeting, US Census Building, May, Washington, DC.
- 2016 “Building a Youth Mapping University Community.” Invited Speaker, Peace Corps Innovation Office, Virtual Internship Conference Series, April 11, from Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Inspirations from Youth Mappers.” Keynote Speaker, Launch of the Mapping for Resilience University Consortium during GeoWeek 2015, Rayburn House Office Building, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, November.
- 2015 “Mappers Without Borders.” Invited Speaker, GIS Specialists in USAID Missions, Annual Conference, Washington, DC, October.
- 2015 “Formulación de proyectos científicos.” Workshop organizer and facilitator, Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, *3ª Reunión Técnica Conjunta de las Comisiones del IPGH*, June, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2015 State of the Map, Open Street Map, June, United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York.

- 2015 Pan-American Partnerships: Working with Higher Education Institutions in Latin America to enrich Research and Education. Panelist, co-organized by David Salisbury & Mary Finley-Brook, University of Richmond, AAG Annual Meeting, April, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2014 Pan-American Geography: Working Across Academic, NonProfit, and Public Sectors to enrich Research and Education in the Americas, Organizer with David Salisbury, *AAG Annual Meeting, April, Tampa, Florida.*
- 2014 "Women Geographers and Women in Geography in the Americas / Geógrafas y Mujeres en la Geografía en las Américas," Special Session Organizer and Panelist, Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, January, Panama City, Panama.

International Geographic Union's Geography of Peace Conference

In 2017, the Geography Commission offered financial support to host a reception at the Geographies of Peace themed event by the International Geographic Union held in La Paz, Bolivia. Additionally the Commission offered travel support for three PAIGH geographers (Balbin, Solís and Isabel Flores of Costa Rica) to attend and recruit additional academic members to our Commission and provided travel funding for them to reach out to the organizers the Encuentro de Geografos de America Latina (EGAL) as officers from the Geography Commission, a conference that immediately followed the Geographies of Peace event.

The meeting report can be found at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B__q8NW2W2CdjhTX3NZbVFwRFE/view?usp=sharing

Conference of Latin American Geographers, Association of American Geographers

Both the President and Vice President, along with working group chairs were in attendance at this conference where the President, Jean Parcher, received the Private Sector and Government award in recognition of her contributions to enhancing and disseminating knowledge of the geography of Latin America to professionals in government.

<http://clagscholar.org/awards-funding/honors/private-sector-government-award/>

Congreso Panhispanica de Geografia

Dr. Nancy Aguirre, Chair of the Research Committee, received travel support to attend this academic congress held in Colombia in July of 2017.

CEPEIGE

The Ecuadorian led CEPEIGE (Centro Panamericano de Estudios e Investigaciones Geográficas) continued to be an integral part of the Geography Commission. The

Geography Commission President serves as an advisor to the Consejo Superior (Management Council) along with Dr. Bolivar Troncoso of the Dominican Republic, and the Director of the Military Geography Institute of Ecuador. The Geography Commission was represented on the Consejo Academico (Academic Council) by Dr. Osvaldo Muniz of the United States.

The Geography Commission and the Consejo Academico recommended that CEPEIGE implement distance learning for the International courses offered. In addition it was recommended that CEPEIGE gear their international training courses to more of a multi-disciplinary approach so as to request funding from more than one Commission. Currently only the Geography Commission offers funds to CEPEIGE although their content is applicable across multiple commissions. The Geography Commission funded three international courses taught in a distance-learning environment during this Quadrennial period.

Geography Technical Assistance Projects

Through the PAIGH Technical Assistance program, the Geography Commission funds regional seed projects that support the following priority areas: sustainable development, climate change and natural disasters, vulnerability and risk reduction to hazards, land tenure, transborder social and economic issues, ecosystem services, and geography education at all levels. The UN Sustainable Goals were added as reference to the types of research and projects desiring support at the PAIGH Directing Council in 2016. The 2016 Geography Report provides an in depth analysis on how the funded technical assistance projects support the UN Sustainable Goals (<https://www.ipgh.org/consejo-directivo/47-red/47red-p3.html>)

The projects funded by the Geography Commission, many in collaboration with the other three Commissions, are listed in the Appendix A. Their reports will be available on the Geography Commission site: <http://comisiones.ipgh.org/GEOGRAFIA/asistencia-tecnica.html>

Conclusion

The progress achieved in this quadrennial period aligned closely with the strategic objectives identified, with respect to strengthening geography's interdisciplinary leadership, promoting geographic research contributions to decision-making, and enhancing international and multi-sectorial cooperation across the Pan American geographic community. Looking ahead to the next period of work, subsequent strategic objects can draw from and build upon these advances and the institutional infrastructure and communication mechanisms of the PAIGH Geography Commission.

Appendix A
List of Funded Technical Projects 2014 to 2017

Proyectos de Asistencia Técnica 2017

<i>Núm</i>	<i>Título del Proyecto</i>	<i>País</i>	<i>Responsable</i>
1	Taller panamericano en gestión de riesgo de desastres	Chile	Fabiola Barrenechea Riveros
2	Propuesta de estandarización de simbología táctil para Latinoamérica: Aplicación en cartografía turística	Chile	Alejandra Coll Escanilla
3	Identificación y análisis de alternativas y etapas tendientes a la mejora de la calidad de las publicaciones periódicas del IPGH	Chile	Hermann Manríquez Tirado
4	Atlas del cambio climático de las Américas	Colombia	Rigaud Sanabria Marín Nancy Aguirre Gutiérrez
5	Información Geográfica Voluntaria pre-post desastre para la respuesta humanitaria y la prevención del riesgo: aplicación práctica del programa Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT)	Costa Rica	Humberto Yances
6	XLIII Curso Internacional de Geografía Aplicada sobre: Determinación de un Modelo Geomático para la Adaptabilidad de los Fenómenos Hidrometeorológicos en Áreas Vulnerables por la Acción del Cambio Climático	Ecuador	Fernando Vera Suárez
7	Mapa Digital Integrado de América del Sur	Uruguay	Francisco Kellner

Proyectos de Asistencia Técnica 2016

<i>Núm</i>	<i>Título del Proyecto</i>	<i>País</i>	<i>Responsable</i>
1	Un enfoque didáctico para el incentivo del conocimiento geográfico y la resolución de problemas espaciales destinado a los profesores de la enseñanza básica/primaria en países latinoamericanos	Chile	Rosser Macarena Bianchi Parraguez
2	Propuesta de estandarización de simbología táctil para Latinoamérica: Aplicación en cartografía turística (2014-2016). Continuidad	Chile	Alejandra Coll Escanilla
3	Curso-Taller: La enseñanza de la geografía a través de mapas táctiles y material didáctico multisensorial	Costa Rica	Isabel Avendaño Flores
4	Diagnóstico de la situación actual sobre las metodologías y procedimientos empleados para la evaluación de la calidad de la Información Geográfica en los Estados Miembros del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia	Ecuador	Gabriela Chicaiza
5	Hacia un sistema integrado de información geoespacial en Mesoamérica para la adaptación al cambio climático y gestión de riesgos naturales	El Salvador	Iris Carolina Álvarez Zelaya
6	Estudio batimétrico, hidrográfico y topográfico de la base del Lago Coatepeque, El Salvador, usando sondeo Mono-Haz y un escaneo lateral SONAR	Estados Unidos	Bettina Martínez-Hackert
7	Formación de capacidades en Geografía, cambio climático, ciclones tropicales y gestión del riesgo	República Dominicana	Hugo del Jesús Segura Soto

Proyectos de Asistencia Técnica 2015

<i>Núm</i>	<i>Título del Proyecto</i>	<i>País</i>	<i>Responsable</i>
1	Propuesta de estandarización de simbología táctil para Latinoamérica: aplicación e cartografía turística (2014-2016)	Chile	Alejandra Coll Escanilla
2	Estudio integrado con el sistema de impulsos láser LIDAR en el Cantón Pedernales	Ecuador	Eduardo Almeida Reyes
3	XLII Curso Internacional de Geografía aplicada sobre: La difusión del conocimiento geográfico mediante el uso de aulas virtuales y medios electrónicos, una opción de enseñanza para el orbe panamericano. Modalidad Virtual	Ecuador	Filemón Valencia
4	Continuación del estudio sobre diferencias etnofisiográficas y mapas de perspectivas de peligros volcánicos de las comunidades de alrededor del Volcán de Santa Ana (El Salvador)	Estados Unidos	Jorge V. Bajo
5	Red Online de Aprendizaje Geográfico	Estados Unidos	Oswaldo Muñiz Solari
6	Formación de capacidades en Geografía, cambio climático, ciclones tropicales y gestión del riesgo	República Dominicana	Hugo del Jesús Segura Soto
7	Reunión Técnica de la Comisión de Geografía	—	Jean Parcher

Proyectos de Asistencia Técnica 2014

<i>Núm</i>	<i>Título del Proyecto</i>	<i>País</i>	<i>Responsable</i>
1	Análisis comparativo de las metodologías de los Sistemas de Clasificación de la Cobertura de la Tierra LCCS de la FAO y de CORINE de la Unión Europea para mapeo de coberturas terrestres mediante el uso de tecnologías geoespaciales para Colombia y Argentina	Colombia	Elena Posada
2	XLI Curso internacional de geografía aplicada sobre: La geomorfología y la gestión de los riesgos por deslizamiento en América Latina. Modalidad virtual, vía <i>on line</i>	Ecuador	Filemón Valencia Robayo
3	Integración de datos geoespaciales para Centroamérica	El Salvador	Emma Dinorah Flores de Cuéllar
4	Taller de integración de información geoespacial de la cuenca del Río Paz, entre los países de Guatemala y El Salvador	Guatemala	Milton O. Núñez Álvarez