

**The International Cartographic
Association**

2015 - 2019

Report of the President



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Introduction

As soon as location is involved maps will come into action. Maps allow us to compare tangible physical phenomena such as hours of sunshine, or intangible human phenomena such as level of education amongst different locations. They allow us to see geographical processes evolving over time such as land use changes. The map has moved beyond the static window to the world, and become an interactive, mobile, dynamic and collaborative interface between a human, groups of people, and the dynamically evolving environment.

We only can comprehend the mapped data effectively if the maps are attractive, and well designed. In other words, maps that matter should raise interest, be engaging, instantly understandable, and relevant to society. It is the discipline of Cartography that aims to realize and facilitate this.

The International Cartographic Association (ICA), founded in 1959, has as its aim is to promote the discipline of Cartography internationally. It offers its expertise and knowledge of technological developments to other organizations via events, meetings workshops, and publications. Its activities happen through the work of its Commissions and Working Groups, that deal with a wide range of topics that cover nearly the whole discipline.

Together we are faced by all kind of societal and technological development with often are both a challenge and opportunity for our discipline. To name a few at the time of writing: artificial intelligence, big geo data, real time data structures, cloud infrastructures, data driven visualizations, augmented and virtual reality.

As cartographic community, together with related sciences we are well places to face these and future new developments.

Governance

In the period 2015-2019 the Executive Committee (see also <https://icaci.org/executive-committee/>) was composed of:

- Sara Fabrikant (CH) vice-president
- David Forrest (UK) vice-president
- Georg Gartner (A) past-president
- Menno-Jan Kraak (NL) president
- Yaolin Liu (CN) vice-president
- Pilar Sanchez-Ortiz Rodriguez (SP) vice-president
- Monika Sester (D) vice-president
- Lynn Usery (US) vice-president
- Vit Vozenilek (CZ) vice-president
- Laszlo Zentai (H) secretary-general

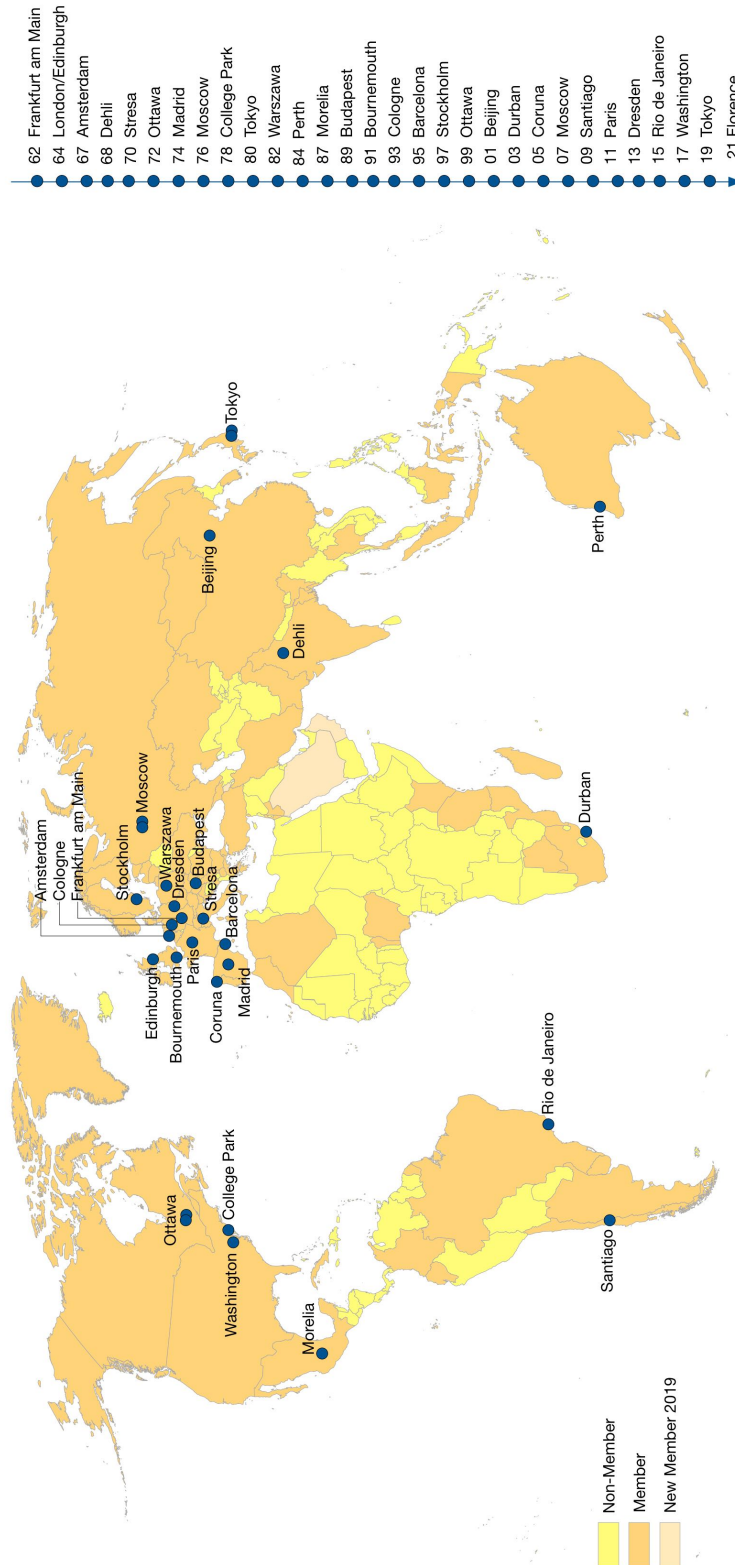


The executive members each had their own portfolio to improve the governance and operations of ICA. Laszlo Zentai was our global contact point as secretary-general and treasurer and looked at our internal administrative procedures. Sara Fabrikant was responsible for the research agenda, David Forrest studied our internal organization, Georg Gartner looked at membership issues, Yaolin Liu took care of capacity building, Vit Vozenilek looked at our conference policies, Lynn Usery took care of our relation with National Mapping Agencies, Pilar Sanchez-Ortiz Rodriguez linked to the International Map Year, and Monika Sester reformed our publication policy. Menno-Jan Kraak took care of external relations (International Science Council and the United Nation's Global Geographical Information Management).

Members

The map below shows our current national membership (see also <https://icaci.org/national-members/>) and the location of past International Cartographic Conferences. Next to national member ICA also has affiliate members (see <https://icaci.org/affiliate-members/>). During the period 2015-2019 three new members joined: Georgia, Estonia, Bangladesh. Three more are likely to join in Tokyo: Armenia, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

ICA Members and locations International Cartographic Conferences



Commissions and Working groups

Commissions are core to ICA's success. They Association's major activities happen because of the Commissions. These activities are guided by their Term of Reference to reach ICA's



objectives. Our Commissions act globally and might execute specific ICA tasks incorporated in their Terms of Reference.

For the period 2015-2019 the General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro approved the following Commissions. In between [] you find the name of the EC member acting as liaison.

- Commission on Art and Cartography, Chair Sébastien Caquard [SF]
- Commission on Atlases, Chair René Sieber [VV]
- Commission on Cartographic Heritage into the digital, Chair Evangelos Livieratos [PS]
- Commission on Cartography and Children, Chair Carla Cristina Reinaldo Gimenes de Sena [PS]
- Commission on Cartography in Early Warning and Crisis Management, Chair Milan Konečný [YL]
- Commission on Cognitive issues in Geographic Information Visualization, Chair Amy Griffin [SF]
- Commission on Education and Training, Chair David Fairbairn [LZ]
- Commission on Generalisation and Multiple Representation, Chair Dirk Burghardt >> Guillaume Touya [MS]
- Commission on Geospatial Analysis and Modelling, Chair Xiaobai Angela Yao [YL]
- Commission on GI for Sustainability, Chair Vladimir Tikunov [M]
- Commission on the History of Cartography, Chair Imre Josef Demhardt [LU]
- Commission on Location Based Services, Chair Haosheng Huang [GG]
- Commission on Map Design, Chair Kenneth Field [VV]
- Commission on Map Production and Geoinformation management, Chair Peter Schmitz [GG]

- Commission on Map Projections, Chair Miljenko Lapaine [LU]
- Commission on Maps and Graphics for Blind and Partially Sighted People, Chair Alejandra Coll [PS]
- Commission on Maps and the Internet, Chair Rex Cammack [SF]
- Commission on Mountain Cartography, Chair Dušan Petrovič [GG]
- Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, Chair Silvana Philippi Camboim [LU]
- Commission on Planetary Cartography, Chair Henrik Hargitai [LZ]
- Commission on SDI and Standards, Chair Serena Coetzee [DF]
- Commission on Sensor driven Mapping, Chair Jonathan Li [MS]
- Commission on Topographic Mapping, Chair Alex Kent [LU]
- Commission on Toponymy, Chair Paulo Menezes >> Peter Jordan [DF]
- Commission on Ubiquitous Mapping, Chair Masatoshi Arikawa [MS]
- Commission on Use and User and Usability Issues, Chair Kristien Ooms >>Rob Roth [DF]
- Commission on Visual Analytics, Chair Anthony Robinson [MJ]

(EC Liaison: [SF] Sara Fabrikant; David Forrest [DF]; Georg Gartner [GG]; Menno-Jan Kraak [MJ]; Yaolin Liu [YL]; Pilar Sanchez-Ortiz Rodriguez [PS]; Monika Sester [MS]; Lynn Usery [LU]; Vit Vozenilek [VV]; Laszlo Zentai [LZ])

Working Group on Body of Knowledge on Cartography, chair Georg Gartner

Working Group on International Map Year, chair Bengt Rystedt

Working Group on Marine Cartography, chair Ron Furness

In addition the ICA has three committees:

Award Committee, chaired by David Fairbairn

Statutes Committee, composed of Derek Clarke and Tim Trainor

Publication Committee, chaired by Monika Sester.

Auditors Harold Moellering and Subbarno Rao keep an eye on our financial operations.

Communication

To communicate with members and those in interested in cartography we do have several media available. Our main means of communication is our website, kept up-to-date by our webmasters Manuela Schmidt and Felix Ortag. ICA News Editor Igor Drecki guaranteed a bi-annual newsletter. David Fraser is responsible for our eCARTO News, a monthly collection of the latest cartographic news and developments from around the world. David Fairbairn made sure ICA had a monthly column in GIM.



During the 2015-2017 period the reform of our publication policy under the guidance of Monika Sester is the largest change in our communication, but it fits well with the open science policy that get a wider attention everywhere. With the new policy nearly all our publication of conferences and workshops are now open access.

The ICA publishes the outcomes of its conferences and workshops in three series:

- Advances in Cartography and GIScience of the International Cartographic Association (short: Advances of the ICA, eISSN 2570-2084): single-blind peer review based on a full paper;
- Proceedings of the International Cartographic Association (short: Proceedings of the ICA, eISSN 2570-2092): single-blind peer review based on submitted abstracts, developed to full paper;
- Abstracts of the International Cartographic Association (short: Abstracts of the ICA, eISSN 2570-2106): single-blind peer review based on submitted abstracts; publication of abstract only.



Proceedings of the ICA

| ICA | ICA Publications | [Imprint](#)

Conference Publications of the Int. Cartographic Association

Volume 1, 2018
28th International Cartographic Conference
 2-7 July 2017, Washington DC, USA
 Editor(s): C. A. Brewer

Author index Keyword index

09 May 2018
Ptolemy's Britain and Ireland: A New Digital Reconstruction
 Corey Abshire, Anthony Durham, Dmitri A. Gusev, and Sergey K. Stafeyev
 Proc. Int. Cartogr. Assoc., 1, 1, <https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-proc-1-1-2018>, 2018

16 May 2018
Modeling Groundwater Flow System of a Drainage Basin in the Basement Complex Environment of Southwestern Nigeria
 Akinola S. Akinwumiju and Martins O. Olorunfemi
 Proc. Int. Cartogr. Assoc., 1, 2, <https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-proc-1-2-2018>, 2018

16 May 2018
Incorporating Geographic Information Science in the BSc Environmental Science Program in Botswana
 Felicia O. Akinyemi
 Proc. Int. Cartogr. Assoc., 1, 3, <https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-proc-1-3-2018>, 2018

16 May 2018
Identifying and Allocating Geodetic Systems to historical oil gas wells by using high-resolution satellite imagery
 Gabriel O. Alvarez
 Proc. Int. Cartogr. Assoc., 1, 4, <https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-proc-1-4-2018>, 2018

16 May 2018
Revelation of 'Hidden' Balinese Geospatial Heritage on A Map
 Dicky A.S. Soeria Atmadja, Ketut Wikantika, Agung Budi Harto, and Daffa Gifary M. Putra
 Proc. Int. Cartogr. Assoc., 1, 5, <https://doi.org/10.5194/ica-proc-1-5-2018>, 2018


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However, the International Journal of Cartography, edited by William Cartwright and Anne Ruas, and published by Taylor and Francis is our flagship journal, which has in its fifth year.

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Conferences

After the successful ICC in Rio de Janeiro in 2015, 2017 saw yet another successful ICC in Washington DC, while we are currently preparing for the ICC in Tokyo in 2019.



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Focus

International Map Year



INTERNATIONAL MAP YEAR 2015–2016

The start of the 2015-2019 period was dominated by the global activities around the successful International Map Year (<https://mapyear.icaci.org/index.html>). The website says:

"The International Map Year (IMY) is a worldwide celebration of maps and their unique role in our world. Supported by the United Nations, IMY provides opportunities to demonstrate, follow, and get involved in the art, science and technology of making and using maps and geographic information. The purposes of the International Map Year was:

- making maps visible to citizens and school children in a global context,
- demonstrating how maps and atlases can be used in society,
- showing how information technology can be used in getting geographic information and producing one's own maps,
- displaying different types of maps and map production,
- showing the technical development of mapping and atlas production,
- showing the necessity of a sustainable development of geographic information infrastructures,
- increasing the recruitment of students to cartography and cartography-related disciplines"

SDG Posters

As a follow-up of the international map year we, the Commission and Working Groups of ICA, created a set of posters for the Sustainable Development Goals (<https://icaci.org/maps-and-sustainable-development-goals/>). The accompanying catalogue writes:

"How can ICA help realize United Nations' 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The 17 sustainable development goals and their targets should improve economic, social and environmental aspects of humanity and our planet. The targets are judged based on over 300 indicators. For instance, for the education development goal one of the targets is to ensure that all children have free and good primary and secondary education. Its success is measured by two indicators 'Percentage of children proficiency in reading and

mathematics' and the 'Completion rate (primary, lower secondary, upper secondary)'.

How can we cartographers be relevant to society in helping to reach these targets? First, well-crafted maps can effectively visualize currently known facts, and online mapping technology can disseminate these facts globally to increase awareness of the current state of affairs. Interactive map dashboards connected to geographic databases at multiple scales and equipped with space-time analytical functions will allow decision makers on various decision levels to monitor and compare indicators for policy development and action at various geographical scales”.

The posters were exhibited at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during the 7th UN-GGIM meeting.



Book: Mapping for a sustainable world

The poster effort developed into the book **Mapping for a sustainable world**. The book is a co-publication between ICA and the United Nations Geospatial Information Section. It will be published in both hardcopy and as epub during the summer of 2019. From the preface:

“Maps help us to better understand the relationship between humans and their environment, and to monitor SDG indicators and communicate their uneven global footprints. These visualizations support decision-making by local and national authorities as well as promote public awareness of global issues to encourage these authorities to act. However, many of the maps and diagrams about the SDG indicators are produced without awareness of established cartographic design guidelines. Flawed and misleading designs often result. Problems also regularly originate from inappropriate data-handling, distracting base maps, inappropriate map elements, and the (mis)use of software defaults. Cartography describes the art, science and technology of making and using maps. Drawing from cartography, this book offers guidelines for mapping geographic datasets related to the SDGs by introducing basic principles of map design and use, discussing established best practices and success stories, and explaining how different mapping techniques support understanding of the SDGs”.

Representation

As President I have been active both inside and outside ICA to foster our mission. The map on the next page summarizes these activities. I visited 32 different countries, most of them members. These travels are split in four categories.

- ICA activities: Executive Committee board meetings, participation in ICC conferences and in Commission and Working Group activities.
- ICA members: participation in cartographic activities of national members.
- Conferences: participation in conferences of ISPRS, IHO, AAG, AGILE and others.
- UNGGIM / ISC: Participation UN-GIM activities, because of our focus on the Sustainable Development Goals. Currently, ICA holds the chair of the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies, which makes me an active member of the Expanded Bureau of the UN-GGIM. Our membership of the International Science Council (before ICSU) gets ICA involved in the ISC- GeoUnions.

I have written 16 columns in ArcNews on the "The Relevance of Cartography" <https://www.esri.com/esri-news/arcnews/relevance-of-cartography-series>

Where to go from here - Summer 2019

Local perspectives at global conferences - Spring 2019

Defining a Cartographer—Winter 2019

Can We Do It Again?—Fall 2018

To See or Not to See—Summer 2018

Don't Shrug Off the Atlas—Spring 2018

Evaluating Maps for Usability—Winter 2018

Can Cartographers Do Maps?—Fall 2017

Inspiring Lifelong Learning in Cartography—Summer 2017

Maps, Facts, and Opinions—Spring 2017

The Mapping Challenges of Big Data—Winter 2017

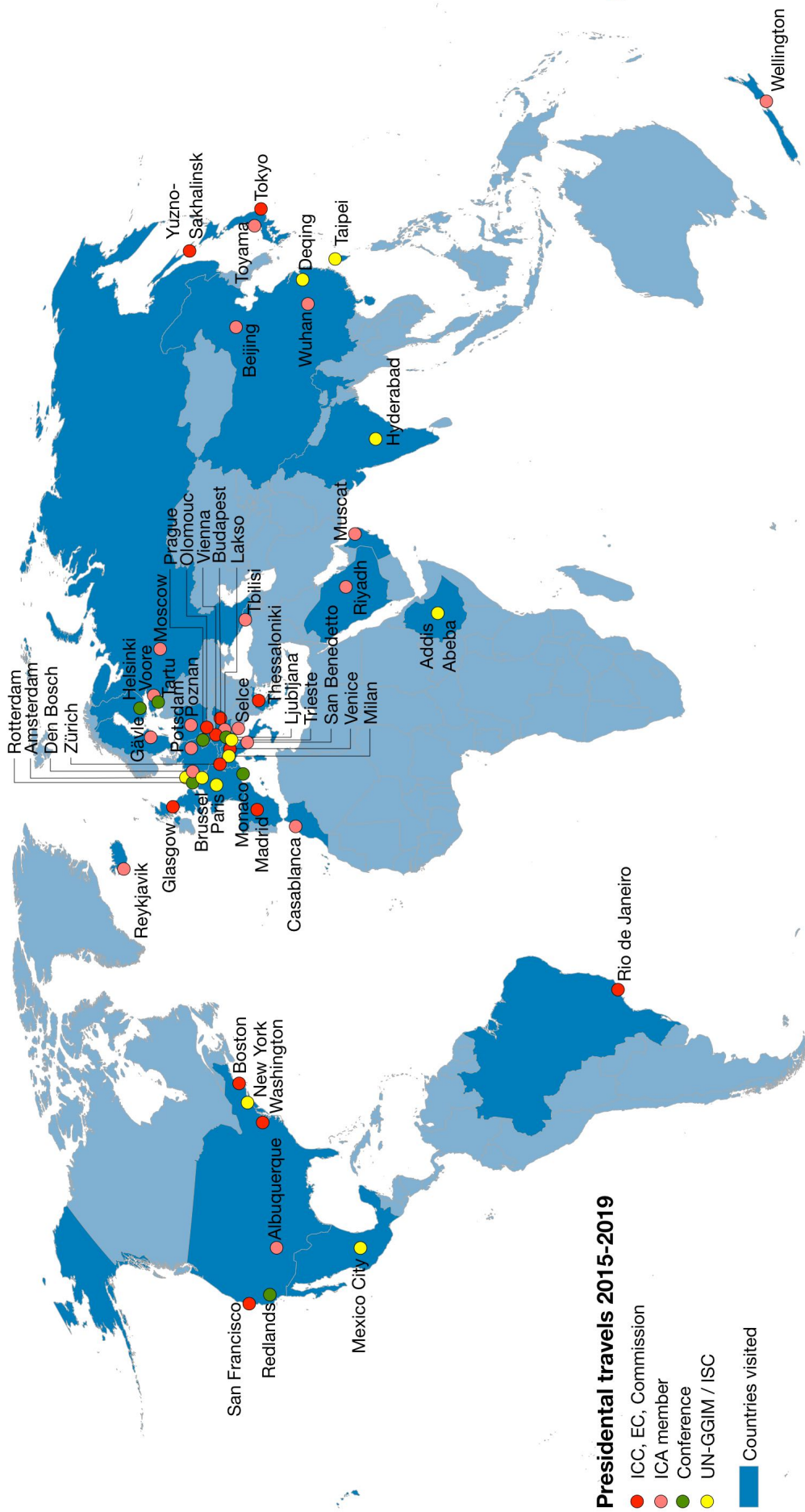
Cartography Contributes to Meeting Sustainable Development Goals—Fall 2016

Cartographers Gain Outside Perspective—Summer 2016

Blurry Borders—Spring 2016

The Importance of Context—Winter 2016

The Magic of the Map—Fall 2015



Epilogue

The activities reported in this document would not have been possible without help of the international cartographic community. But foremost I have to thank Laszlo Zentai, our Secretary-General and Treasurer. He was always available and we had almost daily contacts. Also I have to mention our Past-President who I now and then troubled with the question: "How would you have done it?". Also thanks to the other members of the Executive Committee. However, the SDG focus would not have been possible without the enthusiastic input of the Commission and working Groups (co)chairs to make the poster project a success. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as ICA president for the period 2015-2019. Thanks also to my employer, the University of Twente /ITC who gave financial and time support, and of course my wife Marijke who counted the weekends I was traveling. Thanks everyone.



Let's make the world a better place with maps