



IGU Congress Session: Mapping the emergence of change: future European perspectives

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Abstract:

In recent times the world seems to have been unraveling. Turbulent situations and accelerating instability are being experienced in many different locations. There has been an ever-increasing rate of change in human, economic, social, political, physical, climatic, educational and environmental perspectives.

Mapping the emergence of change aims to explore how geographers deal with these situations and consider what are the expectations and projections from a geographical perspective. Papers may also reflect on ways the early emergence of major forces creating these shifts can be tracked as the impacts of change are being ever more closely monitored.

This session will present new ways of understanding why change, in a geographical context, so often happens as quickly and as unexpectedly as it does. It is however not only the pace of change that is significant. The tools that are being increasingly used in these contexts to influence change, like geographic media and spatial networking, are also significant.

Mapping the emergence of change may include roadmaps of initiatives used to combat such pressures and offer viewpoints on the values and attributes of change and important linkages formed between the different components and conditions.

Mapping the emergence of change seeks to place a European perspective on geographical transformations taking place. Papers should therefore explore the tensions and vulnerabilities of change with a European dimension. They may ask questions like 'What are the critical points at which such a transition is triggered?'.