

THE ACADEMIC GEOGRAPHY OF TIMIȘOARA
AT THE 55th ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,
MAY 16–17, 2014, TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

In 2014, the Geography Department of the Chemistry, Biology and Geography Faculty, West University of Timișoara, celebrated 55 years since the first programme of geography studies in the city of Timișoara was launched, at the History, Geography and Constitution Faculty of the 3-year Pedagogical Institute, founded in 1959.

For the celebration of this special event, the Department of Geography organized an International Conference on *The Academic Geography of Timișoara at the 55th Anniversary*, May 16–17, 2014. The almost 100 scientific papers presented at the Conference were grouped by plenary sessions and 9 thematic workshops attended by over 150 researchers and faculty staff from all the universities in Romania (with Geography studies in the curriculum), as well as from France, Great Britain, Germany, the United States of America, Austria, Spain, Hungary, Serbia, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia.

The event was part of a series of scientific and cultural manifestations organized on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the West University of Timișoara (founded in 1944).

The Conference was opened in the morning of May 16, 2014, in the Aula Magna of the University, in the presence of the Head of the University, members of the local authorities (the Prefecture and Timiș County Council, Timișoara Mayoralty, etc.), who delivered messages of greetings and granted excellence and honorary diplomas to the Geography Department of the West University. Participants in this event were also the Chief of the University Chancellery, all the Vice-rectors of the West University, the Head of the University Senate, the Chief manager and other members of the administrative departments of the University, many professors of the University, friends of Geography, alumni, retired professors, members of their families, and relatives or descendants of former professors of Alma Mater Timisiensis.

Noteworthy among the guests were Mr. John Webb, Vice-rector for International Relations of the University of Angers, France, Academician Dan Bălțeanu, The Chair of the National Geographical Committee; Prof. Mihai Ielenicz, Ph.D., Head of the Romanian Geographical Society; Prof. Ioan Ianoș, Ph.D., Head of the Romanian Professional Association of Geographers and Doctor Honoris Causa of the West University of Timișoara; Prof. Constantin Rusu, Ph.D., Head of the Senate of Al. I. Cuza University, Iași; Prof. Laura Comănescu, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Bucharest University; Prof. Dan Petrea, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca; Prof. Corneliu Iațu, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Al. I. Cuza University, Iași; Prof. Alexandru Ilieș, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Oradea University; Prof. Vasile Efros, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Suceava University; deans of Geography departments, geography professors, researchers, Ph.D. students, etc. The largest delegations came from Cluj-Napoca (18 participants), Oradea (14), Bucharest (11), Iași (8), and from abroad: Novi Sad, Szeged, Angers and Pécs, with 4-8 members each.

The Geography Department of the West University of Timișoara granted excellence and honorary diplomas to prestigious Romanian and foreign geographers for their fruitful collaboration with the Geography Department of Timișoara and for their contribution to the affirmation of the science of Geography.

At the close of the festivity, a 400-page volume *55 Years of Geography at the West University of Timișoara* (authors: N. Popa, M. Olaru, R. Crețan, S. Jucu, P. Urdea, and Gh. Ianoș, with a Preface by Prof. Marilen Pirtea, Ph.D., the Rector of the West University), was launched there. The book put out in 2014 by the West University Publishing House, was presented at the Conference by its scientific reviewers Prof. Ioan Talpoș, Ph.D. and Assist. Professor Mădălin Bunoiu, Ph.D.

At 11.30 a.m., scientific papers and plenary session debates in the Aula Magna were held by Dan Bălțeanu (*Romanian Geography – Recent Developments and Future Challenges*), Ioan Ianoș (*The Death of Geography Through the Suicide of Geographers?*), André-Louis Sanguin (*End of Geography or Revenge of Geography? The Human Societies between a Smooth World, a Spiky World or a Flat World*), Pompei Cocean (*Geographical Mental Space and Territorial Cohesion*), Peter Jordan (*Thoughts on a Concept of Language Geography*), Nicolae Popa (*55 Years of Academic Geography in Timișoara: Steps, Options, Certitudes and Utopias*).

The 9 workshops hosted the afternoon papers on the following topics: *Interdisciplinary in Geomorphological Research; Critical Toponymy, Collective Memory and Spatial Identity; New Trends in Territorial Regeneration*

Strategies – between Spatial Justice and Economic Reason. Local Answers to the Consequences of Globalisation; Is Tourism a Viable Solution for Local and Regional Sustainable Development?; Human Society between Pollution, Natural or Anthropogenic Hazards and Associated Risks; The Dialogue between the Demographic System and the Economic System: Influences, Similarities, Challenges; Sustainable Cities; Political Territories, Territorial Policies, Limits: More Competitiveness, or Cohesion in the Sustainable Development of the European Space?; New Geographies and the Romanian Geographic Curriculum: Reconsideration of the Place and Role of Geography in the Romanian Educational System.

The second day of the Conference, May 17, was devoted to field trips, traditional in any geographical scientific event. One of the field trips, organized in the Romanian–Serbian cross-border area on the Timișoara–Vrsac–Belgrade and return route, benefitted from the scientific collaboration of the colleagues from the Geography Faculty of Belgrade University. The second field trip, including the Timiș–Cerna tectonic corridor, the Iron Gate and the Danube Gorges, highlighted the geographical complexity of the Romanian Banat.

Several exhibitions, revealing the traditions, contributions and potential of the Geography of Timișoara were also organized on the occasion of this Conference: a profile book exhibition, including major publications after 1990 by the Geography Department members, an exhibition of books and documents from the first period of Geography teaching in Timișoara (1959–1979), an exhibition of maps drawn by 1st-year students of the GIS Masters Program, a minerals and crystals collection of the Geography Department in collaboration with Professors Ion Cotăescu and Mădălin Bunoiu from the Faculty of Physics of the West University of Timișoara, and an exhibition of photographs from Patagonia by geologist Tiberiu Stoia. All these contributed to promoting an image of diversity and unity representative for the Geography Department of the West University of Timișoara.

We consider that the varied range of activities, the quality of scientific papers and debates, as well as the number of participants in this Conference proved the interdisciplinary openness of the Geography Department of the West University of Timișoara, the scientific expertise of its members, creating favourable premises for its future evolution, for the Geography of Timișoara being representative in Romania and abroad. What made the Conference a success is mainly participation in its proceedings. The important number of participants in the debates granted it the academic scope and breadth we had hoped for. Therefore, we wish to express our gratitude to you and expect to have you again in Timișoara at the next editions of the Conference.

Nicolae Popa

110 ANS D'ENSEIGNEMENT GÉOGRAPHIQUE
À L'UNIVERSITÉ ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA DE IAȘI
ET LA XXXIV^e ÉDITION DU COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL GÉOGRAPHIQUE
DIMITRIE CANTEMIR,
17–19 OCTOBRE 2014, IAȘI, ROUMANIE

Dans un automne riche de tous les points de vue, la célébration de 110 ans d'enseignement géographique à l'Université «Alexandru Ioan Cuza» de Iași pendant le déroulement du Colloque géographique international Dimitrie Cantemir est venue comme un fruit mur et plein d'arômes. En 1904, Ștefan D. Popescu initiait la première Chaire de Géographie, fait qui a été précédé par plusieurs essais d'introduire la géographie dans l'Université pendant la deuxième partie du XX^e siècle. Depuis 1904, la géographie a connu une histoire riche avec les empreintes de plusieurs personnalités géographiques: Ion Simionescu, Mihai David, Gheorghe Năstase, George Vâlsan, Scarlat Panaitescu, Neculai N. Lupu, Victor Tufescu, Ioan Șandru, Constantin Martiniuc, Ion Sîrcu, Vasile Băcăuanu, Victor Sficlea, Mihai Apăvăloaiei, Neculai Barbu, Ion Bojoi, Ioan Hârjoabă, Gheorghe Lupașcu etc.

Le 17 octobre 2014 – L'ouverture du Colloque a eu lieu dans l'Aula Mihai Eminescu de l'Université «Alexandru Ioan Cuza». Pendant deux heures se sont déroulées plusieurs activités: le mot de bienvenu de la part des représentants du Rectorat et de la Faculté de Géographie et Géologie; la remise de médailles anniversaires (110 ans d'enseignement géographique à l'Université Alexandru Ioan Cuza de Iași) et des diplômes d'excellence aux personnalités géographiques internationales et nationales. Les représentants des principales facultés de

Géographie de Roumanie (Bucarest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Oradea) ont donné des diplômes et plaques anniversaires à l'occasion de 110 ans d'enseignement géographique à Iași. Le professeur Antoine Bailly de l'Université de Genève, le prix Vautrin Lude (équivalent du Prix Nobel en Géographie), a tenu la première conférence sur *Les nouvelles régionalisations en Europe*, suivi par Jean-Paul Carrière de l'Université Polytechnique de Tours avec *Résilience territoriale et durabilité: le Développement Territorial Durable, une stratégie de redynamisation des territoires ?* Les séances plénières de la première journée du colloque se sont déroulées sur plusieurs thématiques nouvelles auprès celles classiques: Mutations territoriales, développement territorial durable (DTD) et nouvelles gouvernances; Nouvelles gouvernances territoriales; Les territoires du DTD; Petites villes et DTD; Ruralité et DTD; Développement régional et local; DTD, paysage&tourisme; Articulation des politiques publiques sectorielles et territoriales; caractéristiques des territoires et mobilités. Transition post-communiste et crise économique. Manifestations spatiales, impact et conséquences. Dans les 16 séances parallèles de la première journée ont été présentés 108 communications et 9 posters. Parmi les institutions présentes, il faut remarquer: l'Académie Roumaine (Acad. Dan Bălțeanu et M.C. Alexandru Ungureanu), l'Université «Babeș-Bolyai» de Cluj-Napoca, l'Université de Bucarest, l'Université d'Ouest de Timișoara, l'Université d'Oradea, l'Université de Suceava, l'Université de Craiova, plusieurs instituts de recherche et universités étrangères.

Le 18 octobre 2014 – la deuxième journée du Colloque et de fête anniversaire géographique a marqué une première partie avec une séance plénière (Bernard Pecqueur – *Le développement territorial: une voie innovante pour les collectivités locales?*; Bruno Jean – *Le développement territorial durable: vers un développement territorial solidaire pour réussir le développement des territoires ruraux*; Ioan Ianoș – *Géographie roumaine et le développement territorial intelligent*) et 7 sessions parallèles (42 communications et 7 posters) et une deuxième partie avec une visite guidée de la ville et de la mairie de Iași (bâtiment historique). Dans la soirée, le partenaire principal de cette fête, l'Opéra National Roumaine de Iași, a présenté un spectacle en l'honneur de 110 ans d'enseignement géographique à l'Université Alexandru Ioan Cuza de Iași. Ce spectacle «Les Troyennes» (après Euripide), avec une mise en scène d'Andrei Șerban, a couronné une fête géographique de grande taille. A la fin du spectacle, le doyen de la Faculté de Géographie et Géologie, Corneliu Iașu, a remis la médaille anniversaire et le diplôme d'excellence à l'Opéra et au manager de l'Opéra, Madame Beatrice Rancea.

Bilan final du Colloque géographique international du «Dimitrie Cantemir»: 155 communications, 16 posters, 250 participants (dont 50 étrangers de France, Suisse, Canada, République Moldova, Maroc, Algérie, Tunisie etc.).

Le 19 octobre 2014 – la troisième journée du Colloque a été dédiée à l'application itinérante dans le nord de la Moldavie. Les thèmes de l'application ont été: l'héritage religieux médiéval, l'architecture 1900, cuisine moldave, paysages ruraux de la Bucovine, aspects sociaux roumains actuels. Les objectifs principaux ont été: le monastère de Voroneț; le monastère de Sucevița, le centre traditionnel de poterie noire de Marginea, le centre historique de la ville de Botoșani.

Corneliu Iașu