

Scientific life / Vie scientifique / Viața științifică

<https://doi.org/10.5719/aub-g/72.1/15>

**IGU COMMISSION ON MARGINALIZATION, GLOBALIZATION,
AND REGIONAL AND LOCAL RESPONSES,
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CLUJ-NAPOCA (ROMANIA),
9-10 AUGUST 2021**

The annual Conference of the Geographical International Union (IGU) – Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses, had been postponed from 2020 to 2021 and was held online via Zoom in partnership with the Centre for Regional Geography of Babeș-Bolyai University, from Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The head of the organizing committee was Assoc. Prof. Raularian Rusu, and the local organizing team including Assoc. Prof. Titus Man, Dr. Ana-Maria Pop, Dr. Lelia Papp and Dr. Gheorghe Hognogi, all of Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

The theme of the Conference was *Bridging Regional Responses to Marginalization and Disparities in a Globalized World*. Considering the special situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference opened with a panel session focusing on marginality issues provoked by the pandemic: *The global impact of COVID-19 pandemic and local responses*. Among the speakers in this panel were Prof. Etienne Nel (University of Otago, New Zealand), Prof. Dolores Sánchez-Aguilera (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain), Prof. Paulo Nossa and Prof. Anabela Mota-Pinto (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal), which presented the influence on pandemics on peripheral, tourism-dependent regions in New Zealand, on marginality in the Ramblas, Barcelona, and the diffusion of Covid-19 in Lichinga, Northern Mozambique.

Afterward, an additional 16 papers on a variety of topics were presented in five sessions:

1. Opportunities and challenges in the rural area
2. Gendered and cultural inequalities and vulnerabilities
3. Economic and social inequalities and disparities in the globalized world
4. Land use management and change in marginal areas
5. Ways out of marginality. Accessibility, mobility and urban development

Most of the presentations to these sessions were made by the members of the organizing committee and other Romanian speakers, such as Prof. Corneliu Iașu and Dr. Marinela Istrate (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania), Prof. József Benedek and Assoc. Prof. Ibolya Török (Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania), but presentations by professors and researchers from other countries were also made, such as Prof. Steve Déry (Université Laval, Canada), Prof. Jamalunlaili Abdullah (UiTM Shah Alam, Malaysia), Dr. Chhabi Lal Chidi (Tribhuvan University, Nepal), Prof. Hugo Capellá Mitermique (Universitat de les Illes Balears, Spain), Prof. Walter Leimgruber (University of Fribourg, Switzerland).

The topics were diverse, as well as the location of the study areas: rural proofing (Finland), population dynamics and agricultural land abandonment, population growth and land use change (Nepal), accessibility and marginality of settlements, farming activities and labeling agricultural and food products, smart transportation, gendered vulnerability and energy poverty, Three Seas Initiative, the spatial dimension of income inequality, women's involvement in political life, the evolution of impervious surfaces (Romania); and general topics: the solitude, reducing the inequalities, education as a way out of marginality.

*GABRIEL CAMARĂ*¹

¹ Lecturer PhD, Faculty of Geography and Geology, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, e-mail: gabriel.camara@uaic.ro