

International Geographical Union's Commission of Geographical Education's Conference



'Geographical Learning Today for Tomorrow'

<https://igu-cge-stellenbosch.co.za/>

Stellenbosch,
South Africa
28-30 October 2025

Proudly sponsored by:



Dear Delegates, Colleagues, and Friends,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to welcome you to this year's IGU Commission on Geographical Education Conference. On behalf of the local organising committee, I extend a warm and sincere welcome to all participants — educators, researchers, students, policymakers, and stakeholders — who have joined us in the shared commitment to advancing geographical knowledge, pedagogy, and practice.

This conference takes place at a time when geographical education plays a crucial role in equipping learners with the skills and understanding necessary to navigate an increasingly complex and interconnected world. From climate change and urbanisation to spatial justice and digital mapping, geography remains central to addressing global challenges through informed, place-based perspectives. The abstracts compiled in this booklet reflect the diversity and depth of current research and innovation in the field. We hope they will inspire robust discussions, meaningful collaborations, and transformative ideas.

We are deeply grateful to our generous sponsors, whose support has made this event possible. Your contributions underscore a shared investment in the future of geographical education and scholarship.

A special note of appreciation must also go to the local organising committee, whose dedication, professionalism, and tireless work behind the scenes have ensured the successful planning and execution of this conference. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we thank you wholeheartedly.

As Chairperson, I encourage you to engage fully with the programme — attend sessions, ask questions, share your insights, and connect with colleagues. Let this conference be not only a platform for academic exchange, but also a space for renewing our collective passion for geography education. Additionally, please consider submitting your original manuscripts to the *Journal of Geography Education in Africa* (JoGEA) for consideration towards publication – see: <https://upjournals.up.ac.za/index.php/jogea>.

Wishing you a productive, stimulating, and enjoyable conference.

Yours in Geography Education,

Prof. Clinton David van der Merwe
Chairperson, CGE African Representative
University of Pretoria
South Africa



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



Local Organising Committee:

Prof. Di Wilmot (RU); Dr Paul Goldschagg (WSoE); Prof. Mary Evans (Wits); Dr Muofhe Thenga (WSoE); Mr Graham Keats;
Mrs Bridget Fleming; Ms Tess Uren; Mrs Amanda Louw and Prof. Sadhana Manik (UKZN).

PROGRAMME

Pre-conference Monday 27 October	
07:30-17:00	Pre-conference optional field trip to Hermanus (limited spots)
18:00-20:00	Welcome function, pre-registration, and cocktail event at STIAS
Day 1 – Tuesday 28 October	
07:30-08:30	Registration
08:30-08:45	Opening and Housekeeping
08:45-09:00	Welcome Address: Martin Hanus & Gillian Kidman
09:00-10:00	Plenary 1: Keynote: Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka (Rhodes University) 'T-learning in Times of Climate Change: Implications for curriculum, pedagogy and assessment'.
10:00-10:25	TEA BREAK
	<div>Auditorium 1 – Chair: Sadhana Manik</div> <div>Auditorium 2 – Chair: Graham Keats</div>
10:30-10:50	<div>Paul Goldschagg, Di Wilmot A scoping review of geography education research in South Africa, 2014-2024</div> <div>Mary Evans, Ruby-Anne Birin, Jasper Knight Re-imagining the past: Using AI-powered visualisation in the Geography classroom</div>
10:55-11:15	<div>Daniela Schmeinck Fostering Responsible Consumer Behaviour: Insights from the Re3PriS Project on Sustainable Consumption Education</div> <div>Anne Chawanda, Megan O'Meara, Amyleigh Tolmay, Lwandile Shelembe, Kiara Joannides, Julia Veale Redecorating our geography classrooms with augmented reality (AR)</div>
11:20-11:40	<div>Krystle Ontong Fostering ethical competence amongst geography students through an interdisciplinary approach</div> <div>Martin Hanus, Lenka Krajňáková, Martin Kutiš, Dana Řezníčková, David Trokšiar, Veronika Bernhäuserová MapStrApp: A Digital Tool for Developing Map Use Strategies in Secondary Schools</div>
11:45-12:05	<div>Muofhe Thenga The effects of microteaching on pre-service teachers' self-efficacy in teaching mapwork</div> <div>Sophie Wilson, GIS-T Erasmus+ partners GIS-T: Teaching about Climate change with the help of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)</div>

12:10-12:30	Carla Hermanussen Decolonising Climate Change Education: Perspectives from Kalimantan	Xin Miao, Yushan Duan Enhancing geography undergraduates' spatial thinking capabilities with Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs): A Mixed-Methods Approach
12:35-12:55	Liu Haonan, Han Jiaqiang, Zhou Xinghua Design for Interdisciplinary Thematic Learning in Geography to Cultivate Scientific Spirit: Values, Principles, and Pathways	Emmanuel Eze, Rainer Mehren Smartphone-Integrated Geomedia for Transformative Climate Education in Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa: A pilot study
12:55-13:55	LUNCH	
	Auditorium 1 – Chair: Di Wilmot	Auditorium 2 – Chair: Sarfaraz Alam
14:00-14:20	Iara Rosa da Silva Bustos, Vinícius da Matta, Izilda Makibara, Thaís Martin, Michael Santos e Gisa Gasparotto Learning Geography: interdisciplinary educational practices of creativity and metacognition	Shaylen Naidoo The Neoliberal Framing of Economic Geography in FET CAPS: Perpetuating South Africa's Role as a Primary Commodity Exporter?
14:25-14:45	Dong Haowei, Zhao Chao Expressive Evaluation for Promoting Deep Learning — Taking Wenyu River Project Research as an Example	Jacobus Minnie, Clinton van der Merwe An analysis of the teachability of synoptic weather maps in Grade 12 textbooks.
14:50-15:10	Pamela Esterhuysen, Clinton van der Merwe Value of place-based fieldwork in the local environment	Qian Gong, Zhenshu Cai The Impact of Interdisciplinary Learning on the Sustainability Literacy of Middle School Geography Students
15:15-15:35	Thandiwe Chidzungu, Thea Schoeman The educator content, pedagogical and technological knowledge competency integration gap in map skills: Evidence from the University of Johannesburg's in-service teacher training program in Gauteng, South Africa.	Gema Sánchez Emeterio, Honrubia Montesinos, Cristina, García-Monteagudo, Diego and Sánchez Emeterio, Gema Artificial Intelligence and Geography Education: Enhancing Geographical Thinking and Water Awareness in Primary Education
15:40-16:00	Rainer Mehren A model for teaching quality in geography lessons	Fayuan Li, Qian Gong, Yuxin Yang, Feier Xu GIS Integrated Middle School Geography Teaching Case Design
16:00-16:15	TEA BREAK	
16:20-18:00	Panel Discussion in Auditorium 1 Chair: Martin Hanus Panellists: Di Wilmot, Robert Bednarz, Gillian Kidman/Tomáš Bendl, Lenka Krajňáková, Johanna Mäsger Rethinking Praxis for a World of Difference: Findings and Reflections from the 2024 CGE Writing Retreat	

Day 2 – Wednesday 29 October

	Day 2 – Wednesday 29 October	
	Auditorium 1 – Chair: <i>Paul Goldschagg</i>	Auditorium 2 – Chair: <i>Sarfaraz Alam</i>
08:30-08:50	Krystle Ontong, Koketso Khule Enhancing Oracy Skills in Geography Education: Strategies for Effective Communication and Deeper Learning	Veronika Selbach, Johanna Maesgen Fostering global citizenship and environmental stewardship with assisted reality
08:55-09:15	Melissa Meurel Geography Teachers' Interest in Professional Development	Jakub Matula, Michaela Spurná Geographical giftedness: A systematic review
09:20-09:40	Thoko Poppy Mahlangu Teaching and Learning Methods in Geography: The voices of experts towards innovative teaching and learning	Nerhene Davis, Serena Coetzee, Christiaan Struwig, Hlamarisa Ndhlovu Exploring Sense of Place through a Blended Learning Approach: Lessons and Insights
09:45-10:05	Mengyuan Lu Organisational Sensemaking in the Implementation of Geography Achievement Standards	Neo Moruthane A Transformative Geographical and Environmental education that equips citizens: Effective strategies for promoting a resilient and Sustainable education for Today and Tomorrow
10:05-10:35	POSTER SESSION & TEA BREAK	
10:40-11:00	Lenka Kraňáková, Martin Hanus, Tomáš Bendl, Miroslav Marada, Oldřich Mokruša, Simona Pekárková Developing a four-tier test for diagnosing conceptual understanding in pupils of different age groups	Jayeon Yang, Martin Hanus, Emma Rawlings Smith, Uwe Krause, Milton Milaras, Tine Béneker, Radka Flajšhans Nedbalova, Xueying He, Yujing He, Naoyuki Ito The barriers and enablers of curriculum thinking and teacher agency in geography education: A multinational study
11:05-11:25	Yushan Duan, Hermione Xin Miao Transforming Geography Education through Textbook Innovation: The Shanghai Model	Jing Qian Research on the Implementation of Dual Carbon Education Integration in High School Geography Curriculum in China
11:30-11:50	Shaylen Naidoo Exploring Non-Representational Theory in the South African Geography Further Education and Training Phase Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement	Longa Pierrot Assessment of student achievement and proposal of a skills framework in school geography in the secondary cycle of education in the Democratic Republic of Congo
11:55-12:15	Tiani Wepener Utilising Grade 4 Learners' Lived Experiences to Explore Places Where People Live	Jerry Mitchell Success in Geography Education: Efforts at Work Across the Globe

12:20-12:40	Oldřich Mokuša, Martin Hanus, Lenka Krajňáková The effect of 3D models usage on students' conceptual understanding of contours	Alan Felix A content analysis of Virtual Field Trips in a Geography Higher Education classroom
12:45-13:05	Diego García Monteagudo, Gema Sánchez Emeterio & Cristina Honrubia Montesinos The Impact of Social Representations on Landscape Training in Future Early Childhood Education Teachers	Bridget Fleming, André Jacobs Insights from SACE (South African Council of Educators) endorsement of a GIS course for educators and the need for a SACE-endorsed early learning spatial literacy professional development workshop
13:05-14:05	LUNCH	
	Auditorium 1 – Chair: <i>Muofhe Thenga</i>	Auditorium 2 – Chair: <i>Sadhana Manik</i>
14:10-14:30	Jonas Wagener, Andreas Eberth Transformative education in teacher training: The potential of field trips to foster reflexivity in addressing global inequality structures	Angela C. Phocas, Clinton van der Merwe, Future-focused? Reflections on PBL Practices in Secondary School Geography Classrooms
14:35-14:55	Péter Bagoly-Simó, Nikolaus von Schmettau, Ádám Tóth, Anett Kádár Understanding Map Skills and their Development using Eye-Tracking	Aubrey Golightly Beyond the classroom: Geography teachers' motivation for and challenges in participation in self-directed professional development
15:00-15:20	Luo Xiao, Chunlan Li, Yi Wang Developing a Secondary School Cryosphere Science Literacy Curriculum: A Place-Based Education and Psychological Distance Approach	Christiane Meyer, Merle Biermann Water and our Common Future – Raising Awareness of Water Sustainability in Geography Education
15:20-15:50	TEA BREAK	
16:00-18:00	WORKSHOP 1: Warren Boardman-Smith “Conversations with maps”: Teaching Visual Literacy in a Digital Age	WORKSHOP 2: Robyn Mowatt, Pam Esterhuysen & Graham Keats Mapping Assessment Practices: IEB ISC Exit-Level Assessment for Southern African Geography Secondary School Learners

Day 3 – Thursday 30 October

08:00 – 09:15	IGU-CGE Steering Committee Meeting (Venue TBA)	
	Auditorium 1 – Chair: <i>Muofhe Thenga</i>	Auditorium 2 – Chair: <i>Graham Keats</i>
08:30-08:50	Gema Sánchez Emeterio, García-Monteagudo, Diego; Honrubia Montesinos, Cristina The Impact of Social Representations on Landscape Training in Future Early Childhood Education Teachers	Arorisoe Sibanda, Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Wilma van Staden, John Bhurekeni, Shanu Misser, Rob O'Donoghue and Noncaba Khumalo Curriculum-activated Change Project Approach for Climate Action and Sustainability Practice in School
08:55-09:15	Rieke Ammonet Facing climate change in geography teacher education	Johanna Mäsger, Veronika Selbach The potential of more-than-human geographies for transformative geographical learning
09:20-09:40	Gillian Kidman, Hazel Tan Geographies of Misinformation: Pedagogies for Navigating Fake News, Media Literacy, and Critical Thinking in Geographical Education	Firza Begham Mustafa The Roles of Fieldwork in Modern Geography Education
09:45-10:05	Tricia Seow Nature Connectedness as an Alternative Discourse in Singapore's Climate Transition	Erlend Eidsvik Challenges in Sustainability Education: Powerful knowledge and powerful geography to the rescue?
10:05-10:35	POSTER SESSION & TEA BREAK	
10:40-11:00	Gema Sánchez Emeterio, Honrubia Montesinos, Cristina, García-Monteagudo, Diego Artificial Intelligence and Geography Education: Enhancing Geographical Thinking and Water Awareness in Primary Education	Ditiro Leruele, Jabulani Sibanda, Tiani Wepener, Alan Felix The impact of code switching on learners' participation and academic performance in a Grade 12 Geography class
11:05-11:25	Sadhana Manik, Vibeke Vagenes, Nils Ekelund Local Solutions to local problems: Engaging Global Partners for local Climate action and student activism	Francois de Bruyn, Clinton van der Merwe, James Gregory Coordinates of Success? Evaluating the School-to-University Geography Trajectory
11:30-11:50	Sarfaraz Alam Navigating a Fractured and Fragile Future: The Role of Geography Education in Times of Global Ecological and Political Turmoil	Minu Ahuja, K. Mamutse An exploration of the challenges that pre-service primary school teachers face in geography in a South African institution
11:55-12:15	Matthew Ackerman Geographical Learning: Telling the Story of Interdisciplinary Learning of Tomorrow, Today	Sabelo Mtsweni The Impact of English as a medium of instruction on teaching education for sustainable Development to English second language Geography learners.

12:20-12:40	Erlend Eidsvik ... and what about climate justice? Climate Justice Education in Space and Time: The cases of Norway and South Africa	Rafael de Miguel González Integrating Geographical Competences in STEAM education and in training for Urban Sustainability
12:45-13:05	Nina Scholten, Nicole Masaneke Rethinking the origins of teaching expertise: Insight from expert Geography teachers in Germany	Mulalo Rabumbulu, Thea Schoeman Linking the South African Geography School Curriculum with Education for Sustainable Development
13:05-14:05	LUNCH	
	Auditorium 1 – Chair: <i>Paul Goldschagg</i>	Auditorium 2 – Chair: <i>Bridget Fleming</i>
14:10-14:30	Sophie Wilson, Sarah Bednarz, Fatima Munazza, Alfonso Garcia de la Vega, Regula Grob, Johanna Mäsgen, Di Wilmot Is or can Transformative Learning be Embedded in Geography Textbooks?	Martin Hanus, Lenka Krajňáková, Tomáš Bendl, Miroslav Marada, Oldřich Mokruša, Simona Pekárková A cross-age comparison of pupils' conceptual understanding of contour lines: Preliminary results
14:35-14:55	Péter Bagoly-Simó, Michael Lehmann From A to B (and beyond): Tracing Shifts in Geography Education's Take on Mobility	Cristina Honrubia-Montesinos, Diego García Monteagudo y Gema Sánchez Emeterio The Impact of Social Representations on Landscape Training in Future Early Childhood Education Teachers.
15:00-15:30	TEA BREAK	
15:00-15:30	IGU-CGE Business Meeting (Venue TBA)	
15:35-17:00	WORKSHOP 3: Gillian Kidman, Hazel Tan AI in Geography Education: Navigating the Promise and Peril: A Critical Workshop for 21st-Century Geography Classrooms	WORKSHOP 4: Sarah Witham Bednarz, Robert S. Bednarz Spatial Thinking: Little Taught but Essential
17:30	Meet at the bus to go to the Conference Dinner	
18:30-19:30	Plenary 2: Keynote: Prof. Jonathan Jansen (SU) & Conference Dinner Boring them to death: How South African schools destroy the prospects of deep learning in science (and geography) classrooms	

Posters

Location	TBA
1	LiShiBao Geographical Education Innovation on the Roof of the World: Construction of a Six-Dimensional Integrated Teaching Model Based on the Cordyceps Sinensis Harvesting Culture in Tibet
2	Michaela Spurná, Petr Knecht Teacher Educationists' Perception of Geography ITE Content Structure Inscribed in the Fibonacci Sequence
3	Petr Knecht, Michaela Spurná, Karolína Malíková Conceptions of Geography teaching: examining the ecological validity of the questionnaire
4	JaYeon Yang How does School Geography in South Korean textbooks conduct the ESD? Focusing on Textbook Analysis about "The Climate Change and Sustainable World"
5	Julia Pahl Are our Head Teachers okay? Decision-making processes of Head Teachers in COVID-19 times: Implications for head teachers and independent schools in South Africa.
6	Iara Rosa da Silva Bustos, Gisa Gasparoto, Elisabete Feitoza Literature and Environmental Science in Brazilian Literary Books in Basic Education

Post-Conference – Friday, 31 Oct 2025

7.30 – 17.00

Post-conference optional field trip(s) in Stellenbosch

Fieldtrips

Hermanus – Monday, 27 October

Join us for an unforgettable field trip exploring the stunning landscapes, unique wildlife, and cutting-edge scientific research of the Western Cape. This full-day excursion combines geomorphology, conservation, and space science, offering delegates a genuinely immersive experience.

Stellenbosch – Friday, 31 October

Choose **ONE** of the cultural experience options.

OPTION 1: Kayamandi, South Africa

Join us for an authentic cultural experience, connecting with local communities, contributing to their economic growth and development through immersive tourism.

Itinerary:

08:00 Meet at the conference venue.

Depart for Kayamandi

09h00 *Kayamandi on foot*

A 1,5-hour walking tour through the streets of Kayamandi, led by local guides who share personal stories, the community's history, and its daily rhythm. Along the way you will visit

local schools, spaza shops, and bustling hair salons, immersing yourself in the everyday life of this thriving township.

11h00 Djembe Drumming

Discover the rhythm central to Xhosa culture in this lively 20-minute drumming session. It will leave a lasting impression.

11h30 Cultural Meal

Savour an authentic meal at AmaZink, featuring flame-grilled chicken, boerewors, pap, and the ever-popular chakalaka sauce. Enjoy your meal with a soft drink while soaking up the lively atmosphere of the community.

13h00 Return to conference venue

Cost: R750

There may be a small additional cost for transport to and from the township (TBC).

Limited spots available! Secure your place now by completing the booking form: [here](#)

OR

OPTION 2: Stellenbosch Historical Tour, South Africa

09:00 Meet at the conference venue.

Depart for *Stellenbosch on Foot*

Join *Stellenbosch on Foot* for a 1.5-hour historical tour of Stellenbosch and explore the “village of the oaks” with its shady oak avenues bordered by the water furrows of the Mill Stream. Admire the charm and harmony of the Cape Dutch Architecture and listen to tales about the colourful inhabitants of three centuries.

Discover where Simon van der Stel set up camp in the Eerste River and why it is called the Eerste River. Perhaps you will meet an angel at the “Angel Factory” or a ghost in the graveyard of the “Moederkerk”.

Three fires destroyed the village. Where did the fire of 1710 start, and who started it? The first Christian Church building in South Africa was in Stellenbosch, not in Cape Town. Today, it is the site of the oldest hotel in South Africa, d’Ouwe Werf, and not all the graves have been moved.

Dorp Street, “the wagon way to Cape Town,” is the oldest residential street in South Africa today. It is still the wagon way to Cape Town, only the wagons have changed somewhat!

We invite you to join Stellenbosch on Foot for a Historical tour of Stellenbosch to hear many more interesting facts and fables about the past while experiencing the present in “The Eikestad”.

Cost: R220 Booking form:

[here](#)

OR

OPTION 3: Stellenbosch Art Tour

10:00 Meet at the Conference venue

A 2.5-hour walking tour through the historic streets of Stellenbosch, visiting some of the art galleries and meeting the artists.

Stellenbosch is world-renowned for some of the finest wines South Africa has to offer, as well as the university and the rich history of the town, nestled in the heart of the Cape Winelands.

But in recent times, Stellenbosch has established itself as one of the leading art destinations in South Africa. This is evident by strolling the shady oak avenues, bordered by water furrows, while admiring the Stellenbosch Outdoor Sculpture Trust (SOST) exhibit.

Join us for a not-to-be-forgotten on-foot experience through the streets of Stellenbosch. Your qualified guide will walk with you through the more than 300-year-old streets of Stellenbosch, where you can admire the charm and harmony of the Cape Dutch Architecture. The tour will not only give you the chance to admire some of the best art and art galleries in South Africa, but you will also meet some artists at their studios.

Cost: R340

Booking form: [here](#)

OR

OPTION 4: Social Justice Walk

09:00 Meet at the Conference venue

This informative tour combines two aspects of the town's history.

It tells the story of the decline in race relations in the 1940s, the reality of Apartheid laws and the forced removal of 3700 people in Die Vlakte in 1964. The local guides tell stories of the many lives, schools, churches and businesses affected by this historical injustice.

The second aspect is the University's visual redress project, which addresses the much-needed transformation and decolonisation of the campus.

It offers a look at changes and creative additions to the campus, aiming to make the campus a representative, welcoming, and inspiring environment for all South Africans.

Cost: R450

Booking Form: [here](#)