

# 6th Belgian Geography Days

13–14 November 2015

Workshops for  
Geography students,  
researchers & teachers

*'Getting playful?  
Rethinking mapping'*

Keynote presentation  
by **Christopher Perkins**  
(University of Manchester)

## VENUE

Campus Etterbeek  
Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Elsene

Organized by



Vrije  
Universiteit  
Brussel

## Mapping the Future of Geography

2<sup>nd</sup> circular – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



Nationaal Comité voor Geografie  
Comité national de Géographie



## Call for abstracts

Participants to the 6th Belgian Geography Days are invited to submit their proposals for oral or poster presentations related to one of the following themes:

- Economic, transport and tourism geography
- Urban and cultural geography
- GIS and environmental modelling
- Geomorphology, natural resources and hazards
- Climate, meteorology and ice

A detailed description of these themes is presented on the next page of this circular.

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

All abstracts need to be uploaded through the contact form, which can be accessed by clicking on the link available at [we.vub.ac.be/belgian-geography-days](http://we.vub.ac.be/belgian-geography-days)

This form requires contact details, presenter and (co-)author information and the preferred session and presentation type. After submitting the abstract, a confirmation mail will be sent to the provided email address. The deadline for abstract submission is 30 June 2015.

Please note that **the abstract will only be scheduled if the presenting author has been registered!** During the submission procedure, the correct registration fee (see column to the right) has to be indicated and the corresponding amount needs to be transferred to the account number provided in the confirmation mail.

## Registration fees

	1 day	2 days
PhD candidate Researcher Professor Professional	€40	€50
Ba/Ma student Teacher Job seeker	€10	€20

The registration fee includes participation to the conference, coffee breaks, lunch and reception.

Registration will be opened on **1 July 2015** for teachers and non-presenting participants.

## Timing and deadlines

30 June 2015	Submission deadline for abstracts
1 July 2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> circular Opening registration
1 Sept 2015	Notification of accepted abstracts

## Preliminary Program

**Friday 13 November 2015** | Academic Program | Language: English

8:00–9:00	Registration
9:00–9:15	Welcome by VUB and National Committee of Geography
9:15–10:15	‘ <i>Getting playful? Rethinking mapping</i> ’ – Keynote presentation by Christopher Perkins (University of Manchester)
10:30–12:15	Parallel sessions
12:15–13:15	Lunch
13:15–15:00	Parallel sessions
15:00–15:45	1 minute oral presentations of posters
15:45–16:30	Poster session
16:30–17:30	Reception & Best Poster Awards

**Saturday 14 November 2015** | Teachers’ Day | Languages: French & Dutch

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|------------|---|
| 9:30–17:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Plenary session on the role and position of geography in secondary school teaching programs</li><li>▪ Two sessions of parallel workshops on techniques and topics related to geography education in secondary schools</li></ul> |
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The final program for the teacher’s day will be disclosed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> circular on **1 July 2015**.

# Description of the themes for oral or poster presentations

## Economic, Transport and Tourism Geography

**Coordinator:** David Bassens  
[david.bassens@vub.ac.be](mailto:david.bassens@vub.ac.be)

This conference theme hopes to attract research within the broadly defined fields of economic, transport and tourism geography. More specifically, we intend to receive, but do not limit ourselves, to papers on the following topics: (global) urban systems and networks, urban political economy, service industries, financialization, real estate and finance, transport geography, mobility studies, regional development and policy, tourism geographies, etc.

As there may be some overlap with the urban and cultural geography track, this theme is intended for papers that have a more economic inclination, even when dealing with urban issues. Given the conference focus on cartography, contributors are encouraged to make the visualization of their results a substantive element of their presentation, as well as to consider how their research allows us to reflect on the (future) role of critical geographers in economy and society.

## Urban and Cultural Geography

**Coordinator:** Bas van Heur  
[bvheur@vub.ac.be](mailto:bvheur@vub.ac.be)

Cities are at the forefront and key engines of globalization, playing a key role in transforming bounded national state territories into an uneven and hierarchically patterned mix of networked urban spaces. These urban spaces, and the people living and working in these spaces, are deeply shaped by the very political, economic, social and cultural relations to other urban spaces across the world.

This theme invites presentations that tackle and investigate this relational challenge through sustained empirical, methodological or theoretical research. This includes (but is not limited to) presentations on the mobility of urban politics and policy, translocal connections developed by social movements, positions of cities within wider urban hierarchies or the effects of global cultural networks on the lived diversities within cities.

## GIS and Environmental Modelling

**Coordinator:** Frank Canters  
[fcanters@vub.ac.be](mailto:fcanters@vub.ac.be)

The past decade has witnessed a remarkable progress in the development of GIS based technologies. A wide range of satellite and airborne sensors are nowadays available enabling us to map and monitor the environment at different spatial scales in a nearly continuous fashion. At the same time, the use of mobile sensor platforms has facilitated real-time data gathering and also provides new ways for interaction with stakeholders. This also poses new challenges though in terms of how this spatially-enabled data can be managed, analysed and used most effectively.

With 2015-2016 being proclaimed as International Map Year, this theme will focus on how geo-enabled technologies and geospatial modelling may help us in better understanding and dealing with the environmental issues we are facing today, how the outcome of spatial environmental research is best communicated to its stakeholders, and how these stakeholders may be involved in the research process itself. We welcome contributions on new approaches for spatial data handling, as well as studies highlighting the potential of geospatial analysis for policy oriented research.

## Geomorphology, Natural Resources and Hazards

**Coordinator:** Matthieu Kervyn  
[makervyn@vub.ac.be](mailto:makervyn@vub.ac.be)

Terrestrial landscapes are shaped by natural processes involving complex interactions between the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. These control the spatial distribution and local variations of natural resources and potentially hazardous processes. The increasing human imprint on landscapes and exploitation of natural resources greatly impact on geomorphological systems leading to environmental degradation and increasing hazards' impact.

This theme invites presentations that investigate the spatial character of geomorphological and environmental processes and the influence of – and impact on – human activities from local to global scales. This includes, but is not restricted to, research on soil processes, erosion, geological and hydrological hazards, ecosystem services and landscape evolution. We particularly encourage contributors to pay special attention to the best way of presenting spatially-explicit research results by means of cartographic products adapted to targeted end-users.

## Climate, Meteorology and Ice

**Coordinator:** Philippe Huybrechts  
[phuybrec@vub.ac.be](mailto:phuybrec@vub.ac.be)

Climate has a profound influence on life on Earth on all possible time scales. The physical climate system involves complex interactions between the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the cryosphere, the land surface and the biosphere, forced or influenced by various external forcing mechanisms. Prominent are the direct effects of human activities on the climate system since the Anthropocene, in particular from the emission of greenhouse gases and land-use conversion, with far-reaching impacts on almost any aspect of the natural environment and human society.

This session invites contributions from observational, theoretical or modeling studies on any component of the climate system on any spatial and temporal scale. This includes, but is not limited to, research on climate change, atmospheric processes, weather forecasting, global and regional climate modeling, glaciers and ice sheets, sea level and paleoclimatology.