

Announcement

2017 International Symposium on Place Names:

Critical toponymy: Place names in political, historical and commercial landscapes

Jointly organised by the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy, the UFS and UNAM
University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia, 18–20 September 2017

Conference page: <http://www.ufs.ac.za/ISPN>

The [Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy](#), the [Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment](#) at the University of the Free State (UFS), and the [Department of Language and Literature Studies](#) at the University of Namibia (UNAM) cordially invite proposals for the next bi-annual international symposium on place names.

The advent of critical theory in humanities and social sciences is reflected in the rise of critical toponymy. This approach explores the social, cultural, economic, political, and etymological origins of place names, and also considers how their meaning(s) change over time. As such, the landscape emerging from old and new place names can be constructed through physical, historical, or commercial evidence.

Such a method is possible because place names serve as historical records. They reflect the (changeable) geographical characteristics of a specific place, which includes the vegetation and animal life. Significant events and people are remembered via place naming. Even structures of social organisation, including political regimes and commercial enterprises, motivate the choice of names. As such, place names are also forms of (shared) cultural and linguistic heritage.

Place names are therefore important symbolic markers in reserving or changing cultural identities, and in marking or facilitating socio-political changes and relations. This role cannot be understood without thoroughly exploring the origin and meanings of place names.

Potential subtopics

Abstracts (300-500 words) are submitted on-line on the conference page in the following (but not limited to) categories of research:

- Administrative dimensions of place names
- Commercial and/or economic dimensions of place names
- Cultural dimensions of place names
- Historical and/or commemorative dimensions of place names
- Linguistic dimensions of place names
- Physical dimensions of place names
- Political dimensions of place names
- Etymology of place names
- Place name changes

Scientific council and paper selection committee

- **Herman Beyer** (Namibia): Department of Language and Literature Studies, UNAM
- **Paulo Márcio Leal de Menezes** (Brazil): ICA Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Peter Jordan** (Austria): Common Vice-Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Lucie A. Möller** (South Africa): Research Fellow, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
- **Cosimo Palagiano** (Italy): IGU Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Peter E. Raper** (South Africa): Member of the Steering Board, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy; Research Fellow, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
- **Theodorus du Plessis** (South Africa): Director, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS

Important dates:

Abstracts

Abstract submissions (online) open: November 2016

Deadlines for abstract submissions: 17 April 2017

Feedback from scientific panel: 8 May 2017

Registrations

Registrations (online): open: February 2017

Early Bird deadline: 14 July 2017

Registration deadline: 4 August 2017

Proof of payment deadline: 14 August 2017

Language of the symposium: English (special requests may be considered, subject to financial constraints)

Conference fees (in South African Rand):

	Academic	Student
Early Bird	R 2,850	R 1,710
Standard	R 3,420	R 2,850

Publication: Depending on the number and quality of papers, an accredited publication will be considered, subject to page fees.

Queries can be directed to the organising committee at kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za.





Geographical Names: Management and Practice

Competency-based (non-credit bearing), NQF level 8

Presenters: Prof Peter Jordan and Prof Peter Raper

Duration: 21 – 23 September 2017

Fee: R 6000 per person (includes study material and light meals)

For more information: Jani de Lange delangejc@ufs.ac.za or consult our webpage

This short learning program was developed in conjunction with the International Consortium of Universities for Toponymic Education. The course will provide information on the nature of geographical names including linguistic aspects. It will also include social aspects of geographical names, cartographic and technical applications as well as rules regarding norms and the standardisation of geographical names.

This short learning program focusses on:

- the nature of geographical names
- the linguistic aspects of geographical names
- cartographic and technical applications
- the usefulness and uses of geographical names;
- the social and practical applications aspects
- standardization of geographical names on national and international levels.

You will receive a certificate from the University of the Free State after completion of the Short Learning Program

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