

EDITORIAL

The current issue of *Geographia Polonica*, together with the previous one, constitute important material especially prepared to coincide with Krakow's hosting of the 2014 IGU Regional Conference and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of *Geographia Polonica* – Poland's oldest scientific journal in the field of geography published in English. This issue continues the previous one but with much more detailed articles concerning the different sub-disciplines of geography.

The first article concerns the very topical problem of the description of landscape by eco-critical metaphors. The paper by Elena dell'Agnese has a striking title: "Post-apocalypse now: Landscape and environmental values in *The Road* and *The Walking Dead*". Two interesting approaches have been prepared in the field of Tourism Geography by the current Chair of the Commission Dieter Müller ("Tourism Geographies are moving out' – A comment on the current state of Institutional Geographies of Tourism Geographies") and the former chair and current Vice-President of the IGU – Jarkko Saarinen ("Tourism geographies: Connections with human geography and emerging responsible geographies"). These two voices are to be followed by an article focused on the connections between gender, migration and household services during the economic cycle of expansion and contraction undergone by Spain, a European country with large numbers of female immigrants employed in domestic work. The paper was written by Josefina Domínguez-Mujica ("The enduring connection between

gender, migration and household services"). The article entitled: "The geography of Japanese direct investment in the U.S. automotive sector: A review of the state of knowledge and some ideas for future research" by Neil Reid, is an exemplar of research showing such investments as one of the major problems of economic development and as an element of competition. Shigeko Haruyama and Yuji Taresawa have prepared an article on an example of the role of disasters in the contemporary world entitled "Local community activities for disaster reduction in regard to the 2011 tsunami". According to the authors disaster mitigation is one of the most important issues faced by the world. However, good governance at the time of mitigation needs to be combined with the presentation and analysis of scientific results with the real aim of making future activity more effective. The next paper written by Marek Degórski presents the evolution of research paradigms in geography related to the study of relationships between humans, environment and place, and their tenacious role in functional and spatial analyses of the environmental megasystem ("Relationships between human-environment-space of place – The evolution of research paradigms in geography and the challenge of modernity"). A paper by the Vice-President of the IGU, Giuliano Bellezza is an essay on the enlargement of the European Union and the role of Poland and Eastern Europe in the EU from the "west-European perspective" especially from the Italian one ("Poland and Eastern Europe in the European Union"). He dedicated greater attention to two of these

countries, Poland and Italy, which are traditionally friendly, and were even more so following the election of John Paul II.

The Chair of the IGU Commission on Karst, Elena Trofimova, has proposed an article presented as an interesting example of a research project carried out in the field of karst studies as "A new approach to the assessment of cave environmental changes (As exemplified by caves in the Muradimovskoe Uschelio Natural Park)". In the *Varia* section we decided to present a project prepared by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences in recent years (the Institute was the lead partner of the ReNew-Town project under the Central Europe programme), as an example of research prepared with the participation of local and regional authorities, which in contemporary terms we could call 'applied geography' ("ReNew-Town - New Post-socialist city: Competitive and attractive" by Grzegorz Węclawowicz). We have also prepared material to mark the fact, noted above, that the year 2014 is the 50th anniversary of *Geographia Polonica*. For this issue Jacek Wolski has prepared an interesting and important interview with Professor Leszek Starkel entitled "Polish geography: Does the past have a future?" As in all issues of *Geographia Polonica*, we have presented new material concerning Poland on maps. Przemysław Śleszyński has prepared his maps and a brief explanation concerning "The diversity of terrain and land cover in Poland".

Both issues together (vol. 87, issues 2 and 3 of 2014) show the variety of geographical studies and contemporary world problems and thus constitute interesting and important elements for inclusion in discussions about our planet. In both issues we have tried to give emphasis to Polish voices on geography, especially their role in iGEO and IGU, and to highlight certain suggestions regarding Central Europe and Poland as geographical locations, as well as highlighting Polish geography with its *Geographia Polonica* as a window onto the world. I hope that these two issues will also provide important material for researchers, students and maybe for dissidents, authorities and planners. Many of the published articles are most important starting points for new discussions, maybe even for the creation of new concepts and theories.

I would like once again to express my extreme gratitude to all the authors who have taken up my personal request to collaborate with us all here in the preparation of *Geographia Polonica*. We are confident in our belief that the celebratory issues in question will come to be regarded as very important items in the field of geography, perhaps even serving as some kind of 'flagships' for years to come.

I hope you will find many papers of interest to you and that, even after the passage of many years, you will come back and read them with great interest.

Marek Więckowski