

Life Writing and Geographical Trajectories

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DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION

The study of geographers' personal and professional trajectories is characterised by multiple research methods and practices. A "biographical turn" is stimulating debates on the challenges and potentialities of life writing as a method to approach the histories of geography. Biography has traditionally been an elite mode, allowing for the recording of the great and good, and careful curation of their legacies. Now, however, it is being democratised and is being increasingly used as a way of challenging conventional narratives and uncovering the contribution of minorities and the otherwise forgotten. Rather than provide congratulatory or celebratory narratives, the writings of memoirs can offer more embodied histories, including geographers' everyday practices and mobilities. The session is conceived by the editors of the series *Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies*, published on behalf of the Commission on the History of Geography of the International Geographical Union. The editors invite potential contributors and previous editors to discuss the role of biobibliographical studies in disciplinary historiography.

The session, therefore, encourages papers focussed on any region or time period and welcomes papers that consider such topics as:

- Editorial experiences in grouping geographical trajectories
- Methodological aspects in life writing and geographical biobibliographies
- Case studies on geographical trajectories in different temporal and spatial contexts
- Collective biographies and institutional histories
- Archives and sources in the study of geographical trajectories
- Differences in geographical practices in the Global North and the Global South
- Representation and underrepresentation of different actors in the history of geography
- Mobilities and circulation of geographers and their research practices.
- Other topics relating to geography and life writing