

UNGEEN 2023 Session

Special Presentations

The objectives of special presentations are to: widen the perspectives of the participants on relevant, topical and emerging issues, methodologies or concepts and to make the overall session experience technically enriching and interesting.

The time frame for special presentations is 45 minutes; 20-30 min for presentation and 15 minutes for discussions.

Schedule of Special Presentations

When	Who	What/Topic	Moderator
Tuesday 2 nd	Ms. Aluki Kotierk, (Canada) Bureau member UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues		Susan Birtles Australia
Wednesday 3 rd	Mr. Sohail Elabd, Director International Strategies Esri, USA	Addressing Data challenges responding to emergencies and disaster	Wendy Shaw New Zealand
Thursday 4 th	Mr. Christian Lotz, Mr. Dariusz Gierczak and Mr. Ihor Doroshenko Herder Institute (Germany) Leibniz Institute (Germany)	The Gazetteers.net Web Application: A Tool for Harvesting Digital Gazetteers	Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu Germany
Friday 5 th	Mr. Osi Peters Mr. Ethan Russell Google	"Geographical names at Google: Giving users the most useful names for their daily tasks"	Wendy Shaw New Zealand

Bios of Special presenter(s)

Ms. Aluki Kotierk (Canada)

Originally from Igloodik, now residing in Iqaluit with her family, Nunavut Tunngavik President Aluki Kotierk leads by example. Throughout her career and to this day, Ms. Kotierk is driven by her passion to empower and improve the lives of Inuit. After earning her Master's degree in Native and Canadian Studies at Trent University, Ms. Kotierk worked for various Inuit organizations including Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (now known as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami), and Nunavut Sivuniksavut. She has also held management and Deputy Minister roles within the Government of Nunavut, Office of the Languages Commissioner and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In her current role as President, Ms. Kotierk is interested in how Inuit language and culture can be better incorporated into the way in which programs and services are designed and delivered in Nunavut. Aluki is currently one of two Co-Chairs

representing Indigenous People's Organizations on the Global Task Force for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032.

Esri, USA

Mr. Sohail Elabd, Director International Strategies,

Sohail Elabd is a highly respected expert in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) field, with an extensive background in civil engineering and information technology. He has amassed 27 years of experience in GIS, working on various large-scale projects and contributing significantly to the industry's growth and development.

Sohail earned his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Alexandria University in Egypt, furthering his education with a master's degree in information technology and GIS from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom.

Throughout his career, Sohail has participated in country-wide implementations of cadastral and land management projects in numerous countries across the Middle East and Africa. He has also been involved in major geospatial implementation projects focused on National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) and addressing projects in the region.

In 2005, Sohail joined Esri, the world's leading GIS technology company, where he has served in multiple roles, ranging from consultancy to business development and management. As the head of International Strategies at Esri, Sohail has focused on supporting emerging markets by making Esri's technology available to the least developed countries through specially designed programs.

Herder Institute and Leibniz Institute

PD Dr. Christian Lotz (Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe - Institute of the Leibniz Association, Marburg/Germany)

- 2003, University of Leipzig: Master in History and Social Sciences
- 2007, University of Stuttgart: PhD (Dr. phil) on History of Migration in Central Europe
- 2014/15, University of Giessen: Habilitation on Environmental History

Since 2014, Christian has been head of the map collection at the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe.

His main research areas are Historical Geography, History of International Organizations and History of Cartography

Dariusz Gierczak (Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe - Institute of the Leibniz Association, Marburg/Germany) Dariusz is geographer and research associate at Herder Institute for Research on East Central Europe. He is the coordinator of the "Project Challenges of Geodata-based Research on Place Names (Gazetteers)".

He was engaged in place names researches in several projects, including *Upper Silesia from the air* at Herder Institute, *Cultures of Knowledge. Reassembling the Republic of Letters. A digital framework for multi-lateral collaboration on Europe's intellectual history (1500-1800)* at Oxford University (UK), and as Editorial member of the *Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe* at Alpen-Adria University, Klagenfurt (Austria).

Ihor Doroshenko (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig/Germany)

Originally from Ukraine, where he studied, computer science and then geography. Both disciplines were combined in Germany, where he studied geoinformatics. Ihor has worked in historical projects in cooperations with such institutions as Buchenwald memorial, Babyn Yar memorial, European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, University of Maine, Leibniz Association. Currently he is working as a software developer and is now developing interactive map-based apps for mobile and desktop.

Google

Mr. Osi Peters

Osi Peters (he/him) is a Senior Director of Engineering for Map the World at Google. Osi has a passion for growing and developing diverse cross-functional teams and he comes to Geo with experience running platform engineering teams in the geodata space. Before joining Google, he worked for TripAdvisor as the VP of Data and Shared Services Engineering, as a Sr. Director at Toast, Inc and as the CTO at Vistaprint Corporate Solutions. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts Boston and he works in Google's Cambridge office. Osi is also a leader in the Black Leadership Advisory Group, Black+ Executives advancing Google's DEI and belonging work while supporting the Global Black Googler community.

Mr. Ethan Russell

Ethan Russell (he/him) is a Senior Director of Product Management for the Map the World team at Google. Ethan has worked on Google Maps-related projects at Google for more than 15 years, covering local search; local business data; local business fraud and abuse; mapping; and imagery. He holds a BA in Computer Science from Harvard University and an MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management.