

## Foreword

The book you are holding in your hands has been published to mark the occasion of the 9th EUGEO Congress, convened under the slogan of “Geography for our common future”: a future, which seen from the perspective afforded by the present day, will see us battling with the challenges posed by the climate emergency, the spread of disinformation, the polarisation of societies and a general democratic backsliding. Geography, as a social science that concerns itself with the interaction between societies and their physical environment, cannot remain on the sidelines of these issues. It must contribute to building the knowledge that might mitigate and reverse these trends that forewarn of a bleak future.

The Catalan Society of Geography (SCG) is aware of this pressing need and seeks to take advantage of the 9th EUGEO Congress to showcase Geography to the broader Catalan society, and Catalan Geography to the rest of European Geography. In this globalised world that has consecrated the English language as the only one in which the sciences – and I include here the social sciences – can advance, minoritised languages of stateless nations must take advantage of extraordinary events to make themselves heard. This EUGEO congress represents such an opportunity.

This book provides a non-Catalan-speaking public with some insights into the latest work of the SCG, namely *L'esguard de la SCG (1935–2020)* [*A Look Back at the History of the SCG*] and *La nova geografia de la Catalunya postcovid* [*The New Geography of Post-COVID Catalonia*], both published in 2021. The first chapter, specially written for this book, summarises key moments in the history of our learned Society by drawing on the research reported in the first of these two books. The second chapter constitutes the Introduction to the second book, but has been updated accordingly. The third chapter again is based on the content of the second book and was written to mark the 2022 Centennial Congress of the International Geographical Union (IGU). The fourth chapter includes a selection of the maps used to illustrate *La nova geografia de la Catalunya postcovid*. The fifth chapter undertakes a state-of-the-art report on university geography in the Catalan language domain. The book concludes with an epilogue specially written to mark the occasion of the 9th EUGEO Congress.

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