



To the  
Secretary and President of the  
International Cartographic Association ICA

Neuchâtel, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### **Nomination of Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant as Vice-President of the ICA in the period of 2015–2019**

Dear László, dear Georg,

It is my great pleasure as President of the Swiss Society of Cartography to propose to the next ICA General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, according with articles 8, 10 and 12 of the ICA Statues, the nomination of Prof. Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant as Vice-President to the ICA Executive Committee for the next quadrennial term, starting in 2015.

With the departure of former ICA president Prof. Dr. Eduard Imhof in 1964, Switzerland has not been represented in the Executive Committee of ICA for over 50 years. This fact, standing in sharp contrast to the often leading role which our country has, amongst others, in the fields of Cartography and GIScience and to many requests from the world-wide cartographic community towards a stronger international engagement of Switzerland, motivates our Society to strengthen our ties with ICA again, e.g. by a direct nomination of a member of our Society to the ICA Executive Committee.

Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant, currently head of the Geography Department of the University of Zurich, has an outstanding scientific record and career in many disciplines, including cartography, geography, GIScience and cognition. Sara is multilingual and worked in many different countries, where she contributed to the research and development of cartography and her neighbouring sciences. As member of several national cartographic societies, she has also always been closely following ICA activities in many ways, e.g. through international publications, contributions to conferences, teaching, and Commission work. She is currently the elected chair of one of the largest and most active ICA commissions – the ICA Commission on Cognitive Visualization, which she proposed and built up over the past years. Her principal motivations to run for the position of Vice-President include the tightening of relations to sister societies, the extension of ICA activities into new areas of GI use and production, as well as the encouragement of more women and young scientists to take leading roles in ICA and the cartographic community.

The presented nomination has the full support and endorsement of the President and the Executive Committee of the Swiss Society of Cartography. We are very proud to be able to make this proposal, and we are at the same time more than certain, that Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant is an excellent candidate for this

position, who will fully dedicate herself to the further development of the International Cartographic Association. Please find attached, besides a declaration of her willingness to serve in this position, a letter of motivation and a scientific CV of Sara, which provide more details about her candidacy.

If you or the Executive Committee have any questions on this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact either Sara or myself.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Thomas Schulz  
President

Attachments:

Letter of motivation

Note of willingness to serve

Curriculum Vitae



To the Secretary and President of the  
International Cartographic Association ICA

**Prof. Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant**  
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Zurich, January, 5 2015

**Nomination of Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant as Vice-President of the ICA in the period of 2015–2019**

Dear László, dear Georg

With this letter I would like to confirm that I would be willing to serve with great pleasure as Vice-President of the ICA during the period 2015–2019, in the event of a successful nomination, as a result of the upcoming elections at the General Assembly of the Delegates of the ICA in Rio 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fabrikant'.

Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant  
Professor | Chair of the ICA Cognitive Visualization Commission (2011-2015)  
Head of the UZH Geography Department and of the research unit  
*Geographical Information Visualization and Analysis (GIVA)* at the UZH GIScience Center

# s a r a i r i n a f a b r i k a n t

geographer | giscentist | cognitive mapepatician



## Educational background

- 1996 M.S. in Geography, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2000 Ph.D. in Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder, U.S.A.

## Appointments

- 2014 Head of the Geography Department, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2013 Professor, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2008 Adjunct Professor, San Diego State University, San Diego, U.S.A.
- 2005 – 2013 Associate Professor, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2000 – 2005 Assistant Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara, U.S.A.
- 1999 – 2000 Visiting Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo (SUNY), U.S.A.

## Selected professional activities

- 2015 International Conference of Spatial Information Theory (COSIT) 2015: Program Co-Chair, Santa Fe, NM, Oct 11-13, 2015.
- 2014 International CartoCon 2014 Conference: Co-Organizer/Program Co-Chair, Olomouc, CZ, 24-28, 2014.
- 2013 International Cartographic Conference, Pre-conference workshop on Eye Tracking: Co-Organizer, Dresden, Germany, Aug. 23-24, 2013.

## Recent ICA-relevant publications

- Andrienko, G., Fabrikant S. I., Dykes, J., Griffin, A., Schiewe, J. (eds.) (2014). Special Issue on selected papers from Geoviz Hamburg 2013, International Journal of Geographical Information Science, vol. 28, no. 10.
- Griffin, A., Fabrikant S. I., Kent, A. (2012). Special Issue on Spatial Cognition, Behaviour and Representation. Cartographic Journal, Vol. 49, No. 4.
- Fabrikant, S. I., and Lobben, A. (eds.) (2009). Special Issue on Cognitive Issues in Geovisualization. Cartographica, Vol. 44, No. 3.

Dr. Sara Irina Fabrikant is currently a Professor of Geography and leads the Geographic Information Visualization and Analysis (GIVA) group at the GIScience Center of the Geography Department at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. She has been appointed Head of the UZH Geography Department as of August 2014. Her research and teaching interests lie in geographic information visualization and geovisual analytics, GIScience and cognition, graphical user interface design and evaluation, including dynamic cartography. She was awarded a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to study Geographic Information Science for one academic year at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1993. She is the current elected chair of the ICA Cognitive Visualization Commission. She publishes in a variety of cartography/GIScience/geovis related journals, and is currently a member of various editorial boards of top-tier journals in her field, in addition to her program committee memberships for international cartography/geovis/GIScience related conferences. She has been/is the program committee co-chair of various conferences (e.g., AGILE 2008, GIScience 2010, CartoCon 2014, COSIT 2015). She has delivered talks and keynotes at national and international professional meetings, including invited lectures at universities across Europe, North America, Asia, and New Zealand. Other service includes memberships and functions with the ICA Geovisualization Commission, the North American Cartographic Information Society, the Swiss Society of Cartography, Canadian Cartographic Society, and the Association of American Geographers.



## Motivation

I have followed ICA activities since my student days, and have attended various activities of the now called Geovisualization Commission since 1999. Since 2011 I have been co-chairing the ICA Cognitive Visualization Commission together with Dr. Amy Griffin, a newly established ICA research effort that I have proposed and built from the ground up, and which now includes over 200 members. I have also had the opportunity to serve in other leading professional societies related to my research fields, including the U.S. Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) as a delegate 2003-2005, the Association of Geographic Information Laboratories AGILE (council member 2006-2008), and the Association of American Geographers AAG (elected functions in the GIS and Cartography Specialty Groups and editorial board member of *Annals* 2010-2014). These responsibilities provided me with important insights on the various professional activities at the interface of geography, GIScience and cartography, and made me appreciate the societal importance of more broadly advocating the appropriate collection, handling, visualization, and use of geographic information for effective and efficient decision-making in today's increasingly mobile information society.

If elected as Vice-President to the ICA Executive Board, one of my driving motivations would not only include the deepening and strengthening of ties with its sister societies involved with collecting, analyzing, and visualizing geographic information, but also in trying to extend ICA's reach into new areas where geographic information is increasingly produced, communicated, and used including the social sciences, the humanities, and engineering. I am especially interested in trying to find new ways in attracting and encouraging female colleagues to take on leading roles in the ICA, as well as younger scholars whom, after all, represent the future of a strong and vibrant global community involved in representing geographic information efficiently and effectively.