

Thomas Schulz
ICA Secretary General
Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO
Espace de l'Europe 10
CH-2010 Neuchâtel
Switzerland

11th March 2023

Dear Thomas

Nomination for ICA Executive, 2023-2027

On behalf of the United Kingdom, The British Cartographic Society nominate Dr Alex Kent for the position of Vice-President.

Dr Kent has been very active in both The British Cartographic Society and the ICA for many years and has the appropriate background and experience to make a valuable contribution to the ICA and its Executive. He has established an international reputation for his engagement in cartography as Editor of *The Cartographic Journal* and through his association with the ICA, including chairing the Commission on Topographic Mapping 2015-2023, establishing the World Cartographic Forum within the ICA, and participating in many other ICA activities.

I attach a personal statement prepared by Dr Kent and a brief cv.

Regards



David Forrest, PhD, Hon.FBCart.S
Secretary, UK Cartography Committee

Email: david.forrest@glasgow.ac.uk

4th March 2023

UK Nomination for ICA Executive: Vice President, 2023–2027

Dr Alexander Kent

I am passionate about advancing the role that cartography and cartographers play in transforming societies and our stewardship of the environment. In the United Kingdom, I have played an active role in the leadership of the British Cartographic Society for almost two decades. This has involved serving as its President and as Editor of *The Cartographic Journal*, restoring the Society's focus on education, particularly by supporting students and early career researchers, and helping to raise the Society's international profile through greater engagement with the ICA.

In 2007, I was awarded an ICA Travel Award to attend my first International Cartographic Conference (ICC) in Moscow. This ignited my enthusiasm for serving the mission of the ICA and the work of its Commissions and led to my involvement in co-founding the Commission on Map Design in 2011 and establishing the Commission on Topographic Mapping in 2015. Both Commissions remain active and have contributed several workshops, papers and edited books to the corpus of research produced by the ICA. In 2017, while serving as President of the British Cartographic Society, I established the ICA World Cartographic Forum, which is a successful initiative for leaders of national cartographic societies to discuss common issues (such as strategies for increasing membership) and to share best practice.

Combining the insights gained in these roles with valuable experience from participating in several ICA General Assemblies, I am keen to serve on the ICA Executive and write to express my interest in seeking nomination and election as a Vice President.

There are many reasons for my interest in this role. First, I am committed to the mission of the ICA in advancing the disciplines of cartography and geographical information science in an international context. I have gained considerable experience in leading international initiatives with other cartographic societies, including the very successful EuroCarto2022 conference last September. Second, I believe that the ICA can play a greater role in improving cartographic literacy, and my experience in academic editing and publishing brings valuable skills for enhancing the impact of our Commissions' research and activities. Third, cartography is an applied discipline, and I believe that there is greater scope for the ICA to promote better ways of making, using and sharing maps. The need for cartographic communication and literacy has never been so relevant, particularly in addressing the acute social, economic and environmental challenges we face as a global community. Hence, I am keen to engage with the ICA's partners in industry and beyond, and through my connections within UNESCO, to ensure that we offer more than a forum for advancing research by enhancing mapmaking skills through more hands-on events. Finally, as a regular contributor to international panel discussions on ethics in cartography, I am keen to support the promotion of cartographic ethics within the context of the ICA. This will, in turn, help to raise the profile of cartography and its associated disciplines worldwide.

My leadership approach is characterised by transforming values and empowering others to realise their potential. Similarly, maps have the power for positive change, and just as the ICA has nurtured my enthusiasm and passion for cartography, I have much to offer in return by serving on its Executive.



Dr Alexander J. Kent

Summary CV

-- Leadership Roles (International Cartographic Association) -----

2021–Present National Delegate (UK), ICA General Assembly
2017–Present Founder and Chair, ICA World Cartographic Forum
2015–Present Founder and Chair, ICA Commission on Topographic Mapping
2011–2021 Deputy National Delegate (UK), ICA General Assembly
2011–2015 Vice-Chair and Co-Founder, ICA Commission on Map Design

-- Leadership Roles (National Mapping Societies) -----

2021–Present Chair, UK Committee for Cartography
2014–Present Editor, *The Cartographic Journal*
2015–2017 President, British Cartographic Society
2012–2015 Vice-President, British Cartographic Society
2007–2014 Editor, *The Bulletin of the Society of Cartographers*

-- Relevant Employment -----

2023–Present Coastal Connections Lead, English Heritage and World Monuments Fund
2022–Present Honorary Reader in Cartography and Geographic Information Science, Canterbury Christ Church University
2018–Present Advisor, UK and Canadian National Commissions to UNESCO (Geospatial Projects)
2016–Present Senior Research Associate, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (University of Oxford)
2015–2022 Reader in Cartography and Geographic Information Science, Canterbury Christ Church University
2010–2015 Senior Lecturer in Geography and GIS, Canterbury Christ Church University
2008–2010 Head of Cartographic Unit, School of Geography, University of Southampton

-- Education -----

2004–2007 PhD in Geography, University of Kent
(Thesis: *An Analysis of the Cartographic Language of European State Topographic Maps: Aesthetics, Style and Identity*)
1998–1999 MPhil in GIS and Remote Sensing, University of Cambridge (Queens' College)
(Thesis: *Maps, Pixels and Power: Improving Design and Communication in Remote Sensing*)
1995–1998 BSc (Hons) in Geography and Cartography, Oxford Brookes University (First Class)
(Thesis: *The Value of Historical Maps: Art, Accuracy and Society*)

-- Relevant Qualifications and Current Society Memberships -----

2022–Present Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)
2022–Present Member, The Geographical Club
2020–Present Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA)
2020–Present Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Authority (SFHEA)
2008–Present Committee Member, Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps
2005–Present Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS)
2002–Present Fellow of the British Cartographic Society (FBCartS)

-- Selected Publications (Overleaf) -----

---- Peer-Reviewed Papers ----

- Davis, M. and Kent, A.J. (2021) “An Analysis of the Global Symbology of Soviet Military City Plans” *The Cartographic Journal* <https://doi.org/10.1080/00087041.2021.1958193>.
- Halik, Ł. and Kent, A.J. (2021) “Measuring User Preferences and Behaviour in a Topographic Immersive Virtual Environment (TopoIVE) of 2D and 3D Urban Topographic Data” *International Journal of Digital Earth* 14 (12) pp.1835–1867 <https://doi.org/10.1080/17538947.2021.1984595>.
- Kent, A.J. (2021) “The Soviet Military 1:10,000 City Plan of Dover, UK (1974)” *International Journal of Cartography* 7 (2) pp.245–251 <https://doi.org/10.1080/23729333.2021.1910185>.
- Pastor, D. and Kent, A.J. (2020) “Transformative Landscapes: Liminality and Visitors’ Emotional Experiences at German Memorial Sites” *Tourism Geographies* 22 (2) pp.250–272 <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2020.1725617>.
- Kent, A.J. (2018) “Form Follows Feedback: Rethinking Cartographic Communication” *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* 13 (2) pp.96–112 <https://doi.org/10.16997/wpcc.296>.
- Kent, A.J. (2009) “Topographic Maps: Methodological Approaches for Analyzing Cartographic Style” *Journal of Map and Geography Libraries* 5 (2) pp.131–156 <https://doi.org/10.1080/15420350903001187>.
- Kent, A.J. and Vujakovic, P. (2009) “Stylistic Diversity in European State 1:50 000 Topographic Maps” *The Cartographic Journal* 46 (3) pp.179–213 <https://doi.org/10.1179/000870409X12488753453453>.
- Kent, A.J. (2005) “Aesthetics: A Lost Cause in Cartographic Theory?” *The Cartographic Journal* 42 (2) pp.182–188 <https://doi.org/10.1179/000870405X61487>.

----- Books and Edited Books ----

- Kent, A.J. and Specht, D. (in press) *The Routledge Handbook of Geospatial Technologies and Society* Abingdon: Routledge (700 pp).
- Kent, A.J., Vervust, S., Millea, N. and Demhardt, I. (Eds) (2019) *Mapping Empires: Colonial Cartographies of Land and Sea* Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature (321 pp).
- Davies, J. and Kent, A.J. (2017) *The Red Atlas: How the Soviet Union Secretly Mapped the World* Chicago: University of Chicago Press (272 pp).
- Kent, A.J. and Vujakovic, P. (Eds) (2017) *The Routledge Handbook of Mapping and Cartography* Abingdon: Routledge (618 pp).

----- Chapters in Edited Books ----

- Kent, A.J. (2022) “Mapping the Globe, and the Revolution in Russia’s Geospatial Capability” In Monaghan, A. (Ed.) *Russian Grand Strategy* Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp.27–48.
- Kent, A.J. (2017) “Foreword” In Darkes, G. and Spence, M. (Eds) *Cartography – An Introduction* (2nd ed.) London: British Cartographic Society.
- Kent, A.J. (2015) “Conventions, Cartographic” In Monmonier, M. (Ed.) *The History of Cartography Volume VI: The Twentieth Century* Chicago: University of Chicago Press (pp.273–278).
- Kent, A.J. (2015) “Reproduction, Design and Aesthetics” In Monmonier, M. (Ed.) *The History of Cartography Volume VI: The Twentieth Century* Chicago: University of Chicago Press (pp.1331–1336).

----- Editorials ----

- Kent, A.J. (2021) “When Topography Trumped Topology: 90 Years of Beck’s Underground Map” *The Cartographic Journal* 58 (1) pp.1–12 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00087041.2021.1953765>.
- Kent, A.J. (2020) “Mapping and Counter-mapping COVID-19: From Crisis to Cartocracy” *The Cartographic Journal* 57 (3) pp.187–195 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00087041.2020.1855001>.
- Kent, A.J. (2019) “A Picture and an Argument: Mapping for Peace with a Cartography of Hope” *The Cartographic Journal* 56 (4) pp.275–279 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00087041.2019.1694804>.
- Kent, A.J. and Hopfstock, A. (2018) “Topographic Mapping: Past, Present and Future” *The Cartographic Journal* 55 (4) pp.305–308 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00087041.2018.1576973>.