

WORKSHOP

Eighth International Symposium on Place Names 2025

Systematising participatory toponymic diagnostics during street addressing and settlement mapping operations

26 November 2025

10:30-12:30

Clarens, South Africa

kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/conferences/conference/2025-ispn-home>

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ISPN 2025 Workshop (face-to-face)

Systematising participatory toponymic diagnostics during street addressing and settlement mapping operations

The [Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies](#) at the University of the Free State (RSA), in partnership with the [Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy](#) as well as the [ICOS Working Group on Toponymy](#), is hosting the Eighth International Symposium on Place Names (ISPN 2025) 26-29 November 2025 in Clarens, South Africa. It will include this workshop:

Workshop theme: Systematising participatory toponymic diagnostics during street addressing and settlement mapping operations

Presenter: Prof Frédéric Giraut (Geneva University, Switzerland), UNESCO Chair in Inclusive Toponymy “Naming the World”

Target audience: Practitioners, scholars, and government officials working in toponymy, city and street planning, geography and cartography, and digital sciences

Date: 26 November 2025

Time: 10:30-12:30

Location: (face-to-face event) Protea Hotel, Clarens (South Africa)

Registration fee: R1 000; or R1 200 for both workshops (free for symposium delegates)

Register: <https://www.ufs.ac.za/conferences/conference/2025-ispn-home>

Contact: kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za

Join: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10047495/>

Programme outline

The presenter will share and discuss elements of a resolution at the UN Forum on Minorities Issues. In a nutshell, the proposal is to take advantage of collaborative digital mapping opportunities and official addressing operations to promote and make visible vernacular and minority toponymic corpora, based on collaborative or even participatory toponymic diagnoses to be included in addressing and digital mapping protocols.

- i) Visibility of ‘minority’ place names: Undeniable progress in last decades... But there are setbacks, recessions, risks and delays.
- ii) The digital turn: Opportunity for inclusive toponymy? The case of alternative names options in OpenStreetMap and other toponymic repositories.
- iii) Main recommendation: Promoting vernacular participatory toponymic diagnostics during street addressing and settlement mapping operations. Supplementing official toponymic databases (nomenclature) with vernacular and minorities databases or inventories and related set of proposals for future or alternative naming.
- iv) Discussion on inspiring initiatives in different contexts.