

Session Proposal  
IAG Meeting, 2022

*Session Title*

**Burning and Fire Management in the Asia-Pacific Region**

*Proponent*

**Sean Sloan**

Canada Research Chair (T2)  
Professor of Geography  
Vancouver Island University, Canada

Adjunct Lecturer  
James Cook University, Australia

sean.sloan@viu.ca

*Abstract*

The scale and severity of burning in the Asia-Pacific region appears ascendent during recent years. The Australian fire season of 2019/2020 is estimated as the most extensive on record. In Indonesia, 2019 burning is qualified as amongst the most extensive on record, if still below that of 2015, itself unprecedentedly severe save for 1997/1998. Fire activity of 2019/2020 in Europe and Amazonia was similarly significantly greater than the average of recent decades. Still, notwithstanding periodic severe burning, and probably because of it, burning trends also appear increasingly dynamic. Indonesian fire activity is arguably *declining* over the long term, reflecting parallel trends across the Global South due to changing land management, though fire carbon emissions remain steadfastly constant in Asia-Pacific and pantropically. In this context, this session seeks to report on recent trends to landscape burning and fire management, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Papers on fire occurrence and distribution, fire management, and the roles of land change and climate are especially welcome.