

opment, but with great underlying possibilities, the case of Giurgiu, Tulcea, geographical portuary landscapes in different degrees of decline, where surprisingly ports such as Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Orşova, Calafat, Călăraş belong, thanks to the local crass indifference! But hope never dies, in the last chapter "*Trends of Development of the Danube Romanian Port Cities*" the author presenting the revival opportunities for some of the declining ports. The restructuring and adjustments in the Romanian economy included the Danube ports, the author identifying and materialising them in synthetic maps. A real possibility of revival for some of the Danube port cities is declaring them as belonging to the free portuary zones, about which the author undertakes an analysis at a regional level and into the past of some port cities, presenting afterwards the current free zones.

Having positive prospects regarding economic recovery, the ports Calafat, Turnu Măgurele and Călăraş stand out, which could become important bridgeheads across the Danube that are to be considered, afterwards contributing to the polarisation of transports and activities, while Orşova, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Olteniţa, Giurgiu, Tulcea, Sulina have touristic potential.

In conclusion, the Danube Valley, as a polarisation axis for transport and activities, has great prospects for sustainable development, at a time when the Black Sea Basin as an economic region is of interest for the Central and Western European countries, the author highlighting its potential.

The dense and diversified information, the logical structure of ideas in the scientific endeavour, the clear, succinct and synthetic text, the high-quality cartographic material that harmoniously complements the text, are all attributes that make reading enjoyable and invest this book with qualities that are rarely incorporated in a single book. Every mature or becoming geographer should have this book, even more, I recommend it to all who are interested in the geographic and cultural Romanian space, to the general public. I find its translation in English to be very appropriate, which would prompt it, surely, to be one of the most appreciated books in this field.

**ALEXANDRU PĂCURAR**

*"Babeş-Bolyai" University, Faculty of Geography*

---

**Nicholas Clifford, Shaun French, Gill Valentine (eds.) (2012),  
Key Methods in Geography, second edition, London, Sage, 545 p.,  
ISBN 978-1-4129-3508-1**

---

**Key Methods in Geography** (with a first edition in 2003) is part of a series of excellent and well-known books (such as Phil Hubbard, Rob Kitchin, Gill Valentine (eds.), *Key Thinkers on Space and Place*, 2004 and Nicholas Clifford, Sarah L. Holloway, Stephen P. Rice, Gill Valentine (eds.), *Key Concepts in Geography*, 2003, and second edition in 2009).

The authors of the 32 essays (chapters) in this book offer a useful overview of geographical research from three distinct perspectives: how to plan, how to execute, and how to present research, while researchers are to pay attention also to issues of health, safety, and ethical research.

As all geographers, either at the beginning, climax, or at the end of their career, need to do research, this book provides the best insight in the key methods of Geography, giving them advice in a thoughtful and clear way, approaching themes such as project design, the things to take into account when selecting the appropriate method/methods, data analysis, and presentation of research results.

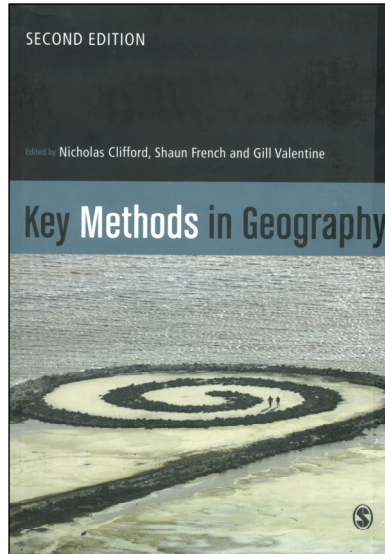
The book is a stimulating and necessary reference text especially for undergraduates, for those who need to write their undergraduate dissertations and master theses in Physical Geography, in Human Geography, and in Regional Geography, as it hosts both quantitative and qualitative research methods. These are presented in a comprehensive manner by geographers who are the experts in their fields.

Still, also postgraduate research may find it useful as its second edition includes the latest developments in the use of research methods, together with an up-to-date reference list. It presents traditional methods and numerous new methods making use of modern technology.

Therefore, it is highly recommended as essential reading throughout a three year Geography programme at least, as well as for graduates doing an independent research.

This excellent text on methods in Geographical research is written in an accessible style and offers many practical examples, illustrative for all members of the Geography community interested in conducting quality Geographical research. Especially due to the detailed presentation of qualitative methods, it fits well with course goals in Regional Geography research methods.

**Key Methods in Geography** has four parts: *Getting Started in Geographical Research* (pp. 1-58), *Generating and Working*



*with Data in Human Geography* (pp. 59-201), *Generating and Working with Data in Physical Geography* (pp. 203-313), and *Representing and Interpreting Geographical Data* (pp. 315-527) including 32 chapters.

Chapters begin with a short definition of the presented method, followed by an abstract of the main arguments and then by an approximately 5,000-word discussion including illustrative case studies and annotated notes for further reading and research.

Part One is made of four chapters, all meant to

help beginners get started in geographical research. These are: *Getting Started in Geographical Research: How This Book Can Help*, *How to Conduct a Literature Search*, *Ethical Practice in Geographical Research* and *Health and Safety in the Field*.

Part Two, including ten chapters, focuses on qualitative methods in Human Geography: *Making Use of Secondary Data*; *Conducting Questionnaire Surveys*; *Finding Historical Sources*; *Semi-Structured Interviews and Focus Groups*; *Participant Observation*; *Geography and the Interpretation of Visual Imagery*; *Participatory Research Methods*; *Working in Different Cultures*; *Internet Mediated Research* and *Diaries as a Research Method*.

Part Three includes six chapters making use especially of quantitative research methods: *Getting Information About the Past: Palaeo and Historical Data Sources of Climate*; *Making Observations and Measurements in the Field*; *Sampling in Geography*; *Analysing a Natural System*; *Numerical Modelling in Physical Geography: Understanding Explanation and Prediction in Physical Geography* and *Using Remotely Sensed Imagery*.

In addition, Part Four includes 12 chapters, ten of them using quantitative, others qualitative methods from which researchers

should choose the most appropriate one in order to represent and interpret geographical data: *Data Handling and Representation; Mapping and Graphicacy; Using Statistics to Describe and Explore Data; An Introduction to Geostatistics; Using Geographical Information Systems; Statistical Analysis Using PASW (formerly SPSS); Coding Transcripts and Diaries; Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis; Analyzing Historical and Archival Sources and Analysing Cultural Texts.*

In order to help undergraduates present the results of their research, at the end of this text book, editors included two chapters: one on *Writing Essays, Reports and Dissertations* and the other one on *Understanding Assessment*. The latter is important for students to know which are the standards

for assessing their work and thus helps them to observe these standards in order to make progress.

At the end of the book, there is a helpful glossary (pp. 528-536) and an index.

We recommend this excellent, impressive, comprehensive, and up-to-date book, offering clear insights into the key methods of geographical research, both to beginners and experienced researchers, and also to geographers redesigning their academic courses on research methods.

**OANA-RAMONA ILOVAN**

*"Babeş-Bolyai" University, Faculty of Geography*

**Ion, Bold, Avram, Crăciun (2012), *Organizarea spațiului agricol. Concepte - Tradiții - Istorie (Organization Of Agricultural Space. Concepts - Traditions - History)*, Mirton Publishing House, Timișoara**

The latest release of the book ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL SPACE - CONCEPTS - TRADITIONS - HISTORY, Mirton Publishing House, Timișoara, 2012, has been a scientific and editorial event of a particularly significant editorial novelty; the book belongs to PhD engineers, chief designers: Ion Bold and Avram Crăciun.

Scientifically and historically grounded, the book focuses attention on an activity and science to the benefit of which the authors spent 50 years of their life, materializing the interplay between humans and nature in the use of the territory and in the coordinated placement of various uses, facilities and equipment, taking into account the way in which territory and settlements are arranged (organized and planned).

It is a synthesis paper, the outcome of a long research and design process, following a trajectory from the particular to the general, from the concrete to the abstract; using an integral thinking and an interdisciplinary

approach, the authors created a territorial organization system, aiming at the sustainable and harmonious development in the entirety of various territorial units.

Approaching the synthesis as a system and science of territorial organization – a premiere in terms of approach and substantiation – the book allows a more comprehensive understanding of the problems in their historical evolution, as well as the integration of the territory into a complex concept, intercalating various positive and negative factors in order to define economically, socially and physically optimal solutions in the field, by means of arrangement, restoration, planning, modeling, fitting and equipment. Issues are approached systematically, following a trajectory from the general to the particular, from the territorial and settlement planning to the arrangement of the territory among units (land agglomeration and borderline rectification) and the management of the territory within differ-