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Paper & slides available at: [brettbecker.com/publications](https://brettbecker.com/publications)

# Geographic Diversity at the SIGCSE Technical Symposium

- Common Knowledge: The SIGCSE Technical Symposium is *very* US-centric
- We sought to determine *how much and in what ways specifically*, and in the context of ACM, SIGCSE as an organization, & other conferences (SIGCSE & outside SIGCSE)
- We gathered and analysed ACM & SIGCSE membership as well as Symposium attendance, publication, & authorship data for the last decade
- We also offer suggestions that may help improve geographic diversity at the Symposium
- Besides being SIGCSE members, and wearing some other hats, we are:
  - Brett: Global Liaison to the SIGCSE Symposium & Chair of Ireland ACM SIGCSE Chapter
  - Amber: SIGCSE Board member (Immediate Past-chair)
  - Andrew: SIGCSE Board member (Treasurer) & Chair of Australasian ACM SIGCSE Chapter
  - Briana: Former Board member (At Large) & SIGCSE Historian
  - Cary: SIGCSE Symposium Registrar (a few times :)

# SIGCSE

- The Special Interest Group (SIG) for Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) is one of the oldest and largest Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) SIGs
- Nearly 3000 members from more than 100 countries
- It sponsors four conferences:
  - The SIGCSE Technical Symposium: largest & oldest – 52 yrs ~1800 attendance
  - The Annual Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITiCSE): 26 yrs ~300 attendance
  - The Annual ACM International Computing Education Research Conference (ICER): 16 yrs ~200 attendance
  - The ACM Global Computing Education Conference (CompEd): 1 yr ~150 attendance
- The SIGCSE Symposium is especially important because of its size, scope, duration, & unique activities

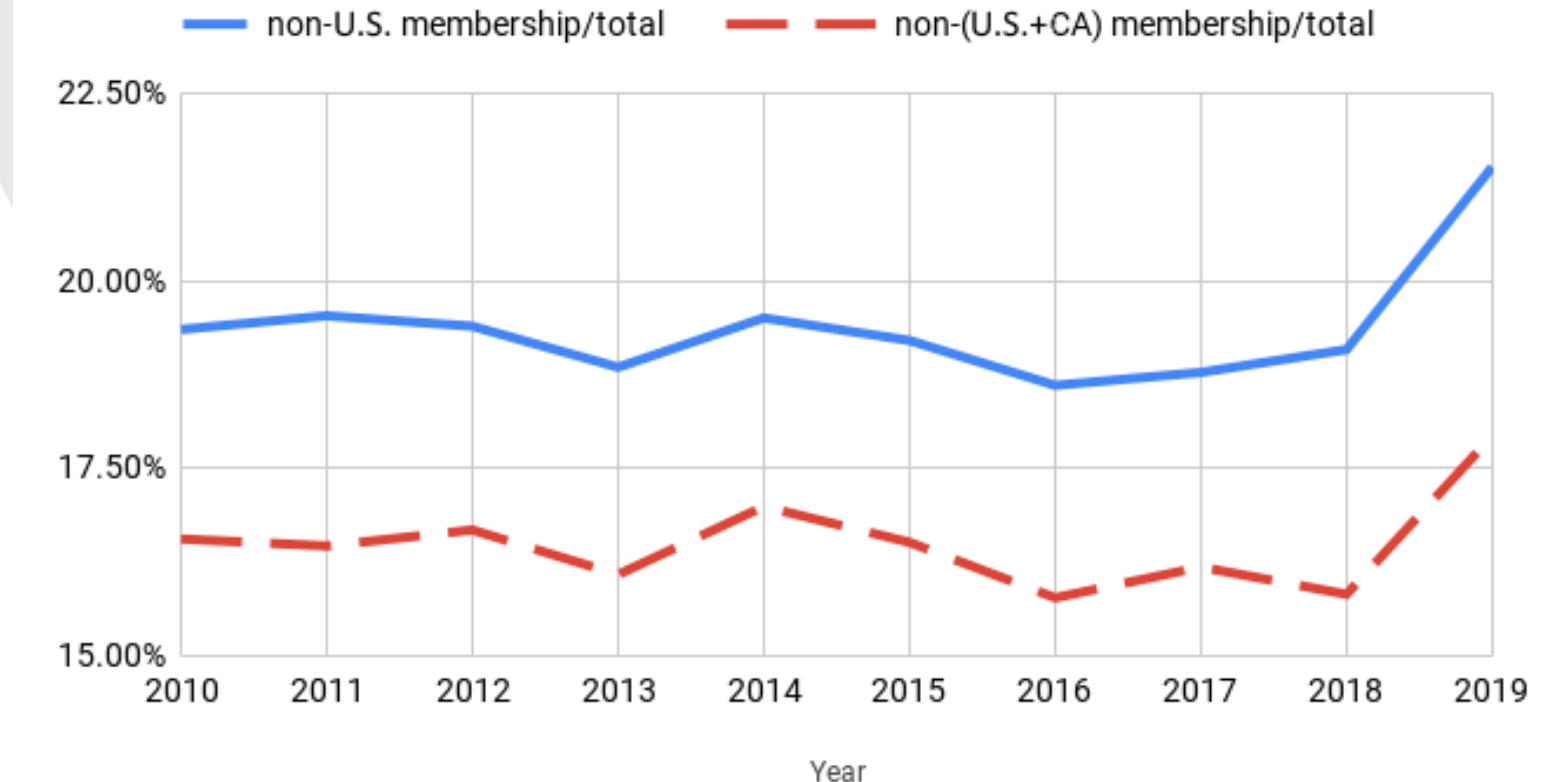
# Membership

## ACM membership

~75,000 professional members

- 54% North American (49% U.S.)
- 24% Asian
- 17% European
- 2% South American
- 2% Oceania
- 1% Africa
- 0% Antarctic (est.)

## SIGCSE membership

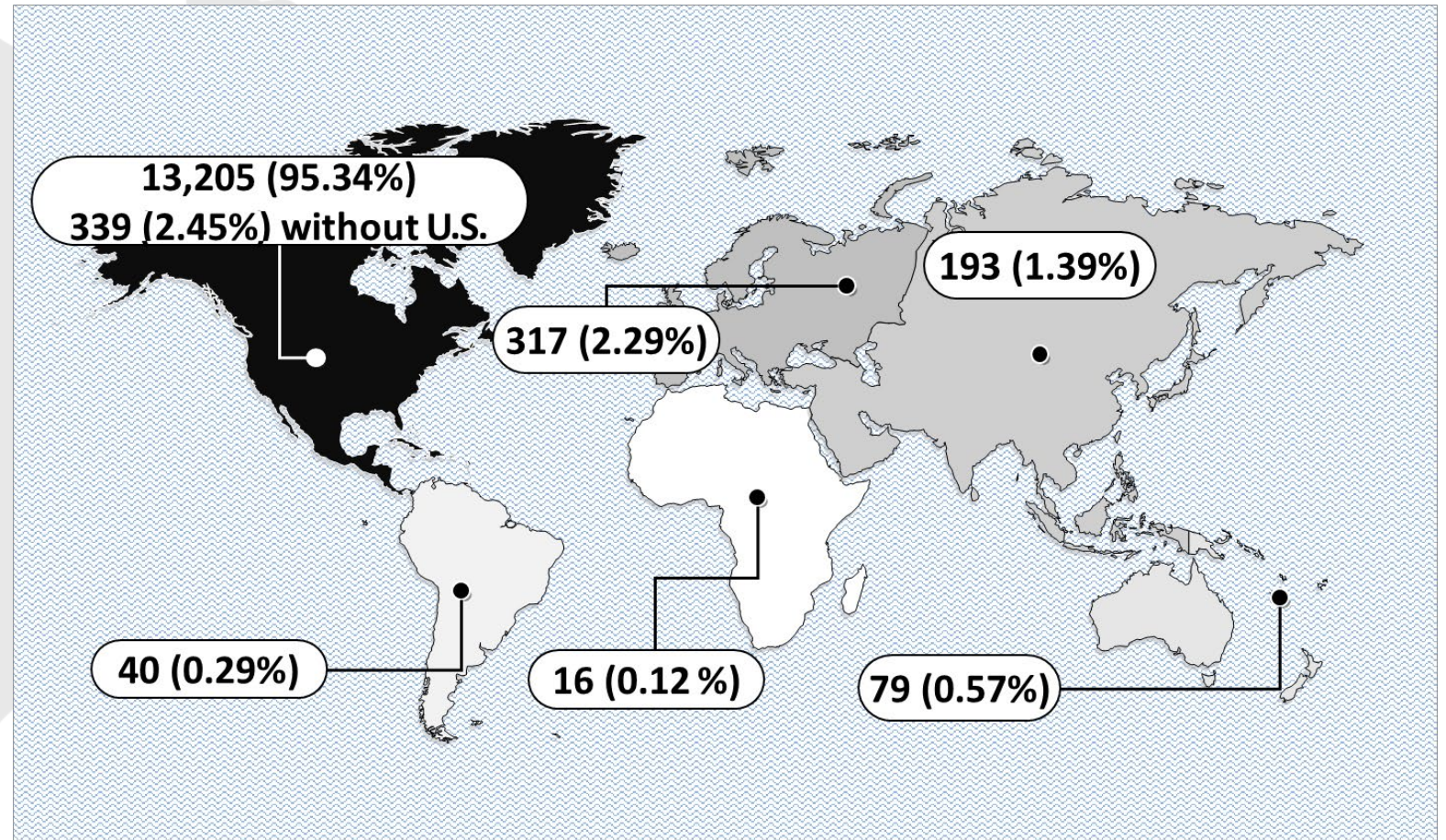


**U.S. dominates SIGCSE membership (~80%)**



# Symposium attendance 2010 – 2019

- North America 95%
- *U.S.* 93%
- Europe <3%
- Asia <2%
- Australasia <1%
- South America <1%
- Africa <1%



**Symposium attendance is even more dominated by U.S. than membership**

# All Symposium publications 2010 – 2019

Country	% all contributions	% papers	% non-papers
U.S.	86.9	78.9	<b>93.2</b>
Canada	3.1	<b>4.7</b>	1.9
United Kingdom	1.4	<b>2.2</b>	0.7
Finland	0.8	<b>1.7</b>	0.0
Australia	1.0	<b>1.6</b>	0.6
Brazil	0.6	<b>1.3</b>	0.1
New Zealand	0.7	<b>1.2</b>	0.3
Germany	0.7	<b>1.0</b>	0.5
<i>All other countries</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>2.8</i>

**U.S. also dominates publications, particularly in non-paper contributions**

# Symposium engagement initiatives

- **Conference committees and roles**

- 1996: International Liaison\*
- 2014: International Committee\*
- International lunch\*
  - First year: 13 attendees
  - 2014: Incorporated into the conference registration system
  - 2019: 64 attendees

\*as of 2021 these are now called Global Liaison, Committee, lunch

- **Travel Grant Program**

- Created in 2014 thanks to a contribution from Henry Walker
- Faculty and teachers who have never attended the conference
- Up to \$500 of funding and free registration
- 2020: twenty awards given, seven to people outside the U.S.

A faint, light gray world map is visible in the background of the slide, centered behind the text.

# Improving Symposium engagement

- **Organization/Administrative**

- Collect & report more data
- Re-examine and possibly expand the role of the Symposium Global Committee
- Encourage more non-U.S. SIGCSE membership & local SIGCSE chapters
- Increase initiatives to recruit non-U.S. Ph.D. students as SIGCSE members

- **Authorship**

- Encourage panels and special sessions to include non-U.S. members
- Place a greater emphasis in the Symposium CFP on global perspectives, international participation, and multi-national collaborations



# Improving Symposium engagement

- **Reviewing**

- Improve recruitment of reviewers from outside the U.S.
- Develop resources to provide training with guidelines about global perspectives

- **Funding/Attendance/Experiences**

- Allow more than \$500 for non-U.S. Travel Grant recipients
- Create a new travel grant program for non-U.S. (repeat) attendees
- Better advertise travel grant programs through SIGCSE chapters
- Investigate alternative modes of “attendance” with lower costs
- Continue and expand the SIGCSE Symposium “buddy” program, piloted in 2020, expanded for 2021 to include all attendees (not just non-U.S.) ✓

# Improving Symposium engagement

- **Recognition/Awards**

- Endorse awards for non-U.S. participation
  - Best multi-national paper
  - Best global perspective

- **Other ideas**

- What do you think would help?
- **Join us at the 2021 Special Event (pre-Symposium) *Improving Geographic Diversity at the SIGCSE Technical Symposium***
  - Register during Symposium registration process.
  - **Free, with all Symposium registrations!**
  - Two sessions – each the same but different participants (you pick one that works best for you)
    - Thursday, March 11 @ 8:00am-12:00pm (ET) and 8:00pm-12:00am (ET)
  - <http://sigcse2021.sigcse.org/schedule/specialevents/>