

Report of the 14th International Young Geomorphologists Workshop, Online, October 29-30, 2020

This year, the annual meeting of the German Young Geomorphologists (YG) went into the virtual space. Two days of online meeting hosted a group of 65 German and international guests from undergraduate, graduate, PhD students as well as postdocs from more than 30 different institutions located in 12 different countries. The number of international YG's was higher than in previous years. All participants contributed to an inspiring diverse program of scientific contributions on various geomorphological topics. Furthermore, reports from other young geomorphologists groups around the world emphasized the importance of internationalization of early-career scientists. The focus was two-fold: on the one hand, we focussed on presentation and discussion of own research in the form of normal talks or spotlight talks and, on the other hand, we addressed social aspects in academia by our keynote on Thursday evening and a new crowd-solving session on Friday morning.

The program consisted of five mixed blocks of talks and spotlights, an open debate on social aspects in academia, the crowd-solving session on social aspects in academia, and the workshop “Graphic design is not rock(et) science” (see Appendix 1). The sessions for oral presentations and spotlights were organized as follows:

Session I: “Erosion – Landforms and processes and rates” featuring talks by Gerald Raab (University of Zurich), Katharina Wetterauer (GFZ Potsdam), Emma Lodes (GFZ Potsdam), and Elisabeth Schönfeldt (University of Potsdam).

Session II: “Geomorphologists looking beyond the horizon” featuring one spotlight by Anne Voigtländer (GFZ Potsdam) and one talk by Mohamed En-Nasiry (Ibn Zohr University, Agadir, Morocco).

Session III: “Lacustrine archives” featuring two talks by Luis-Rodrigo Martinez-Abarca (UNAM, Mexico) and Johannes Hoppenbrock (TU Brunswick) and one spotlight by Ruth Glebe (TU Brunswick).

Session IV: “Say hello to young Geomorphologists from around the world” featuring two contributions from Renée Grundling (Southern African Young Geomorphologists) and Cerrone Ciro (Italian Young Geomorphologists).

Session V: “Fluvial/Water impacts on different scales” featuring one spotlight by Andreas Ruby (University of Trier) and five talks by Ghosh Kausik (Vidyasagar University, India), Sayantan Das (Dum Dum Motijheel College, affiliated under West Bengal State University, Kolkata, India), Florian Betz (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), Shobhit Singh (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur), and Lopamudra Roy (Pakua-hat Degree College, affiliated under University of Gour Banga, West Bengal, India).



Proceedings

The virtual conference started with a “get to know each other”-game by randomly splitting the participants into small breakout groups with the task to introduce themselves and find something in common. Subsequently, the first four scientific sessions took place covering diverse aspects of geomorphological research. Even though it was online, the audience raised many questions. This resulted in very fruitful discussions during Thursday afternoon. Prior to our keynote event, we learnt from other Young Geomorphologists groups from Italy and Southern Africa about e.g. how they deal with internationalization and how they support early-career scientists in their regions. As a response, the YG gave a short overview of their activities in the past year (e.g. evening event at the AK annual meeting in Cottbus). The YG introduced conference funding possibilities and awards from the German Working Group for Geomorphology (AK Geomorphologie), which are available to the YG members of the AK.

Based on last year's feedback, we organized an evening event that addressed social aspects in academia. We invited Dr. Margret Fuchs and Dr. Veit Nottebaum to share their thoughts on this often neglected but important topic. Funding, mobility, motivation, and family were highlighted key points. Personal experiences regarding funding varied most among the group ranging from “there is no need to worry” to “it is likely to experience ‘gaps’ of funding”. Participants advised to always have a plan B when it comes to funding. Mobility strongly depends on the personal situation. There seldom is a gold standard for a career plan and, thus, it might be thoughtful to follow your heart rather than be pressured into mobility. This is especially true for people planning a family, possibly with a partner who is also working in science. It is always a decision between life and work that each person must make individually. Nonetheless, science can be considered as a playground for advancing scientific knowledge that serves society. Science provides the highest level of freedom to accomplish individualized complex tasks with passion. These circumstances are often the source of motivation to stay in science since these conditions are hard to find outside of academia. Despite the motivation that science can

generate, insecure time-limited contracts are common for early-career scientists and might be triggers to leave academia.

Friday began with the last scientific session on fluvial / water impacts on different scales. For the following crowd-solving session on social aspects, the participants were split into breakout groups based on their preferred topic. They opted for 1) general problems in early careers, 2) social aspects in academia, or 3) supporting YGs. The outcomes of each group are briefly summarized below.

The “general problems”-group discussed issues such as “how important are connections for job applications” or “how to achieve equality and respect between early-career and established scientists”. Experiences showed that, besides having a good network, also individual skills lead to advances in one's academic career. Working groups often look for new perspectives, persons with different skills, and new backgrounds. General advice included a proactive attitude, taking initiative, and being involved in teams and subjects you are interested in.

The second group discussed “social issues in academia” such as how to handle conflicts, mobbing, or bossing. If conflicts arise, the group suggested to go to a higher level, involving PhD councils or Mentorship programs. Following the open debate, the group discussed mobility as a necessity of furthering your career and resulting family issues. Possible solutions included options of multiple shorter stays abroad or being affiliated with a foreign institute but working largely from home. Scientific output was seen as more important to recruitment processes than mobility. Finally, the group discussed the difference between contract and ‘real’ working hours, as well as working on weekends. Most participants work/worked more hours than their contract demands/demanded, especially during their PhD studies. The group agreed that it was necessary to balance work and leisure time (through time off on the weekends or by sprint-working with more leisure time after a longer period of work).

The third group “supporting YGs” focussed on the questions “where to find scientific positions” and





“how to be visible in the network”. After a short discussion about which social media platforms can be used to make your science visible, the members collected a helpful list of links. This list includes links to internet pages of different mailing lists, institutions and organisations that are publishing e.g. job / internship offers, opportunities for fieldwork or exchange, tips on academic CV writing, and various grant and funding opportunities (Appendix 2).

Workshop

On Friday afternoon, a workshop on “Graphic Design is not Rock(et) Science” was held by Dorothee Post for a total of 13 participants. She explained that skills and knowledge in graphic design can substantially improve your visibility and comprehensibility of your work. The different steps in creating a graphic (knowledge of the audience, rough sketching to the first design on a computer) as well as the different elements of graphic design (lines, shapes, colours, size, texture, white space, as well as typography and composition) were covered. There was also an introduction to different websites that support creation of own graphic designs (e.g. Adobe Color Wheel, Colors.co or toptal.com/designers/colorfilter). The participants brought up the issue of colour blindness with different tools, which can help your graphic to be accessible to colour-blind people as well (e.g. ColorOracle, wearecolorblind.com). Furthermore, there is the chance to receive individual feedback on a self-made graphic by Dorothee Post after the workshop.

General Points

The first annual online-meeting of the German YG’s was a great success. The online format provided the opportunity for more international participation from all over the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, South America). This was demonstrated by participant from institutes located in 12 different countries, a doubling compared to last year. Nevertheless, without a physical presence, the social interactions and networking between participants was more difficult.

The board of the German YG has postponed planning next year's annual meeting to early 2021. Based on the COVID-19 situation, the board will decide when

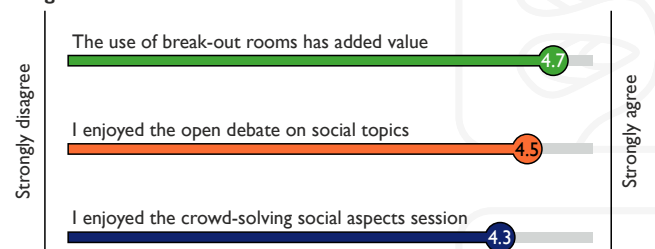
and how the YG annual meeting will take place in 2021.

The YG board is thankful for the financial support of the AK Geomorphologie for making the graphical design workshop affordable for young scientists. This year, the online conference was free of charge and technically hosted by Jörn Profe (Justus-Liebig-University Gießen). We also thank Simon Meyer-Heintze (University of Würzburg) for handling participant communication. We would like to specially thank Dr. Margret Fuchs and Dr. Veit Nottebaum for sharing their experiences in the open debate. Finally, we thank Dorothee Post for running the workshop on graphic design.

Feedback

At the end of the virtual YG meeting, we asked the participants to give feedback in a prepared Mentimeter Questionnaire. During the meeting, we discussed the ad-hoc Mentimeter results and asked for additional feedback. After the meeting, the Mentimeter remained open for a couple of days to give participants the opportunity for further comments. In total, we received about 25 responses. Below we provide the Mentimeter output with short explanations.

Program items

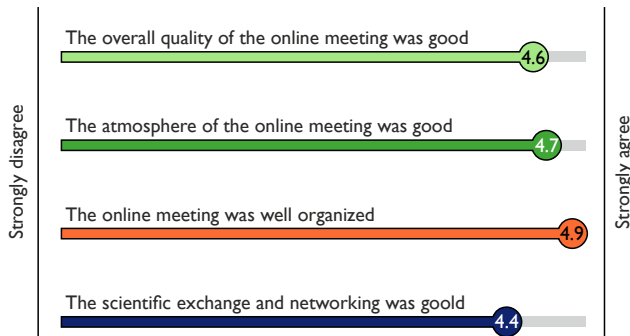


The participants gave positive general feedback on the meeting. The overall quality was good, and the online meeting was well organized. Although it was an online meeting, the participants enjoyed the atmosphere and the scientific exchange. Even networking was rated relatively good.



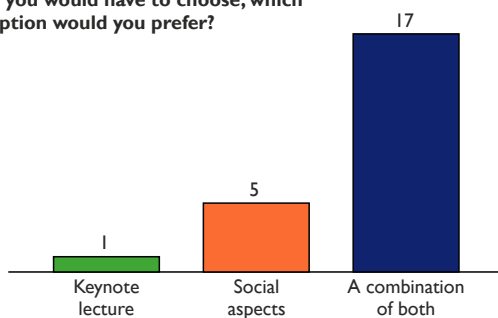


Please give your opinion



This year, we included 3 new program items: the use of break-out rooms, an open debate on social topics, and a crowd-solving session. All these new program items were rated positively, especially the break-out rooms.

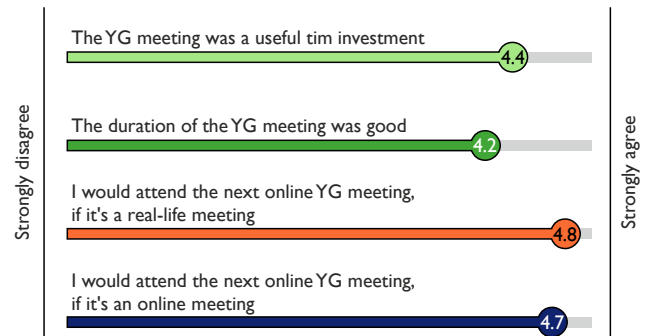
If you would have to choose, which option would you prefer?



As discussing social aspects was a new program item in this year's meeting, we asked whether the participants would prefer the usual keynote lecture by a senior scientist, or to keep the social aspects discussion. The majority expressed their preference for a combination of both options.

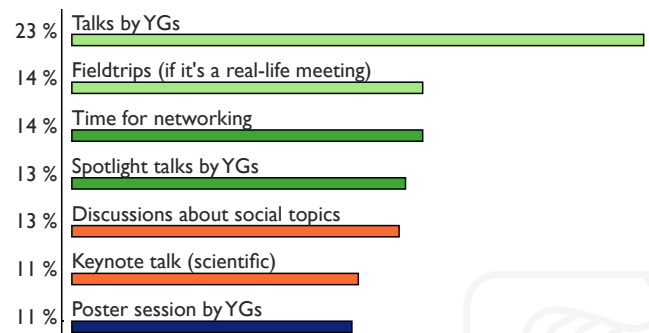
Most participants rated the YG meeting a useful time investment; they would attend next year's meeting again, even if it took place as another online edition. The duration of the meeting was okay. A specific hint was given that it was good to split up the meeting in two half days and not 1 full day.

Please give your opinion



Finally, we asked the participants to divide the time (a total of 100%) over different program items. The suggested ideal program is dominated by scientific contributions from YG's, but should also include enough time for networking, a field trip, and discussions about social topics.

Division of program items



Open feedback (tips/suggestions/ideas for the next meeting)

- Include a block about methods in Geomorphology. If it is an online meeting, maybe different algorithms could be discussed.
- The program was not very well suited for very young (BSc./MSc.) students.
- The discussion on work-life balance (from 6 to 8 PM) was not well timed.
- Proposal writing and funding agencies would be an interesting topic.
- A field trip would be ideal, also suggested with a research question/specific project.
- Respect a family schedule, sessions should not be too long and end late at night.
- General workshops for early career scientists, e.g. how to present, how to handle questions, how to "behave" when networking, how to deal with pressure
- Give awards for best talks





Appendix I: program of the meeting



 PROGRAM


Note that all given times are UTC+1

Thursday, October 29th, 2020

13⁰⁰ Introduction and Games; Get to know the program and the group

 ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND SPOTLIGHTS

You have 15 minutes for your topic, so make your talk short and leave enough time for discussion!


 SPOTLIGHT: You have 15 minutes for your topic, your spotlight talk is limited to 5 minutes. Bring your research topic or problem to the point and have plenty of time for discussion and problem solving!

Session I: Erosion - Landforms and processes and rates Convener: Julian & Stefan

14⁰⁰ Gerald Raab (University of Zürich)
Can I interest you in TEA?

14¹⁵ Katharina Wetterauer (GFZ-Potsdam)
Alpine Headwall Erosion - First Insights from Cosmogenic ¹⁰Be in Supraglacial Debris

14³⁰ Emma Lodes (GFZ-Potsdam)
Stones, soils and streams: differential erosion rates and landscape evolution in Nahuelbuta National Park, south-central Chile

 14⁴⁵ Elisabeth Schönfeldt (University of Potsdam)
Mapping giant landslides in the Argentinian Andean foreland

 15⁰⁰ Short Break - Refill your coffee!

Session II: Geomorphologists looking beyond the horizon Convener: Mario, Steffi

 15¹⁵ Anne Voigtländer (GFZ-Potsdam)
“Science in the holy grail”

15³⁰ Mohamed En-Nasiry (Ibn Zohr University, Faculty of Sciences)
Conservation of geomorphologic sites in Imilchil area (central high atlas, Morocco)

Session III: Lacustrine archives Convener: Jörn, Johannes

15⁴⁵ Luis-Rodrigo Martinez-Abarca (UNAM)
Reconstructing lacustrine level variations of Lake Tzibaná (South Mexico) based on deltaic deposits

16⁰⁰ Johannes Hoppenbrock (IGeP TU Braunschweig)
Determination of Lake Sediment Thicknesses from Electric Resistivity Tomography Data

 16¹⁵ Ruth Glebe (IGeP TU Braunschweig)
Laboratory measurements of the spectral induced polarization of lacustrine sediments

Session IV: Say hello to young Geomorphologists from around the world Convener: Renee & Janek

 **16³⁰** Renée Grundling (Southern African Young Geomorphologists)
Introducing Southern African Young Geomorphologists (SAYG)

16⁴⁵ Cerrone Ciro (University of Naples Federico II)
An overview on the Italian Young Geomorphologists' Group activities in the International context

17⁰⁰ Introduction to topics of social aspects of academia

Convener: Renee

17⁴⁵-20⁰⁰ Keynote: Work-life balance discussion with Margret Fuchs and Veit Nottebaum

Convener: Mario & Johannes



Friday, October 30th, 2020

08⁰⁰ Introduction - Reminder of topics of social aspects of academia Convener: Steffi

Session V: Fluvial/Water impacts on different scales Convener: Steffi & Janek

 **08¹⁵** Andreas Ruby (University of Trier)
Experimental design of a measurement method for suffusion processes

08³⁰ Ghosh Kausik (Department of Geography, Vidyasagar University)
A new approach to quantify the impact of regulation on the channel braiding in the Himalayan River

08⁴⁵ Sayantan Das (Dum Dum Motijheel College, affiliated under West Bengal State University, Kolkata, India)
Anthropogeomorphology of the Lower Ganga Delta in India with Special Reference to the Hugli River System

09⁰⁰ Florian Betz (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)
Fluvial biogeomorphology by means of dense satellite time series

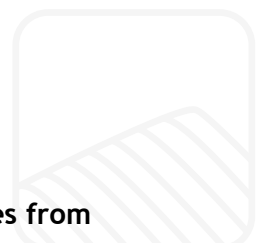
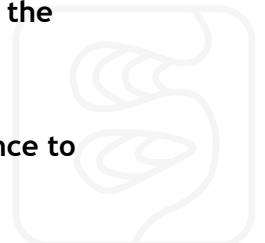
09¹⁵ Shobhit Singh (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur)
Morphodynamics and flood hazard assessment in the Tawi River using multi-criteria decision analysis

09³⁰ Lopamudra Roy (Pakuahat Degree College, affiliated under University of Gour Banga, West Bengal, India)
Tectonic controls on the Rangit River Basin, Eastern Himalayas, India: Inferences from DEM-derived longitudinal profiles

 **09⁴⁵ Short break - take a nap or get some fresh air!**

10⁰⁰ Crowd-solving Social aspects Convener: Renee & Julian

12⁰⁰-12³⁰ Farewell





And for those of you who registered...

WORKSHOP

Graphic design is not rock_(et) science

October 30th 2020, 13⁰⁰ - 17⁰⁰

14th Young Geomorphologists Meeting (Digital Edition)

Approaching design from a geomorphologist's view with a focus on communicating research.

What is the design thinking process?

How to plan my visual communication?

Which resources can I use?

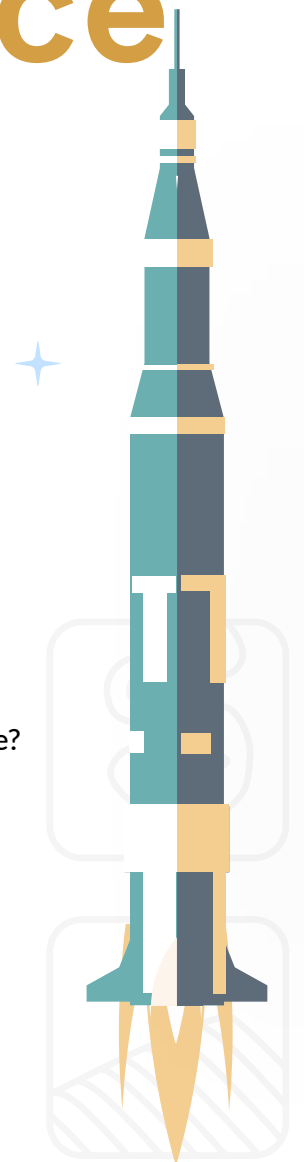
What are my common mistakes?

How can I train myself to get better over time?

What do you need?

Intention to improve your visual communication

Your best scientific Poster and/or presentation



CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

dorothee.post@t-online.de





Appendix 2: useful links to find positions or funding possibilities in the field of Geomorphology

Register for mailing lists:

<http://www.geomorph.org/iag-geomorph-list/>
<https://eps.berkeley.edu/gilbert/gilbert.htm>
<https://cryolist.org/>

Last and least (last sentence on the page):

<https://www.ak-geomorphologie.de/young-geomorphologists-activities-2020/>

Geo-focused: Jobs and funding possibilities

<http://www.geoboerse.org/>
<https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/promotion/phd/en/13306-phdgermany-database/>
<https://www.earthworks-jobs.com/>
<https://www.research-in-germany.org/en.html>
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

Overall scientific positions

<https://facultyvacancies.com/>
<https://physicaloxy.com/>
<https://www.universitypositions.eu/jobs/category/294,331>
<https://csdms.colorado.edu/wiki/Jobs>

Germany (non-scientific):

<https://www.greenjobs.de/>

USA/Canadian

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/mendenhall/research-opportunities>

<https://www.mitacs.ca/en/projects>

**We are not the first ones preparing such a list.
Thank you, Gerald!**

<https://www.geraldraab.com/links/>

Special options from different Universities:

Potsdam:

<https://matchingday2020.b2match.io/>

University of Bonn:

<https://www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/studying/during-your-studies/m.sc.-geography-of-environmental-risks-and-human-security/internship>

Other networking days:

<https://www.helmholtz-hida.de/en/activities/events/details/artikeldetail/helmholtz-virtual-data-science-career-day/>

Overview of all geographical working groups in German-speaking countries:

<https://geographie.de/arbeitskreise/>

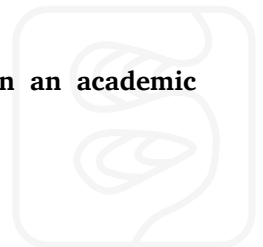
International Association of Geomorphology:

<http://www.geomorph.org/>

Other helpful ways to find jobs, internships or creating a network:

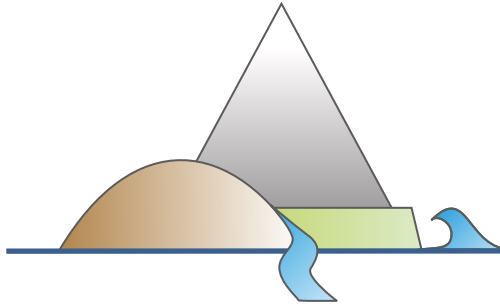
<https://www.researchgate.net/login>
<https://www.linkedin.com/>

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (on an academic way of course)





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