

IGU Commission Report: Geomorphology and Society

The IGU-IAG Joint Commission/Working Group 'Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present and Future' is currently a jointly organised IGU Commission/IAG Working Group. Following the precursor IGU Commissions on Geomorphology and Society as well as on Hazards Mitigation, and supported by ongoing discussions with respective IAG bodies such as the Working Group on Geo-archaeology, a joint IGU Commission/IAG Working Group was suggested. In 2017, both the IGU and the IAG agreed to establish such a Joint Commission/Working Group to give effect to the Memorandum of Understanding that both organisations signed at the 33rd IGC in Beijing in August 2016.

The Joint IGU-IAG Commission/Working Group was approved by IAG Council Meeting in November 2017 during their meeting in New Delhi, India, and with the new name in April 2018 in Vienna, Austria. IGU General Secretary Michael Meadows confirmed the acceptance by IGU in April 2018.

A. Membership

Since April 2018 the Joint IGU-IAG Commission/Working Group on Geomorphology and Society is newly structured and co-chaired by

- Margreth Keiler, University of Bern, Switzerland (margreth.keiler@giub.unibe.ch) and
- Sanja Faivre, University of Zagreb, Croatia (sfaivre@geog.pmf.hr).

The Secretary General is Sven Fuchs, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria (sven.fuchs@boku.ac.at).

The chairs and the Secretary General is supported by the current steering committee:

	Full name	Gender	Country	Institution	E-mail address
Chairperson	Margreth Keiler	Female	Switzerland	Institute of Geography, University of Bern	margreth.keiler@giub.unibe.ch
Joint chair	Sanja Faivre	Female	Croatia	Department of Geography, University of Zagreb	sfaivre@geog.pmf.hr
Secretary and Treasurer	Sven Fuchs	Male	Austria	Institute of Mountain Risk Engineering, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences	sven.fuchs@boku.ac.at
Steering committee member 1	Piotr Migoń	Male	Poland	Institute of Geography, University of Wrocław	piotr.migon@uwr.edu.pl
Steering committee member 2	Jiun-Chuan Lin	Male	Taiwan	Department of Geography, National Taiwan University	jclin@ntu.edu.tw
Steering committee member 3	Jonathan French	Male	UK	Department of Geography, University College London	j.french@ucl.ac.uk
Steering committee member 4	Yuichi S. Hayakawa	Male	Japan	Center for Spatial Information Science, The University of Tokyo	hayakawa@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Steering committee member 5	Werner Nel	Male	South Africa	Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Fort Hare	WNel@ufh.ac.za
Steering committee member 6	Olav Slaymaker	Male	Canada	Department of Geography, University of British Columbia	olav.slaymaker@ubc.ca

The list of the membership of the Joint IGU-IAG Commission/Working Group on Geomorphology and Society includes 42 international researchers from Austria, Mexico, Croatia, Serbia, Spain, Poland, UK, Japan, Taiwan, Switzerland, Germany, South Africa, Nigeria, France, Tajikistan, Canada and the USA. The members are informed by newsletters and the connected via the website <http://www.geomorphologyandsociety.info>.

B. Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, planned meetings had to be postponed by either the respective conference organisers and/or the IAG/IGU Joint Working Group. This included the originally foreseen session at the 34th International Geographical Congress in Istanbul (17-21 August 2020) on the “Co-production and evolution between geomorphological dynamics and human influence”.

A session proposed and approved for the EGU General Assembly 2020 was held in an online format, however, due to a limited number of participants this session was merged with another one.

The new session entitled:

Co-production and evolution in human-landscape interaction: from geoarchaeological records to geomorphological dynamics and human influence

Chairs: Julia Meister, André Kirchner, Guido Stefano Mariani, Kathleen Nicoll, Hans von Suchodoletz, Sanja Faivre, Sven Fuchs, Margreth Keiler

Documenting the diversity of human responses and adaptations to climate, landscapes, ecosystems, natural disasters and the changing natural resources availability in different regions of our planet, cross-disciplinary studies in human-landscape interaction provide valuable opportunities to learn from the past. This session is targeted at providing a platform for scientists with common interests in geomorphology and geoarchaeology and, in particular, the complex and integrated nature of the relationship between landforms, geomorphological processes and societies during the Anthropocene, and how this has developed over time at different spatial and temporal scales.

This session seeks related interdisciplinary papers and specific geomorphological or geoarchaeological case-studies that deploy various approaches and tools to address the reconstruction of former and present human-environmental interactions from the Palaeolithic period through the modern. Topics related to records of the Anthropocene from Earth and archaeological science perspectives are welcome. We are inviting contributions that focus on the two-way interactions between geomorphological processes/landforms and human activity. These should show how the various factors of the physical environment interact with the Anthroposphere, and, in turn, how population and individuals may affect (and change) these factors. Furthermore, contributions may include (but are not limited to) insights about how people have coped with environmental disasters or abrupt changes; defining sustainability thresholds for farming or resource exploitation; distinguishing the baseline natural and human contributions to environmental changes. In this context, topics of different fields may be addressed in the session such as landform evolution, landscape sensitivity and resilience in the overall context of the interrelation between geomorphology and society, geohazards, geoheritage and conservation, geomorphological responses to (and evidence for) environmental change, and applied geomorphology. Moreover, issues of scale and hierarchies may be addressed, and methods and applications of dynamic rather than equilibrium ideas and metaphors. Ultimately, we would like to understand how strategies of human resilience and innovation can inform our modern strategies for addressing the challenges of the emerging Anthropocene, a time frame dominated by human modulation of surface geomorphological processes and hydroclimate.

C. Networking

The current commission is the result of collaboration between the previous commission of Geomorphology and Society and the Hazard Mitigation commission, thus a well-established

exchange between the different commissions exist via different members. As already highlighted in the introduction section the IGU Commission 'Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present and Future' is currently jointly organized IGU Commission and IAG Working Group, therefore there is also a closely collaboration with the International Association of Geomorphologists.

D. Publications and Outreach

Activities did not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

E. Use of IAG funds

In 2020/21, IAG funds were not fully spent and available savings will be used in 2022. Expenses were only necessary for the web address and hosting of the website. Therefore, we will not claim any seed money for this fiscal year.