



International Association of Geomorphologists

Association Internationale des Géomorphologues

IAG/AIG Newsletter No. 28 (4/2012)

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Geomorphologists

I thank you all for your kind help and co-operation in enabling me to publish the newsletter on time. I request that you continue this co-operation in order that future issues of the newsletter continue to be published on time.

Sunil Kumar De

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1. Obituary

Prof Bernie Smith (1951-2012)



It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Prof Bernie Smith (Professor Emeritus, Queen's University Belfast) on 31st October 2012 at the age of 61 years. Bernie died peacefully at home after a long and debilitating illness and will be greatly missed by his family, friends and colleagues. Bernie described himself first and foremost as a Geographer who practiced Geomorphology in its broadest sense. He was proud to be a Geographer and in my many conversations with him over the years he was at pains to emphasize the unique nature of a discipline, which focuses on providing explanations of how the human and physical environments operate and the complexity of their interactions. He always felt privileged to be able to earn a living from his 'hobby', a 'hobby' which required him to travel the world and experience first-hand many of the planet's most impressive landscapes and the peoples that inhabited them.

Bernie graduated with his PhD from the University of Reading in 1975 and relocated to Nigeria with Dorothy his wife, where he taught in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. On his return to the UK Bernie took up a lecturing position in Queen's University Belfast in 1979 and held the Chair in Tropical Geomorphology from 1998. Bernie continued in post up until illness necessitated his early retirement in 2011. Bernie supervised the launch of many geomorphological careers (my own included) with his thoughtful and generous PhD supervision and influenced the career decisions of many of the undergraduate students who came into contact with him. Bernie was an inspiring teacher who believed that it was essential for the future of geomorphology that all students and practitioners should have a thorough understanding of the history and development of the subject.

His research interests were wide and varied but were rooted in his love of hot deserts and tropical landscapes and his desire to better understand the processes that shape them. Whilst the interpretation and exploration of landscapes formed the central core of Bernie's career, his fascination with process studies and weathering processes in particular led him onto some of his most significant geomorphological work and establishment of the Weathering Research Group in the early 1990s in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's.

The focus of this group was on improving our understanding of stone weathering in both natural and built environments and resulted in Bernie's involvement with local conservation architects and the wider building conservation community in the UK, Europe and further afield. He really enjoyed this work because of the many wonderful historic and archaeological structures that it gave him access to. In the last decade or so, Bernie's core interest in landscape interpretation came back to the fore as he became increasingly involved with UNESCO initially through his advisory role for Northern Ireland's own World Heritage Site at the Giant's Causeway and then on a broader global stage as a world heritage evaluator.

Throughout his career Bernie's quiet advice has influenced so very many people in many different disciplines and he leaves a significant legacy of research and publications that will undoubtedly continue to influence the direction of future Geographical and Geomorphological research. He will be sorely missed.

Patricia A. Warke, Belfast, UK

2. Publications

- a. *Geomorphology in Spain*** (Published in the special issue of the Journal *Geomorphology*, Elsevier". This volume emanates from a meeting in honour of Mateo Gutiérrez, which was supported by the IAG).

The production of this special issue arose from a successful scientific meeting held in Zaragoza, Spain (September 8–9, 2011), under the theme Geomorphological Research in Spain. The main motivation of the event was to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contribution of Prof. Mateo Gutiérrez to the progress of Geomorphology in Spain, on the occasion of his transition to full-time research (Emeritus Professor). Mateo Gutiérrez (b. Burgos, 1941) was the Founding President of the Spanish Society of Geomorphology (1987) and led the organization of the Sixth International Conference of Geomorphology of Q1 the IAG (Zaragoza, 2005). With his enthusiasm and dedication, he has inspired and encouraged numerous geomorphologists, including eleven PhD students, most of them now working as professors or researchers in different universities and research institutions. In his prolific career, he has published more than 200 contributions, including a large number of papers dealing with a wide variety of topics, as well as numerous geological maps. Probably, the most relevant tangible contributions of Mateo Gutiérrez include the editorship of the book *Geomorfología de España* (Gutiérrez, 1994), and the authorship of the books *Climatic Geomorphology* (Gutiérrez, 2001, 2005) and *Geomorfología* (Gutiérrez, 2008). An expanded version of the latter, widely regarded as the reference Geomorphology textbook for Spanish-speakers, will be shortly published in English by Balkema (Gutiérrez, 2013). Since 2011 Mateo has been Emeritus Professor at the University of Zaragoza, Spain.

The meeting Geomorphological Research in Spain was attended by around 65 participants, including several geomorphologists from Great Britain. The opening lecture was presented by Prof. Adrian Harvey, who illustrated Mateo's contributions through some major themes for the Geomorphology of Spain. This stimulating keynote was followed by 40 oral presentations covering a wide geographical and thematic canvas. The second day was devoted to a field trip in Calatayud Graben, Iberian Chain, an area where Mateo has conducted extensive research. Here, we examined a seismogenic Quaternary fault and evidence of evaporite dissolution-induced subsidence, including severe structural damage in Calatayud city. Based on the presentations and the scope of the special issue, selected authors were invited to contribute to this special issue, which includes 18 articles out of the 28 initial submissions. In our opinion, this collection of papers illustrates the great potential of Spanish geomorphology to provide lessons and develop methodologies applicable in other regions of the globe.

Francisco Gutiérrez, Adrian Harvey, José María García-Ruiz, Pablo Silva, Antonio Cendrero (*Editors*)

3. IAG/AIG Working Group Report

IAG- Working Group on Geoarchaeology. International Conference held in Smolensk (Russia) August 20-24, 2012

The international conference "Geomorphic Processes and Geoarchaeology: from Landscape Archaeology to Archaeotourism" was held in Smolensk (Russia) on August 20-24, 2012. The conference, hosted by the Smolensk University of Humanities, was organized by the Russian Association of Geomorphologists in association with the IAG/AIG Working Group on Geoarchaeology. Co-organizers were the Moscow State University (History and Geography Faculties), the State Historical Museum (Moscow), the Russian Academy of Sciences – Institute of Geography and Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Moscow) and the State Hermitage Museum (Sankt-Petersburg). Patronage was given by the Terrestrial Process Commission of INQUA. Financial sponsorship by the Administration of the Smolensk Region and from the A.I.Shkadov Foundation permitted to keep the conference fee at low level, which stimulated wide attendance from Russia as well as from abroad, including a large number of graduate students, PhD students and young researchers. Out of about 90 conference participants, about 40 people came from abroad representing 13 countries: Poland (12), Germany (6), Italy (4), Iran (4), Kazakhstan (3), Turkey (2), Belgium (1), Byelorussia (1), France (1), Mexico (1), the Netherlands (1), Ukraine (1) and Vietnam (1).



The conference aimed at bringing together specialists of different disciplines interested in the geomorphic and palaeoenvironmental aspects of archaeological studies, risk assessment and protection of archaeological sites and archaeological materials against environmental hazards of different nature (geomorphological, hydrological, pedological), and putting archaeological heritage into the public domain.

The first two days were devoted to oral and poster contributions that were grouped into four sessions: (1) Human dimensions of Quaternary palaeoenvironments, (2) Local palaeoenvironments at archaeological sites, (3) Alluvial geoarchaeology, palaeohydrology and paleopedology, (4) Preservation of geoarchaeological monuments, geotourism and archaeotourism.

During the last two days field trips were organized. The field trip of the third day was devoted to complex studies of the widely known ancient settlement of Gnezdovo, an archaeological site located on the Early Medieval trade route "from Varyangians to the Greeks". The location of the settlement on a low terrace and floodplain of the Dnjeper River makes it interesting not only for archaeologists, but also for Earth Science specialists of a wide range of disciplines, including fluvial geomorphology, palaeohydrology, palaeopedology and Late Quaternary and Holocene landscape development. Optional excursions of this day included visiting the Katyn memorial complex and selected cultural places in the city of Smolensk. On the last day, there were two options for fieldtrips. A larger group visited the Serteyka archaeological micro-region in the Western Dvina River basin, some 100 km north from Smolensk which contains Neolithic sites, pileworks of the Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements. A smaller group visited the Talashkino historical and art reservation, a notable cultural center between 1890 and 1910 in the vicinity of Smolensk.

Field trip Guides and the Extended Abstracts Volume can be downloaded from the conference website at <http://geoarch2012.narod2.ru/>. The Conference Proceedings will be published in the *Quaternary International* journal, Special Issue "Human dimensions of Quaternary palaeoenvironments", and in a Special Issue of *Geo-Archeologia*, the journal of the Italian Geoarchaeological Association (by courtesy of the IGA Chairman prof. F. Angelelli).

Andrey Panin, RuAG, Secretary. **Maria Bronnikova**, IUSS- Paleopedology Commission. **Morgan De Dapper**, IAG/AIG Secretary General and Honorary President of the IAG-Working Group on Geoarchaeology.

4. Young Geomorphologists Section

i. Report from the IAG/AIG grant holders who participated the IAG/AIG International Workshop on Objective Geomorphological Representation Models: Breaking through a New Geomorphological Mapping Frontier, Salerno - Italy, 15-19 October 2012

We would like to use the first paragraph of our report to thank the institutions that granted us for attending the IAG/AIG International Workshop: "Objective Geomorphological Representation Models: Breaking Through a New Geomorphological Mapping Frontier", that was held in Salerno (Italy), October 15 – 19, 2012. These institutions are the International Association of Geomorphology (IAG/AIG), the University of Salerno and the National Park of Cilento & Vallo di Diano. In addition, the workshop provided another key element: the opportunity to attend an Intensive Course on GIS-based Geomorphological Mapping, which was held also in October from 12 to 15.

During the aforementioned intensive course, we visited the Licosa Cape study area accompanied by Prof. Domenico Guida and Alessio Valente. They explained us the whole conceptual geomorphological evolution model for that area and tried to make us think about the cartographical translation of the model, from the classical system to a completely new mapping system. It was a real challenge for us, because we had to change our classical knowledge and concepts on geomorphological mapping, integrating-translating traditional symbols and landforms to full-coverage cartography. During the geomorphological mapping lab day we did a hard work to complete different steps: 1) integration of geological-geomorphological map, 2) from symbol-based to full-covered map, 3) from full-covered to grid-based maps and 4) from grid-based to object-based map. The final resulting map was later presented as a poster as well as orally during the Workshop. Therefore, we would also like to thank the organizing committee that supported and helped us,

mainly Vincenzo Siervo, Vincenzo Palmieri, Eva Pescatore, Giandomenico Fubelli, Antonello Cestari and Albina Cuomo.

Throughout the workshop we had the opportunity to enjoy high quality talks and presentations; we mainly remember some of the keynote speakers: Tagashi Oguchi talked about classic and modern geomorphological mapping, Mike Smith presented a talk about the quantification of landforms, Lothar Schrott introduced the new challenges in field based studies, Lucian Dragut talked about segmentation of landforms and last but not least Paolo Paron raised some crucial questions concerning modern methods of geomorphological mapping. We also appreciated the relaxed environment and the discussions that took place during the Workshop. Furthermore, we think that one of the best personal experiences was to share those days amongst us, the granted young geomorphologists. In fact, we keep in touch weekly and although our research lines or interests are quite different (tectonics, geomorphological mapping, geomorphosites or soil erosion) we expect to work together in the near future. Certainly, there are always some other things to highlight if you visit Italy: landscapes, monuments, people and of course the excellent Italian cuisine. In all these former aspects our experience was great. Finally, we would like to encourage IAG and other Scientific or Public Institutions to provide support for young geomorphologists all over the world, especially in these difficult moments, when funds and budgets for research are getting lower and lower. Therefore, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the grants we have been awarded for the workshop. We were thrilled to learn of our selection for this honor and we are deeply appreciative of your generous support.

Álvaro Gómez-Gutiérrez (IAG Grant Holder), **George Deligiannakis and Konstatinos Tsanakas** (University of Salerno Grant Holders), **Alessia Pica** (National Park of Cilento & Vallo di Diano Grant Holder)

ii. CALL for IAG/AIG GRANTS for the 8th International Conference on Geomorphology on “Geomorphology and sustainability” Paris, France, 27-31 August 2013

The International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG) offers a number of grants for YOUNG GEOMORPHOLOGISTS (under 35 yrs old) who are willing to take part in the 8th *International Conference on Geomorphology* (Paris, France, 27-31 August 2012). The grants are offered to Young Geomorphologists from:

- less-favoured countries worldwide (with a Purchasing Power Parity below **16,000** international dollars, according to the World Development Indicators database, World Bank, revised 27 September 2012 – for details see <http://databank.worldbank.org/databank/download/GNIPC.pdf>)

The funds allocated are 12,000 euros from the IAG/AIG plus 1000 euros from the French Geomorphology Group (GFG). In recognition of the outstanding research carried out by the French geomorphologist Jean Tricart (1920-2003) in Latin America, Africa and Asia, one of the grant holders from these regions will be designated as the *Tricart Scholar*.

The 8th IAG Conference on Geomorphology will be on the theme “Geomorphology and sustainability”. The Conference will provide a venue for geomorphologists working in all branches of the discipline to present their own work, to hear the work of others, and to interact with colleagues from around the globe. Open to all scientists and practitioners, this Conference will include 28 scientific sessions, 5 keynote lectures, one Workshop devoted to Young Geomorphologists, and one “Forum Francophone”, where contributions will be presented in French, the second official language of IAG. Conference sessions will cover the major traditional themes in Geomorphology with a strong emphasis on Anthropocene Geomorphology, together with new and developing fields such as Extreme events in Geomorphology, Submarine geomorphology, Stone deterioration and conservation, or Geomorphosites.

The Conference is being hosted by the Groupe Français de Géomorphologie (GFG, or French Group of Geomorphology). Associated with the Conference there will be about 20 field trips before, during and after the main event in Paris.

For further information on the Conference, please visit the IAG/AIG website <http://www.geomorph.org/> and the Conference website <http://www.geomorphology-iag-paris2013.com>

The IAG/AIG is willing to help Young Geomorphologists to attend to the Conference by providing a financial support. The amount of the grants will depend on the applicant's place of residence and estimated financial need. Applicants should have a special interest and research experience in the themes of the Conference, to be proved by their CV.

Candidates for GRANTS are requested to submit the following documents **before 20 January 2013**:

- Application form (see below)
- Copy of valid passport or identity card
- Short CV (maximum 2 pages long), including up to 10 papers related to the Conference themes
- Abstract submitted (or to be submitted) to the Conference.

The above mentioned documents should be submitted to Mauro Soldati at grants@geomorph.org.

The selection of candidates will be carried out by a Commission appointed by the IAG/AIG Executive Committee. For further information on the IAG/AIG Grants, feel free to contact the IAG/AIG Training Officer.

Mauro Soldati, IAG/AIG Training Officer

5. Appeal from the Chairs of the 8th International Conference on Geomorphology

Dear colleagues,

Thank you very much for the large and enthusiastic response we have received from all over the world for our 8th International Conference on Geomorphology, Paris, August 27-31, 2013.

The program of sessions will be available shortly. The conveners have now finalized the program of oral presentations according to the time slot allotted to each session.

We kindly remind you that the deadline for early bird registration is on March 31st, 2013. Fees will be raised on April 1st, 2013 - <http://www.geomorphology-iag-paris2013.com/en> or <http://www.geomorph.org>

Note that your abstract (either oral or poster) will be definitely programmed once you have registered. Looking forward to meeting you in Late August this year.

Monique Fort and Marie-Françoise André (Co-chairs, Scientific Committee);
Stéphane Costa (Chair, Organizing Committee)

6. Upcoming Seminars/Conferences/Workshops/Training Programmes

i. United States of America

Southeast Friends of the Pleistocene 2013. South Mountain, Pennsylvania. April 5-7, 2013

The Southeast Friends of the Pleistocene will meet April 5-7, 2013 to examine the record of periglacial activity ~90 km south of the glacial border on South Mountain in south-central PA. During the trip we shall examine the effects of the charcoal-making for the iron industry on 18th and 19th century forests, and historic valley-bottom sediments affected by iron-making and mill-damming. **Leaders:** *Dorothy Merritts* (Dorothy.merritts@fandm.edu) and *Robert Walter* (Robert.Walter@fandm.edu) (Franklin and Marshall College), and *Noel Potter* (pottner@dickinson.edu) (Dickinson College, retired), with assists being arranged from several others.

ii. United Kingdom

Symposium on Problems of Small Estuaries, 8-11 April 2013, Swansea University, Wales, UK

The 2013 Symposium, co-hosted by the ECSA and SEACAMS, will focus on understanding what has changed in 40 years. How much more do we understand about the dynamics of small estuaries and coastal waters, and how have research needs changed? The symposium will showcase research developments in estuaries and coastal environments, we welcome the submission of abstracts concerning estuaries large or small.

Abstract submission and registration is open. For further information, please visit our symposium webpage: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/seacams/symposiumontheproblemsofsmallestestuaries/>.

iii. Italy

The final Conference of the MAPPA Project is going to be organized jointly by the Dipartimento di Civiltà e Forme del sapere, Dipartimento di Matematica and Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra of the Università di Pisa during June 13-14, 2013 at Pisa, Italy. The focal theme of the conference is "OPENING THE PAST 2013. ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FUTURE". For further information and first circular please contact: *Francesca Anichini* (f.anichini@arch.unipi.it)

iv. Italy

The *IAEG XII CONGRESS* which will be hosted in Torino (Italy) from 15 to 19 September 2014. We would like to invite you to submit abstracts to the session **1.15 "Slope dynamics and its control in a climate change scenario"**. For details about the Congress and abstract submission please visit the website: <http://www.iaeg2014.com/call-for-abstract>. *Mauro Rossi, Dino Torri, Jean Poesen*.

v. United Kingdom

COASTAL CLIFFS AND LAKE BLUFFS SYMPOSIUM 2013.

We are pleased to announce an international symposium exploring the conservation, management and restoration of coastal cliffs and lake bluffs. Understanding the significance of these areas and their management requirements in the face of human exploitation and the impact of climate change is a major challenge. In order to identify the status, issues and management requirements of these areas a symposium is organized.

For information about booking attendance to this event please visit www.hope.ac.uk/cliffs or email cliffs@hope.ac.uk

Editor's Note

The success of the IAG/AIG Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. On behalf of IAG/AIG, I would request you to assist us by supplying information related to the forthcoming activities and innovations in geomorphology in your respective countries (commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Your contributions should be forwarded to the IAG/AIG Publications Officer.

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