

Report on the International Workshop on Martian Gullies and their Earth  
Analogues, 20-21 June 2016  
The Geological Society, Burlington House, London, UK  
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I am extremely thankful to the International Association of Geomorphologists for supplying me with a travel grant that allowed me to attend the Martian Gullies Workshop in London on 20-21 June, 2016 at The Geological Society in Burlington House. This workshop was critically important to anyone who studies gullies on Mars, as it was a unique confluence of experts in many related fields, including terrestrial geologists, geomorphologists, and glaciologists, as well as experts in martian geology, climate, and gully monitoring. In addition, the last such conference was held in 2008, and the current models of gully formation and modification have been significantly updated over the past eight years. This workshop strove to present the current thinking on the nature and diversity of martian gullies, as well as the driving forces behind gully formation and modification.

The distinct but related backgrounds of the various members allowed for in-depth and rigorous discussions about all aspects of the martian gully system which would otherwise not have been possible with a less academically diverse audience. While the workshop was only two days, the various sessions included discussions about water-related processes, CO<sub>2</sub>-related processes, laboratory and field experiments, computational models, and Earth analogues, among others. In addition there were scheduled discussion periods each day, where the topics of discussion covered such diverse issues as the formal definition of a martian gully, given the observed diversity in gully morphology on Mars; the possibility of CO<sub>2</sub> as a major erosive agent in gully systems; and whether Earth analogue studies are still useful. Given the various viewpoints of the workshop attendees these discussions were both fruitful and educational, and which I found important as a young scientist.

This workshop was particularly interesting for me to attend as an American, as it was the first scientific conference I have attended in Europe. As the field of planetary science becomes increasingly globalized and international cooperation and collaboration is increasingly facilitated, it is crucial to become better acquainted with the major scientists in Europe, as well as the young scientists and fellow graduate students who have expertise in similar fields. Creating and maintaining professional relationships with a diverse field of scientists is crucial to becoming a successful professional and ensures that the best possible science is being performed. By attending this workshop I was able to meet and develop relationships with several experts from across Europe in a variety of fields, many whom I had never met.

The opportunity to present my research at this workshop allowed me to showcase my work to those who do not frequent American conferences, and likewise I was able to learn about research being performed outside of the United States. The most valuable experience one can have as a graduate student is the opportunity to present one's own work and discuss it on an advanced level with other experts in the field. This workshop allowed me to do just this in an environment with which I was formerly unfamiliar. With the help of the IAG travel grant I now have established contacts with top scientists throughout Europe, and I have a much deeper understanding of the nuance and diversity of martian gullies. In addition, I am more confident in my ability to present my research and represent my university on an international scale.