

11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP2016) and the Young Researchers Workshop,

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Report of the 11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP2016) and the Young Researchers Workshop

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Prior to the conference the two days Young Researchers Workshop was organized on best suited topics for early career scientists. The most useful lectures and breakout sessions for me were "How to get published in scientific journals", "How to prepare for and present at conference", Perspectives on careers in academia and also working outside academia. During these sessions we gain knowledge and suggestions how to organize and prepare every step for disseminating our work both at conferences and also for publishing. We received tips how to simplify and clearly write our papers with real examples about what is and isn't good in articles. Also now I have a clear idea of how the peer-reviewed journals works and all the steps that your paper follows until it get published.

A 'junior' and a 'senior' professor explained all the "obstacles" that you have to pass in a scientific career giving us their own experience, and explained us the key aspects to succeed in this field. Also we get an example from a young scientist how to switch from academia to public sector and reverse, keeping your research interests. Another interesting and very technical session was the one about "Permafrost modeling" were we get a broad overview of all the models used and an update of the newest approaches.

The 11th ICOP2016 proofed to be an inspired environment for me with a lot of high quality research. This conference offered me a general outlook on the global view of permafrost and periglacial processes, giving me the opportunity to see the newest approaches about this topic. I found interesting to see how many studies are assigned to permafrost carbon cycle, permafrost modeling and permafrost engineering. Also the periglacial geomorphology session gathered the largest number of scientific works. This was the session on which I presented my work during the poster session. Presenting my thesis results to a worldwide community of experts which are studying the same topic as me provided a consistent and useful feedback that helped to understand more clearly my data and to improve the interpretations. Presenting my work in the framework of an international conference increased my visibility also through the appreciations for my short video presentation about my research (FrostByte) which has been chosen as the second best FrostByte.

Attending to the local excursion "Natural & Cultural Heritage of Potsdam by Bike" gave me the opportunity to see the glacial, periglacial and postglacial landforms and deposits in a different environment than the alpine one on which I am more familiar. Participating to this conferences was the best circumstance to met again some outstanding professors and researchers that I know before and to extend my network with new contacts. I met also a lot of PhD students from all around the world and with different research approaches related to permafrost studies, which led to interesting and fruitful discussions.

All the experience during the conference and workshop contributed to my personal development and to my perception about these processes, giving me new ideas and improved my knowledge on these topics. For making this happen I would like to give my gratitude to International Association of Geomorphologists for the travel support.