

## Report on the BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop 2017

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### Introduction

The British Society for Geomorphology post-graduate training workshop is dedicated to PhD students in geomorphology, mostly in their first year of study. The audience was very cosmopolitan: among the 23 participants, at least 10 of us were of foreign nationality (Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Netherlands and Nigeria) and 3 were studying outside of the UK (Italy, Austria and Switzerland). The workshop focused on non-technical subjects.



*Photography of the BSG workshop 2017 participants.*

### The organizers

The organizers were Tom Coulthard, Brian Whaley, Tony Parsons, Lucy Clarke, Dave Favis-Mortlock and Paul Farres. We also had a talk from Steve Darby, Joshua Ahmed and Heather Viles.

### Content

This workshop offered a clearer understanding of the unspoken rules of the academic world. It went through topics as different as scientific philosophy, ethics, PhD planning, fieldwork preparation, experimental design, publication process, social media in academia, future career development, university grading, modelling and basic programming.



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The talk on publication process was given by Heather Viles who is an associate editor of the *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* journal. She gave us tips on how to maximize the publication chances, on peer review, contribution acknowledgment and talked about the q-r theory of papers (Ellison, 2002).

We had to plan a false PhD in groups (field trip, articles, ethics, PhD administrative deadlines, alternative solutions - plan B, data collection). We then did it for our own PhD, and presented it to our peers.

Lucy Clarke gave us an overview of the remote networking methods (Researchgate, LinkedIn, Twitter, Blogs, Facebook, Google Scholar), some tips on library sharing (Mendeley, Google Scholar link, ORCID ID), publishing rights and the new UK department grading - REF (Research Excellence Framework), TEF (Teaching), KEF (Knowledge Exchange).

The intense time-schedule was balanced by a very comfortable environment and delicious food. We had the opportunity to network during the coffee and unmissable tea times. The surrounding was especially royal and I witnessed some very good specimens of British accent and humor.

## **Conclusion**

I really enjoyed this workshop, which provided me a better overview of geomorphological subjects. I got feedback on my first PhD plan draft and learnt a great deal about social media, publishing, planning and science philosophy. I got to befriend 22 other students in the same field. This workshop gave me a lot to reflect upon, and I still have to put into practice all the advices I received.

## **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank the IAG association for giving me the opportunity to attend such an interesting workshop.