

The European Meeting of Young Geomorphologists

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Report

Aleksandra Osika

Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland aosika1@us.edu.pl

As a PhD student working on the Holocene glacier history of S Spitsbergen, I was looking forward to the European Young Geomorphologists Meeting in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc on June 9–11, 2023, such an iconic place for geomorphologists and glaciologists. Participating in the Meeting was an amazing experience with an extensive background of interdisciplinary studies into landscape evolution, climate change, and glacial and periglacial geomorphology of the Mont Blanc Massif. The Meeting was attended by participants from 12 countries, which allowed discussing and sharing ideas on different subjects of geomorphology and geochronology.

The first part of the European Young Geomorphologists Meeting was a conference in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc on June 9 with three thematic sessions: "Dynamics of glacial and periglacial environments", "Geoheritage and geodiversity" and "Methodological advances to innovative case studies". The well-prepared and inspiring presentations led to vibrant and friendly discussions during the event. I had the opportunity to present the results of my PhD project in a presentation "Holocene glacial history of S Svalbard: geochronological evidence and numerical modeling", which was the first talk of the "Dynamics of glacial and periglacial environments" session (Fig. 1). I received very positive feedback and numerous questions about Svalbard glaciers and climatic conditions in the last 12,000 years.

The following two-day excursion in the Mont Blanc Massif was well-organized and widened my perspective on this area's geomorphology and glacial history. During the first field trip, we visited Gorges de l'Arveyron and Montenvers with Mer de Glace. We learned about the fluctuations of Mer the Glace since the Little Ice Age (LIA) and floods in the Arveyron Valley. On Montenvers, with the view of vanishing Mer de Glace, we discussed the perception of the consequences of ongoing climate change by different types of visitors and the problems of the adaptation of tourism to the decay of this iconic glacier (Fig. 2). During the second day of excursion and the last day of the Meeting, we visited the Ferret Valey with the view of the glaciers on the Italian side of the Mont Blanc Massif (Figs. 3, 4, 5). We also discussed the dynamics of rock glaciers (e.g., Miage Glacier) and slope processes in this area (DSGSDs, landslides, rock avalanches). The view of the glaciers hidden between steep walls and peaks and contrasting with the rich vegetation in the valley provided an unforgettable experience. At the same time, their current extent on the scale of LIA maxima brought reflection on how sensitive they are to climate change and how long we can enjoy them.

Participation in the European Young Geomorphologist Meeting was scientifically and socially fruitful. It widened my horizons on the glacial history of the Alps, which I will be able to compare



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with my study area, south Spitsbergen. The Meeting allowed me to establish new scientific contacts and broaden my knowledge of geomorphology, especially glacial and paraglacial geomorphology. I sincerely acknowledge the Organizers of the Meeting. I also thank the IAG for considering my application for the IAG Grant, which supported my participation.



Fig. 1. IAG grant holder, Aleksandra Osika, giving presentation about the glacial history of S Svalbard.



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Fig. 2. Mer de Glace with trimline from the Little Ice Age. On the right is the Montenvers train station.



Fig. 3. The Brenva Glacier in Val Veny. In the background, the three lobes of the Miage Glacier.



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Fig. 4. Glaciers of the Grandes Jorasses.



Fig. 5. Pré de Bar glacier in the upper part of the Ferret Valley with a LIA moraine from 1818.