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The Permafrost Young Research Network (PYRN) Workshop at the 6th European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP 2023)

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Report

Maïke Offer

Chair of Landslide Research, Technical University of Munich, Germany
Maïke.offer@tum.de

Thanks to the IAG grant, I had the incredible opportunity to participate at the European Conference on Permafrost from 18th to 22nd June 2023 which was held in the picturesque village of Puigcerdà nestled in the Spanish Pyrenees. The conference focused on permafrost research, engineering, and outreach at global and regional levels. After enduring an extended period of online meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was truly exhilarating to finally meet and engage in face-to-face discussions with fellow researchers. The conference provided a much-needed platform for exchanging ideas, sharing insights, and fostering collaborations in the field of permafrost studies.

The weekend before the main conference started, I had the chance to join the one-day PYRN (permafrost young researchers network) workshop.

The day started with an inspiring talk from the leader of the arctic coastal erosion research group and Professor Hugues Lantuit with the topic of “*growing old in permafrost research*”. In his presentation, he explored the evolution and advancements in permafrost research, as well as the clashes and interactions it encounters with established paradigms and networks. Through this exploration, he aimed to demonstrate that the divide between the younger generation and older generations may not be as straightforward as it appears.

Adam Kirkwood later shared valuable insights on designing slides and delivering presentations at conferences, which will prove immensely beneficial as I embark on my future career. These tips will greatly assist me in creating impactful slides and delivering engaging talks.

During the subsequent session block, Dr. McKenzie Kuhn offered a biogeochemical viewpoint on the consequences of climate change on Arctic freshwaters, considering different spatial scales and



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methodological approaches. Her research shed light on the intricate dynamics of this ecosystem and its response to environmental changes. Observing Dr. McKenzie Kuhn's utilization of a wide range of field techniques, data synthesis, and statistical modeling during her research has served as a great inspiration for my own work. Witnessing the effectiveness and impact of such comprehensive approaches has motivated me to adopt similar methodologies in my own endeavors.

During Dr. Daniel Draebing's presentation on periglacial processes in alpine rockwalls, a comprehensive review of model periglacial processes was conducted. The model results were then compared to measurements of rockfall activity and erosion, aiming to reassess the significance of periglacial processes in hazard generation and landscape evolution. His work provided valuable insights for understanding the dynamics of alpine environments and their implications for hazard assessment and management.

In the subsequent presentation, Professor Julia Bock addressed the numerous challenges associated with fieldwork. Drawing from her own 25 years of experience, she shared insights into both the logistical and scientific hurdles encountered in the field. Moreover, she delved into the personal obstacles faced during such endeavors and emphasized the importance of prioritizing our well-being. Her emotionally inspiring talk left a lasting impression, and I will undoubtedly remember her advice and draw upon it when planning my own future fieldwork.

The professional segment of the workshop concluded with a session led by Assistant Professor Birgit Wild, who provided valuable guidance on writing successful papers related to permafrost topics, specifically targeting early career scientists. Her presentation delved into key strategies and best practices for structuring and communicating research findings effectively in the form of scientific papers. By addressing the specific challenges faced by early career researchers, Birgit Wild equipped us with the necessary tools and insights to enhance their academic writing skills and increase their chances of publishing impactful papers in the field of permafrost research.

In addition to the valuable scientific input, the event provided plenty opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange during coffee breaks, lunch, ice breaker, and dinner party. These informal settings allowed participants to connect with and gain insights from other researchers who were in similar stages of their careers. The event fostered a supportive environment that encouraged collaboration, and the exchange of ideas. I am already eagerly anticipating the next PYRN meeting, and I wholeheartedly encourage other early career researchers to participate in this remarkable event.



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The PYRN workshop served as an ideal start to the main conference, encompassing action group meetings, opening ceremony, plenary lectures, oral presentations, posters and the local excursion.



Figure 1: Opening ceremony with a show of castellers (A), keynote speak from professor Hugues Lantuit (B), and expressions from the local excursion in Puigpedrós-Perafita (C).