International Association of Geomorphologists

11th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology

Christchurch, New Zealand, 2–6 February 2026

and

ICG2026 Young Geomorphologists Training Program

"Methods for assessing geomorphic processes and change"

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Report

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It was my pleasure and a privilege to attend the *11th International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG 2026)* in Christchurch, Aotearoa/New Zealand including the *Young Geomorphologists Training Program* as an early career researcher (ECR) award recipient. ICG is a quadrennial international conference and in my 9 years of being immersed in glacial geomorphology research, this was my first time ever attending an IAG conference – to me, it was like a homecoming.

As a first-year postdoctoral researcher (fresh out of my PhD), this conference has rejuvenated and refreshed my passion for science research and geomorphology like never before. I was lucky to have two presentations: an oral and a poster presentation (more details below; **Figures 3 and 4**). From the *Young Geomorphologists Training Program* events throughout the week, to the diverse range of speakers, conversations, and official IAG proceedings, it was a very impactful and an unforgettable learning experience indeed, located in the most fitting and unbeatable place to study geomorphology.

Figure 1. *A panoramic sunrise view on top of a ridge adjacent to the Mueller Hut at Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park.*

My journey to Aotearoa/New Zealand started a few days before ICG 2026. In fact, I had purposely planned to arrive a few days before the conference hoping that I could see one of the most world-renowned glacier geomorphology landscapes in the world: Aoraki/Mt. Cook (**Figure 1**). To prepare for this "breath-taking" hike, I made a connection prior to the conference with one of the main organizers Dr. Sam McColl where he mentioned that it is *"well worth it if the weather is good, because the views are stunning"*. To my coincidence, Dr. Sam McColl was also a geomorphologist that had authored many papers that I have read and cited during my undergraduate studies when I was doing my thesis on glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and he did part of his PhD at Mt. Cook and has continued to work there. He shared one of his publications with me regarding a large, active rock slope failure on the western side of the ridge, and while hiking, I was keen on finding this slope failure with my trained geomorphologist eye.

On Day 1 of ICG 2026, I hit the ground running as both my oral and poster presentations were scheduled for that afternoon and evening, respectively. One of my favourite parts of the day, was a plenary talk from Dr. Dan Hikuroa on *'Be a good ancestor' – an approach to weaving indigenous knowledge and geomorphology* (**Figure 2**). It was enlightening to see such similar values and parallels to Canadian indigenous efforts and initiatives regarding Indigenous science collaborations and partnerships. As I work closely with indigenous Inuit communities in the Canadian Arctic for my postdoctoral research, I found Dr. Hikuroa's talk to be insightful having taken lots of notes and inspiration to apply to my own work. This day was also one of the busiest for me as I had to present my oral presentation on the *Distribution and Surface Morphology of Debris-Covered Glaciers and the Latitude Dependent Mantle (LDM) in Phlegra Montes, Mars* (**Figure 3**) as well as my poster presentation on *CanRoGI: Towards a National Rock Glacier Inventory in Canada as a Foundation for Geomorphic and InSAR-Based Analysis* (**Figure 4**), which both sparked many conversations with my peers, other glacial geomorphologists, and potential collaborators.

Figure 2. *Day 1 plenary talk on the main auditorium in the Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre by Dr. Dan Hikuroa on 'Be a good ancestor' – an approach to weaving indigenous knowledge and geomorphology*

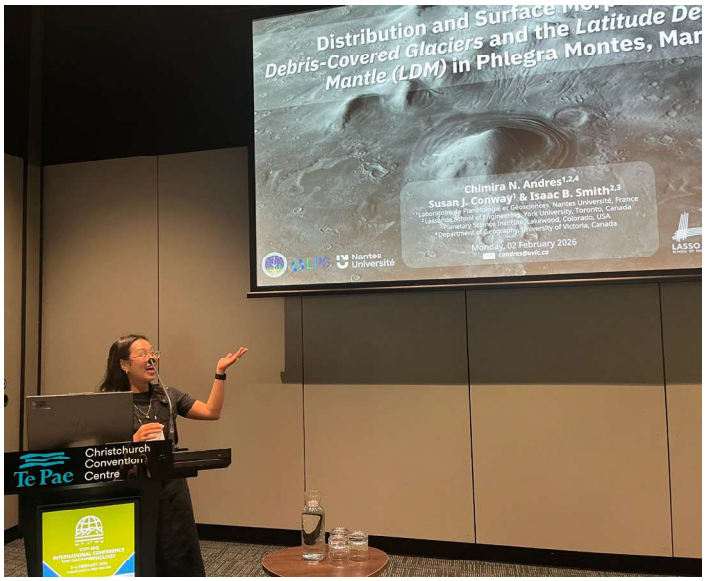

Figure 3. *My oral presentation on Distribution and Surface Morphology of Debris-Covered Glaciers and the Latitude Dependent Mantle (LDM) in Phlegra Montes, Mars.*

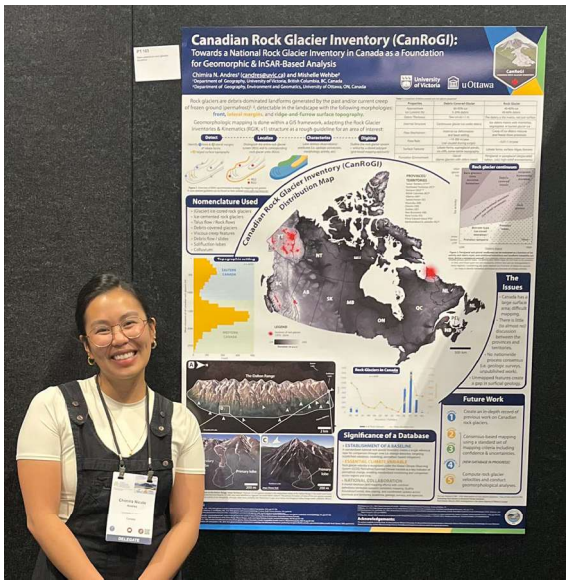

Figure 4. *My poster presentation on CanRoGI: Towards a National Rock Glacier Inventory in Canada as a Foundation for Geomorphic and InSAR-Based Analysis.*

The day was also filled with creating new networks and potential collaborations. The first of many instances for me, was meeting Dr. Kelsi Singer who is the Deputy Principal Investigator on NASA's New Horizons spacecraft mission to Pluto and the Kuiper belt (**Figure 5**). She and I discussed what could be the beginning of a fruitful possible collaboration looking at the dynamics and modelling approaches for glaciers on Pluto. The planetary geomorphology community is quite small and so, our session was filled with a community of researchers that I am lucky to be a part of. I was once told that *"to be a good planetary scientist, you probably have to be a good Earth scientist first since Earth is also a planet"* and this session really welcomed scientists who were not planetary geomorphologists as well who had similar interests but perhaps applied to Earth. During my talk, I had someone ask the provocative question *"how do you know that it is a glacier on Mars?"* and it made me pause and think about how to succinctly and accurately respond to this question from the perspective of an Earth scientist – something we planetary geomorphologists, need to do more often.

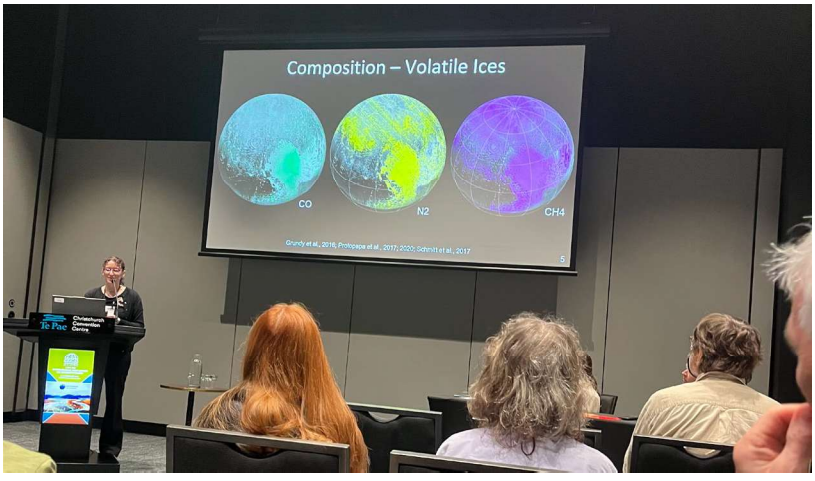

Figure 5. *Dr. Kelsi Singer's presentation on Pluto's Cryovolcanic Constructs – Icy Volcanism in the Distant Outer Solar System.*

One of my favourite events hosted by the *Young Geomorphologists Training Program* was the *Peer Review Workshop.* The Editor in Chief of JGR-Earth Surface, Dr. Ann Rowan, had explained how peer review works and the editorial process in the friendliest manner, and it was a great space to ask questions and receive a very eye-opening presentation with words of wisdom and advice regarding publishing and reviewing from the actual journal editors and other seasoned reviewers. As the week progressed, one of my most memorable connections and sessions attended was Dr. Colin Ballantyne's talk on *the Paraglacial geomorphology in the 21st Century: an overview* (**Figure 6**). This was scheduled in *the role of paraglacial processes in the evolution of glacial landscapes* session where I was simply in awe of one of my periglacial / paraglacial geomorphology idols, speaking about his life's work. I had the amazing opportunity to talk to him during our coffee breaks where he offered to chat about my research on Canadian rock glaciers as these landforms are quite a debated topic in literature at the moment. In attendance were other glacial geomorphologists that I have only had the pleasure of citing in my literature reviews and theses, which sparked discussions during the very lively Q&A.

Figure 6. *Dr. Colin Ballantyne's talk on the Paraglacial geomorphology in the 21st Century: an overview scheduled in the role of paraglacial processes in the evolution of glacial landscapes Thursday (Day 4) session.*

Figure 7. *(left) Weathered limestone boulders in Castle Hill (Kura Tāwhiti); (middle) A classic mince pie lunch paired with L&P; (right) Photo of a viewpoint in the Trig M Track overlooking Lake Lyndon, with views right over the Canterbury Plains.*

Aside from conference sessions and speakers, I was unfortunately not able to get a spot on the mid-conference field trips as they were full and quite popular. However, my colleagues and PhD supervisor, Dr. Susan Conway, and I were able to do our own impromptu field trip to Arthur's Pass, which was coincidentally also the destination of the *Mid-Conference Field Trip: Glacial Geomorphology of the Waimakariri Valley in Canterbury* (**Figure 7**). The end of the conference was bittersweet but motivating. I am left with new ideas, many pages of notes, and an expanded network in geomorphology. I was also lucky to be able to relay my interest in getting more involved with the IAG. For now, I leave ICG 2026 looking forward to my future research endeavors – without the IAG ECR grant, none of this would have been possible. Big thanks to the IAG and ICG organizing team!