



# International Association of Geomorphologists

## 11<sup>th</sup> 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”

Christchurch, New Zealand 30, January–7 February 2026

## Report

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February 2026 began with a major event bringing together geomorphologists from all over the world. From February 2–6, the 11th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology took place, in which I had the opportunity to participate thanks, among other things, to a grant awarded to me by the Young Geomorphologists Committee.

Planning a trip to New Zealand was not an easy task. The country is considered a geomorphological paradise, which translates into an incredibly diverse landscape and a wide range of geomorphological processes that can be observed on both islands. I therefore began my journey by marking dozens of locations on the map of the South Island that stood out in terms of opportunities to observe geomorphological landforms and processes. Based on these selected sites, I created a week-long route (approx. 2,300 km), ending in Christchurch, where the conference itself was held. In this way, I had the opportunity to visit places such as Fiordland National Park, the Kaitiki Boulders, Pancake Rocks, Arthur’s Pass, and the Tasman Glacier.



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*Fot. 1 Mt. Cook. Fot. Iwo Wieczorek*

This independent journey through selected geotourism attractions allowed me to experience and explore the country on my own, so that I could participate in the conference with a much greater awareness of the local culture and geomorphology. The conference was preceded by activities organized for Young Geomorphologists. One such activity was a field trip organized along State Highway 73, more widely known as “Arthur’s Pass.” During the trip, participants had the opportunity to observe a tectonic fault at Porter’s Pass, limestone outcrops in Castle Hill Village, the braided Waimakariri River, and an alluvial fan near Lake Pearson. The excursion concluded with a comprehensive analysis of terrain evolution related to a paleolandslide.



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*Fot. 2 Looking for landslide... Fot. Iwo Wieczorek*

Participating in the Pub Quiz was also very enjoyable, as attendees had the chance to tackle unconventional questions in geomorphology as well as in broader geography.

The conference itself offered an incredibly rich program divided into several thematic sessions, allowing participants to choose presentations of interest and attend them according to their own schedule. This gave me the opportunity to listen to various approaches from regions around the world concerning research on glacial lakes, the field in which I specialize. It is also worth mentioning that I had the chance not only to attend presentations showcasing groundbreaking and highly advanced research, but also to listen to several “Stars” of geomorphology, which I consider a very important experience.

On the second day of the conference, I presented the results of my research on glacial lakes in Svalbard. In my presentation entitled “Glacial Lake Outburst Floods of Svalbard: A Case Study of Isfjord,” I described the specificity of the research area, namely the Svalbard Archipelago, and highlighted the challenges faced by researchers studying glacial lakes in the broader Arctic region. Thanks to this presentation, I engaged in several interesting discussions that enabled me to exchange



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experiences with other researchers and gain a fresh perspective on my ongoing work. On the same day, I also participated in the Young Geomorphologists Peer Review Workshop and the Careers Evening – The World of Consulting & Networking Event. Both workshops were very well organized and provided me with valuable new experiences. The first focused on understanding how the peer review and editorial process works in academic journals, presenting the perspective of reviewers and editors. The second, by bringing together several specialists in environmental consulting, demonstrated the career opportunities available to people with a geomorphological background. Interestingly, it quickly became clear that challenges related to finding employment after environmental studies extend far beyond national borders.



*Fot. 3 During a presentation. Fot. Matt Strzelecki*

The conference sessions were interrupted by a one-day field trip (on the third day), during which participants traveled in various directions. Due to reaching the registration limit, I organized my own independent field excursion around Christchurch, including climbing Mt. Pleasant and visiting the Golden Head sea cliffs, where intense ocean erosion can be observed.



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*Fot. 4 Rock cliffs near Christchurch. Fot. Iwo Wieczorek*

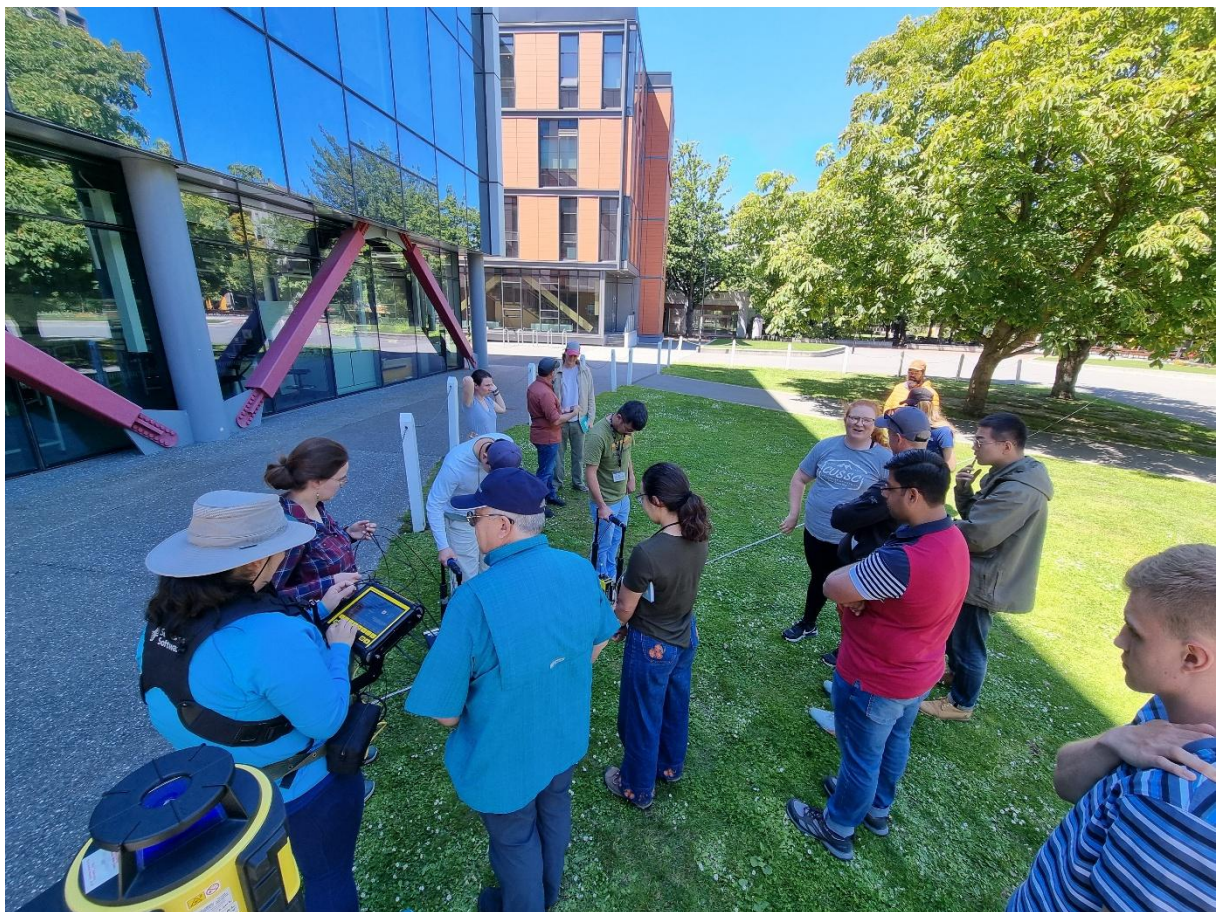
On the fourth day of the conference, in addition to attending thematic sessions, I took part in the workshop “Young Geomorphologist – Getting Published: How to Write and Publish a Journal Article.” Despite having some experience in publishing, the workshop proved to be very insightful, and the instructor effectively conveyed essential guidance on both planning publications and the writing process itself. We were presented with a structured framework that can serve as a foundation when working on publications, thereby facilitating the review process and maintaining proper text structure. That evening, I attended the conference gala dinner, where I shared a table with delegates from various countries. This provided an opportunity for more informal discussions about conducting research and the current situation regarding the development of different scientific institutions. The evening was further enriched by a performance from a Māori cultural group presenting traditional song and dance.



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On the final day of the conference, after the last thematic sessions concluded, the official closing ceremony took place, during which we were introduced to the newly elected IAG board and the location of the 12th edition of the conference.

The day after the conference ended, I participated in a full-day workshop dedicated to the use of ground-penetrating radar (GPR). This was particularly important for me, as I am currently working to incorporate this research method into my studies on the internal structures of moraines in Svalbard. The workshop was led by two highly experienced instructors who demonstrated extensive expertise in working with GPR and conveyed their knowledge in an excellent manner. The information gained and the insight into the technical aspects of GPR allowed me to better understand how to effectively use this equipment.

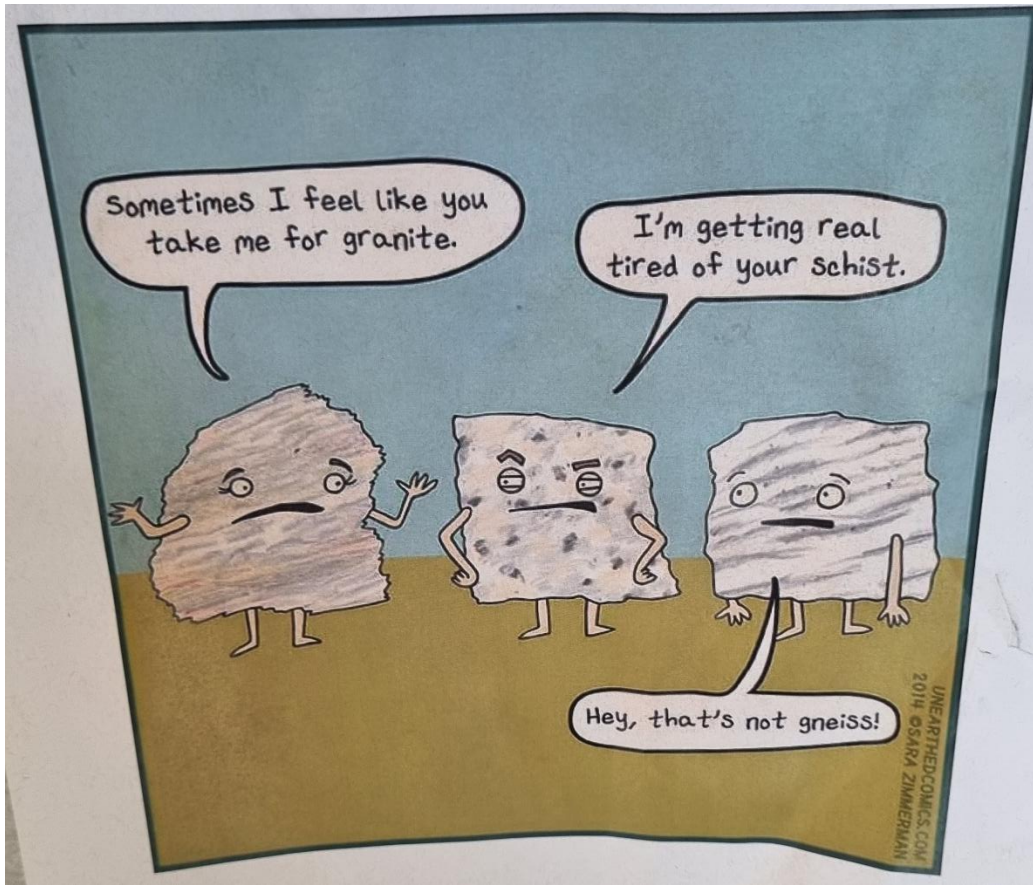


*Fot. 5 GPR workshops. Fot. Iwo Wieczorek*

I consider this to have been one of the best conferences in which I have actively participated. The location itself—New Zealand—added additional significance to the event and allowed me to better appreciate the role geomorphologists play around the world.



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Fot. 6 A bit of University of Canterbury hall humour...