



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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Summary: The conference included a pre-conference field trip, a mid-conference field trip, and a post-conference field trip. I planned to attend 2 workshops as well, but one (coastal bathymetry mapping) was cancelled and the other (geomorphic change detection) had a time conflict with the post-conference field trip. I presented two posters: one, “Employing ICESat-2 water depth measurements to estimate 2D bathymetry in mountain lakes”, on my work thus far at NASA which describes the challenges of applying ICESat-2 laser altimetry measurements of water depth to mountain lakes and presents a possible alternative approach based on other ICESat-2 data products, and the other, “The role of glacial lake outburst floods in incising Hellmobotn Canyon, Norway”, on previous work from my research fellowship at University of Bergen which presents the inferred formation process of a subglacially-incised bedrock canyon based on field mapping, exposure dating, and hydraulic modeling. Outcomes of this conference included getting valuable feedback on my in-progress work, making international contacts across different areas of geomorphology, ideas for new research questions and collaborations, improved knowledge of the cutting edge of methodology in geomorphology research methods I use in my work, and renewed enthusiasm for my research. I am exceedingly grateful to IAG and the Young Geomorphologists program for enabling me to attend the ICG and for making it a productive and unforgettable experience.

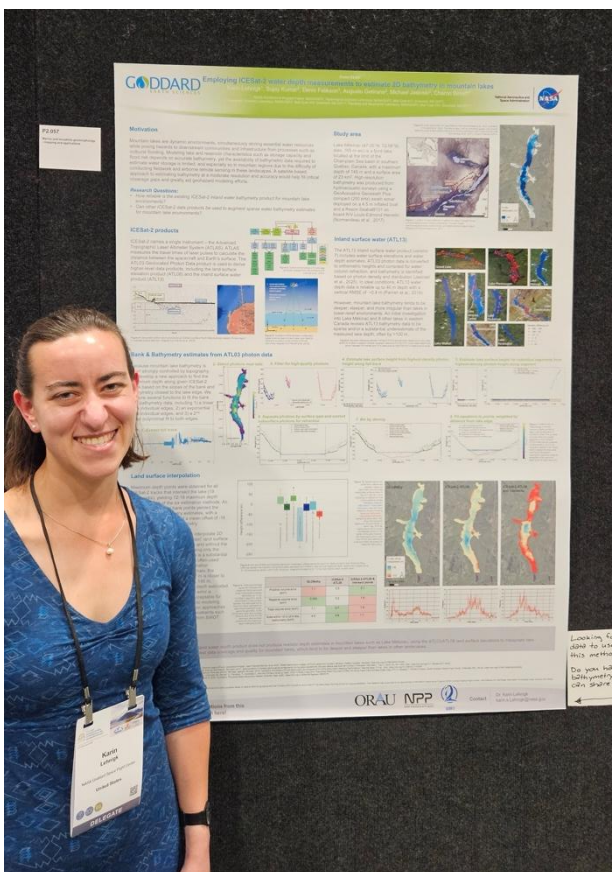


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Pre-conference field trip (Cass): This day trip took us from Christchurch to Arthur's Pass and back. Highlights included the Waimakariri River, limestone tors at Castle Rock, interesting relationships between landslides and paleosols, and Lake Pearson, an alluvial fan-bounded lake.

Figure 1. Discussing a fascinating instance of a landslide preserving the ancient soil profile on the YG pre-conference field trip.



Conference: I presented two posters and have many pages of notes from the dozens of presentations I attended. Highlights included the YG journal reviewing lunch panel, keynote talks both close to and far from my research focus, and the conference dinner with a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange.

Figure 2. Presenting my first of two posters on Day 2 of the conference, about issues with ICESat-2 bathymetric data in mountain lake environments.



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Mid-conference field trip (Engineering Geomorphology and Alpine Hazards Around Arthur's Pass, Southern Alps): This day trip took us from Christchurch to Otira and back. Highlights included learning about New Zealand's seismic hazard preparation initiatives, the Otira viaduct, and seeing more examples of lakes with unusual shapes and origins due to New Zealand's tectonic and glacial history.

Figure 3. Lake Pearson, a lake with an hourglass shape due to the alluvial fans of different compositions which surround it on all sides.

Post-conference field trip (Geomorphology of the New Zealand Southern Alps): This 6-day trip took us on a loop starting from Christchurch to Hokitika, down the west coast, south through the mountains to Queenstown, north through the mountains to Aoraki, and back east to Christchurch. Highlights included seeing even more examples of lakes with unusual shapes and origins due to New Zealand's tectonic and glacial history, viewing glaciers and getting a visceral sense for how rapidly they are retreating, and appreciating the many insights that can be obtained from studying soil.



Figure 4. The post-conference field trip group on Day 5 at Lake Pukaki, with a view of Aoraki/Mt. Cook in the background.