



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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I was fortunate to attend the 11th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology and the associated Young Geomorphologists Training Program in Christchurch, New Zealand. Due to the support made available via the IAG travel grant I received, I was able to connect with an incredible group of other early career geomorphologists from around the world, present my post-doctoral research and receive feedback on my work, and expand my understanding of field-based interpretations of post-glacial landscape evolution via the conference field trips. The conference was a transformative and deeply energizing experience for me that came at a critical time in my career where I work to establish my own professional network and build projects beyond my graduate and postdoctoral research.



Figure 1. Visiting a lake with multiple alluvial fans around its edge (left) and learning about gravel bed rivers (right) during the Cass Field Trip as part of the Young Geomorphologist program.



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My conference experience began with a field trip with other young geomorphologists to look at alluvial fans, post-glacial landscape evolution, gravel bed rivers, and soil development in the Cass region near Christchurch, New Zealand. We were able to meet and chat with each other during the drive and had an amazing day learning about the history and geomorphology of New Zealand. I was particularly excited to learn about post-glacial land sliding and alluvial fan formation in the region, as both these topics are relevant to my research interests.



Figure 2. Learning about soil forming processes and discussing soil horizons on the Cass field trip. The soil horizons formed adjacent to a landslide deposit and place timing constraints on post-glacial soil formation and more recent landslide events.

The day after the field trip, I attended a geomorphic change detection workshop run through the conference at the University of Canterbury campus. This was an exciting workshop for me because in my research I am interested in thinking about how modern climate is modifying alluvial fans in Arctic settings. Many of the tools and datatypes discussed in the workshop are directly relevant to my work as I begin to process DEMs of my field area and brainstorm ideas of how to apply these tools as I begin my postdoctoral research. I was particularly interested in their discussion of data acquisition for change detection, and we spent a lot of the workshop discussing ways to calculate error in your datasets and how to process change detection across heterogeneous landscapes.



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After the field trip and workshop, I was excited to finally attend the first official day of the conference on Monday. On the first day, I attended the conference opening with other young geomorphologists from the field trip and workshop and was excited to learn more about the geomorphic history of New Zealand through the keynote presentations. Later in the day, I presented my postdoctoral research and was able to receive a lot of helpful input on next steps for analysis of my dataset that I am already implementing in my research.

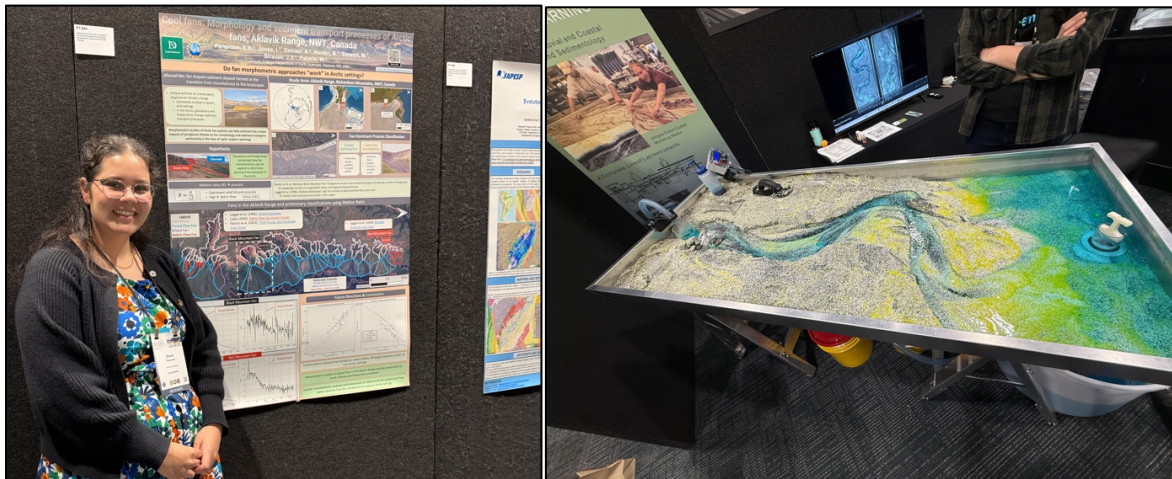


Figure 3. Presenting my postdoctoral research at the conference on Monday (left) and a very cool stream table in the conference hall (right). I had a great conversation with the representative working the stream table about inclusive pedagogy and ways to incorporate interactive lab activities, like working with stream tables, into both introductory and upper-level undergraduate courses. Part of my postdoctoral position includes teaching a course and I was excited to talk through ways to innovatively teach geomorphic concepts in my own classroom in the near future.

The rest of the week was busy with conference events, networking, and thinking about my research. I attended the careers night on Tuesday and learned about consulting and non-academic job tracks to consider as I conclude my postdoctoral position. I also was able to attend several of the young geomorphologist coffee breaks throughout the week where I caught up with the now familiar faces of other young geomorphologists at the conference and was able to learn about sessions I hadn't previously considered by chatting to them. The other young geomorphologists and I were able to establish a mini cohort throughout the conference and I'm excited to continue to collaborate and share my research with all the great up and coming geomorphologists I met at the conference going forward.

The main sessions I attended for the conference were focused on glacial and periglacial landscape evolution. I was very excited that there were several sessions devoted specifically to these themes, as larger meetings tend to only have a few talks on these topics, rather than entire sessions devoted to these topics. The talks I attended were an exciting mix of scientists whose work I had read and cited many times, to people I was interested in meeting in-person after reading their work, all the way to people I had never met but whose work I now plan to read more closely because of how relevant it seems to my ongoing research. I've attended several international conferences but was truly taken by how applicable and designed for collaboration this conference was compared to larger (and perhaps more impersonal) conferences I've attended.



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Figure 4. The closing session of the conference (left) and attending the ground penetrating radar workshop the day after the conference (right). I was able to help collect the data (that's me in the blue shirt!).

On the last day of the conference, I attended the closing ceremony where we heard about future meetings, with the next international meeting to come in 2030 in Italy. I am definitely very excited to attend this conference again because of how relevant and community-oriented it was and hope that my future scientific endeavors after my postdoc will make that possible.

The day after the conference concluded, I attended the ground penetrating radar (GPR) workshop, where we learned about how best to use GPR and ways to analyze the data. The workshop included a demo of a GPR survey where I got to be the person collecting the data (that's me in the photo above!). We then saw our data and discussed what it showed later during the workshop. The workshop conveners did a great job of showing us a huge range of settings where GPR has been used and what the data can look like, including fluvial terraces, lake sediments, and places with active faulting. I was excited to think about how to use this work in my research going forward and the conveners were able to collect and share all the attendee emails after the workshop so that we can stay in touch going forward.

Overall, the conference was an incredible experience that also happened to be in wonderful city that was seemingly designed for networking and discussing geomorphology. I spent many evenings with fellow young geomorphologists sitting on the banks of the river that runs through Christchurch talking about science, academic careers, and learning about academic work across the world. Aside from the science, it was also an amazing experience to meet people from around the world as the international geomorphic community came together and throughout the week, I heard talks on research taking place in Japan, India, New Zealand, Iceland, the United States, and so many countries in between. The range of techniques and scientific questions were simultaneously so broad that it was exciting to think about as I design science questions going forward but also so specified to geomorphology that they all felt applicable and invigorating for my current research interests. I am so grateful to have attended this workshop and to have been able to measurably expand my scientific skills through conference workshops and sessions and to have grown my professional network through young geomorphologists and other people I met from around the world throughout the week. I thank IAG for offering this program so that young scientists like me can benefit from the incredible geomorphic community and I look forward to one day being able to support future young geomorphologists as I continue to advance in my career.