

Postgraduate Conference Attendance Report – AGU Fall Meeting 2014, San Francisco

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The British Society for Geomorphology awarded me £750 to cover the costs of my attendance at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in San Francisco in December 2014. This report outlines my attendance at this conference and the value of the support provided by the BSG.

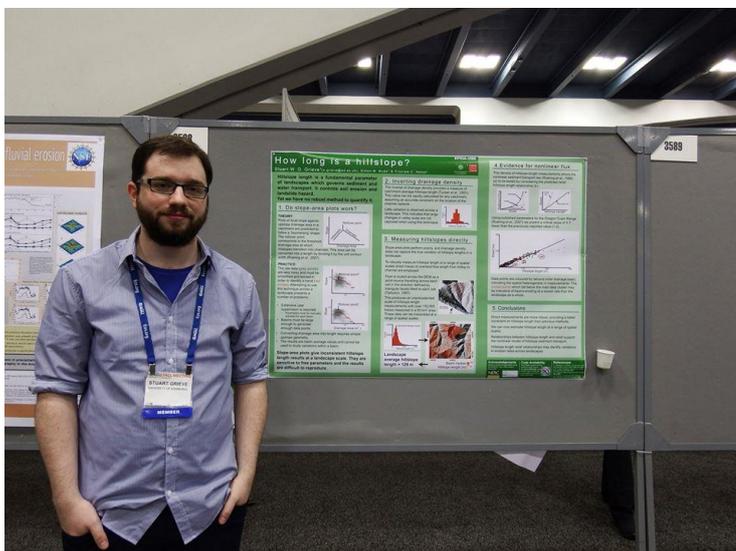
The AGU Fall meeting is the largest earth and space science conference in the world, with over 24,000 delegates and over 21,000 oral and poster presentations. It represents the best opportunity for young geomorphologists to present their research in front of a relevant, international audience while also providing the opportunity to learn about other related fields such as soil science, sedimentology, hydrology and informatics.

I presented a poster on the Friday afternoon in the General Contributions in Geomorphology poster session entitled "How long is a hillslope?" (abstract number EP53A-3588). My poster outlined my work to develop a new method of directly measuring the flow path of water across hillslopes, information which can be used to make predictions about the sediment flux law operating on the landscape. This data was provisional and presenting it in this session provided me with the opportunity to discuss these results with many people and from these discussions the final direction of my research has been greatly improved.

I also took part in the Outstanding Student Presentation Awards, which provided me with valuable written feedback from two academics on not only the scientific content of my research, but on my presentation style and the overall design of my poster. This feedback has been invaluable in helping me to improve my teaching and general presenting skills and has given me a clear idea of how to improve my presentation at the next conference I attend.

Aside from my own presentation I also had the opportunity to attend many exciting and inspiring talks across the full range of the Fall Meeting program. This allowed me to explore new areas of research and to gain new skills and insights which will have a direct benefit on the quality of my final PhD research. Aside from the normal geomorphology talks I gained a lot from attending the Earth and Space Science Informatics sessions, as these provided me with the latest research in computing and directly showed me how I can better utilise such resources in my own research.

I also attended the Gilbert Club meeting held following the AGU Fall Meeting at the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California Berkeley. Gilbert club is an informal meeting of geomorphologists which features keynote talks, discussions and short pop-up talks. Through this program I was able to hear a lot about the cutting edge research and ideas being worked on by many of the best scientists in the field. This also provided a more focused opportunity to get to know people in other departments which will be useful when looking for a job after completing my PhD.



Without the support of the BSG I would not have been able to attend the Fall Meeting, and I would like to thank the BSG for the postgraduate conference attendance grant. Attendance at the Fall Meeting has greatly improved the quality of my research and has provided me with valuable experience of an international conference.

Figure 1 My poster at the end of the conference.