

BSG PG Conference Attendance Grant: Attendance at 14th International Coastal Symposium; Sydney, Australia, 6-11 Mar 16.

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Overview

A PG Conference Attendance grant of £880 was kindly awarded by the British Society of Geomorphology for my attendance at the 14th International Coastal Symposium (ICS), held in Sydney, Australia over the period 6-11 Mar 16. The ICS brings together delegates from all over the world to collaborate and discuss the most current coastal research studies and projects. For this conference, 11 of the 18 sessions include elements of geomorphological processes.

It was important that I attended this conference for two main reasons; 1) The conference provided an excellent opportunity to meet and network with the most influential academics in the field of rip current research; and 2) My primary PhD supervisor had recently relocated to Sydney and this provided the first opportunity for a face to face meeting to discuss progress in almost a year.

Conference Outputs

I was accepted to give an oral presentation on an element of my research focussed on the creation of synthetic imagery of the coastal zone, in order to aim the automated detection of rip currents. Hitherto, automated detection of rip channels has not been possible, largely as a result of the 'noise' inherent in images of the coastal zone but this method reduces noise in the signal and is a significant step forward towards automation.

Additionally, the proceedings of the conference are published in a special issue of the Journal of Coastal Research. This has resulted in a short, peer-reviewed publication as a direct result of the grant enabling my attendance at the conference.

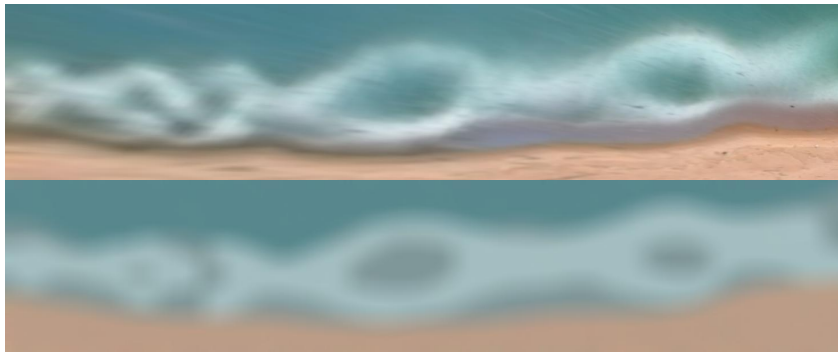


Figure 1. (Top) An original, rectified, time-lapse image taken from Tairua Beach, New Zealand. (Bottom) A corresponding synthetic image, created using the method of Pitman et al. (2016), presented at the conference.

Supervisory Meeting

The conference enabled me to meet two PhD project supervisors whom I usually am unable to meet face to face. We engaged in significant discussion around the current progress of the PhD, with this being a particularly critical time in the final stages of the PhD. The discussions greatly steered the direction, and have allowed me to plan a clear map to the end of my PhD.

Furthermore, the discussions significantly improved and revised a paper I am currently preparing for submission to Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. This paper focuses on the use of video imagery of rip currents to make inferences about the patterns of nearshore circulation. It also attempts to quantify the amount of risk a rip current may pose based on how it appears in the video image. After the conference, my PhD supervisor hosted me at Macquarie University where discussion on this paper continued, much improving the draft.

Use of funds

The award of £880 was used as follows; £320 was used for the conference registration fees and £560 was used to pay for the return airfares. A Research Training and Support Grant from the University of Southampton supported my subsistence at the conference.