

Project: COALESCE Recognising and enabling diverse research in geomorphology

Activity: Online Survey

Participant Information

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Name of researcher(s): Dr Annie Ockelford, Dr Ellie Highwood, Dr Catherine Souch, Professor Steve Rice

Invitation

You are being invited to participate in an online survey that will contribute to the COALESCE research project on career paths in geomorphology. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask us if you would like more information or if there is anything that you do not understand. We would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.

Thank you for reading this.

1. What is the purpose of the study?

The COALESCE project aims to analyse the career pathways and lived experiences of geomorphologists. We will explore the points at which people move between academic research and other sectors and identify barriers and opportunities. We are looking for leaks in the pipeline of geomorphologists moving between different research and professional environments. Our ultimate aim is to find out how best to increase, support and sustain a diverse geomorphology community within the broad research-innovation ecosystem.

2. What is the purpose of the online survey?

The online survey is one way of finding out the career aspirations of early career geomorphologists. We will also gather information on perceptions and lived experiences of working in different sectors – academia, industry, charities and the public sector.

3. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited because you are a member of the British Society for Geomorphology or Royal Geographical Society and have self-identified as a geomorphologist. You may be a geomorphologist who has an interesting career journey, someone who would you like to shape how the British Society for Geomorphology supports geomorphologists as they progress through their career or you would you like help and support in developing your own geomorphological career.

4. Do I have to take part?

Participation is voluntary and that participants are free to withdraw their participation at any time, without explanation, and without incurring a disadvantage. Everyone who gives their consent can take part in the project – there are no inclusion or exclusion criteria, although it is important that all participants have the capacity to understand and consent to taking part in the research. If you need any additional support to be able to participate fully in the activities, please let us know as we want to ensure that the activities are as inclusive as possible.

5. What will happen if I take part?

You'll be asked to fill in a short online form put together to capture your geomorphology career experiences to date and should take no longer than 5 minutes to fill in. No identifiable information will be included in the reporting. It will be followed by an optional opportunity for you to express your interest in taking part in the project further for example by taking part in focus groups or a one-to-one interview with Ellie from the project team.

We'll also give you the option of identifying your gender, ethnicity and disability status on a separate form – this is because there has been historical under-representation of communities sharing some of these characteristics and we want to ensure that we capture any particular barriers or opportunities for these groups. This information will be linked to your anonymised answers via an participation code number only. Participation in the survey is in no way linked to whether you provide any such information to us.

6. How will my data be used?

The University processes personal data as part of its research and teaching activities in accordance with the lawful basis of 'public task', and in accordance with the University's purpose of "advancing education, learning and research for the public benefit.

Under UK data protection legislation, the University acts as the Data Controller for personal data collected as part of the University's research. The Principal Investigator acts as the Data Processor for this study, and any queries relating to the handling of your personal data can be sent to Dr Annie Ockelford. Further information on how your data will be used can be found in the table below".

How will my data be collected?	Your data will be collected via an online form.
How will my data be stored?	All data will be anonymised and will be securely password protected and stored on the University IT systems (OneDrive).
How long will my data be stored for?	Anonymised data will be stored for up to 10 years.
What measures are in place to protect the security and confidentiality of my data?	Your identifiable personal information will only be used by the lead investigator. It will be fully anonymised before being used by the rest of the project team. Data files will be securely password protected and stored on the University IT systems (OneDrive).
Will my data be anonymised?	Yes, your data will be fully anonymised and the researchers will make sure that your name is not stored with their research data.
How will my data be used?	Your data will be anonymised and aggregated to explore participation and engagement for particular groups. Your anonymised data may also be used in the development future grant proposals and in conference papers and reports. If the results are to be published they will be available on the University's research repository. No individual will be identifiable in any report, presentation, or publication.
Who will have access to my data?	The project team will be the only ones with access to your data.
Will my data be archived for use in other research projects in the future?	We will keep your anonymised data within the University's research repository for 10 years in line with university policy, but the data will only be used by the project team.
How will my data be destroyed?	Hard copy data will be securely destroyed at the end of the 10 year period. Any electronic data (including audio

	recordings) will be deleted as soon as they have been transcribed and anonymised.
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7. Are there any risks in taking part?

There are no major risks to you taking part and you are free to not participate and to stop filling in and submitting the form at any point.

8. Are there any benefits in taking part?

Reflecting on your career and helping shape future support initiatives.

9. What will happen to the results of the study?

Your anonymised data may be used in the development of future grant proposals and within conference papers and reports. If the results are to be published they will be available on the University's research repository. No individual will be identifiable in any report, presentation, or publication. You can request a summary of the findings.

10. What will happen if I want to stop taking part?

After you have read this information and asked any questions you may have, if you are happy to participate we will ask you to complete an Informed Consent Form. However, if at any time, before or during filling in the online form you wish to stop you can simply close the survey and no answers will be saved.

11. What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting Annie Ockelford Email:a.ockelford@liverpool.ac.uk and we will try to help. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint which you feel you cannot come to us with then you should contact the Research Ethics and Integrity Office at ethics@liv.ac.uk. When contacting the Research Ethics and Integrity Office, please provide details of the name or description of the study (so that it can be identified), the researcher(s) involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.

The University strives to maintain the highest standards of rigour in the processing of your data. However, if you have any concerns about the way in which the University processes your personal data, it is important that you are aware of your right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office by calling 0303 123 1113.

12. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact the lead investigator; Annie Ockelford, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Liverpool, a.ockelford@liverpool.ac.uk, +44 (0)151 794 3058

Alternatively you can contact the facilitator: Ellie Highwood, Equasense. ellie@equasense.co.uk