



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Dr Elizabeth N. Orr
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20th April 2026

Re: Application for Research Secretary
British Society of Geomorphology (BSG)

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the role of Research Secretary on the BSG Executive Committee. This role offers a fantastic opportunity for me to contribute to the leadership and activities of BSG, which in several ways has been central in my development as an early career researcher. While fixed-term academic positions previously limited my involvement with BSG to attending annual meetings and events, my current role provides the stability and capacity for me to fully commit to this leadership position.

I would welcome the opportunity to help BSG support and advance research within the discipline while also guiding its future priorities. I believe I am well positioned for this role as my own research spans glacial, periglacial, and postglacial geomorphology, with a strong interest in interdisciplinary approaches that bridge traditional sub-disciplinary boundaries. As an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface*, I handle a diverse range of geomorphology submissions, providing me with a broad overview of current state-of-the-art research. My relevant experience also includes reviewing grant applications and providing proposal support for colleagues. Having personally benefited from BSG grants, I would value the opportunity to give back to the community in this capacity.

Beyond contributing to the BSG Executive Committee, I value the prospect of gaining professional experience within a major research organisation while further engaging with and expanding my network within this vibrant community. I would also bring enthusiasm, strong organisational and project management skills, and a collaborative, inclusive approach to leadership and teamwork.

Please find my CV attached for further details of my experience. I would be happy to provide any additional information if required.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth N. Orr

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Glacial geologist and geomorphologist with research focused on geohazards, environmental change and landscape evolution of mountain and glaciated regions.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer in Physical Geography <i>School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, UK</i>	March 2025–present
Lecturer in Physical Geography <i>Department of Geography, Durham University, UK</i>	Sept. 2022–Feb. 2025
Lecturer in Glaciology <i>School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, UK</i>	Feb. 2021–Sept. 2022
Postdoctoral Research Associate <i>Section 4.6: Geomorphology, German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ Potsdam)</i>	Jun. 2019–Feb. 2021

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Geology <i>Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati, USA</i>	2015–2019
Master of Science (MSc) in Quaternary Science <i>Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK</i>	2013–2014
Bachelor of Science (BSc, Hons) in Geography <i>School of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK</i>	2009–2013
Fellow (FHEA) of Advance HE	2022

PUBLICATIONS

Summary: 7 first author, 5 co-author papers in ISI journals, 1 first-author book chapter, 3 co-author papers under review, and 4 in preparation (1 first-author, 3 co-author). h-index: 8. Total citations: 298.

- Orr, E.N., Saha, S., Owen, L.A., Hammer, S.J., Caffee, M.W.** 2025. Reconstructing the glacial history of the Bhagirathi catchment in the Garhwal Himalaya from ~80ka to present. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 365, 109525.
- Orr, E.N., Schildgen, T., Tofelde, S., Wittman-Oelze, H., Alonso, R.**, 2024. Landscape response to tectonic deformation and cyclic climate change since ca. 800 ka in the southern Central Andes. *Earth Surface Dynamics*. 12(6), 1391-1413.
- Schildgen, T., van der Beek, P., D'Arcy, M., Roda-Boluda, D., **Orr, E.**, Wittman-Oelze, H., Sobel, E., 2022, Quantifying drainage-divide migration over geologic timescales: Aconquija Range, southern central Andes, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface*. 579, 117345
- Orr, E.N., Owen, L.A., Saha, S., Hammer, S.J., Caffee, M.W.**, 2021. Rockwall slope erosion of the northwestern Himalaya. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface*.
- Orr, E. N., Owen, L. A., Saha, S., Caffee, M.W.**, 2020. Climate-driven late Quaternary fan surface abandonment in the NW Himalaya. 'Ice-Age glaciers, water, and wind — Interdisciplinary Quaternary science round the world.' *GSA Special Paper* in honor of Stephen C. Porter, edit. Waitt, R., Thackray, G., Gillespie, A.
- Saha, S., Owen, L.A., **Orr, E.N.** and Caffee, M.W., 2020. A statistical and numerical modeling approach for spatiotemporal reconstruction of glaciations in the Central Asian mountains. *MethodsX*, 100820.
- Orr, E. N., Owen, L.A., Caffee, M.**, 2019. Rates of rockwall slope erosion of the upper Bhagirathi catchment, Garhwal, northern India. Special Issue: 'Geomorphic diversity of the Indian sub-continent: Progress and Updates. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. 44, 15, 3108-3127.

- Saha, S., Owen, L.A., **Orr, E.N.**, Caffee, M.W., 2019. High-frequency Holocene glacier fluctuations in the Himalaya and Tibet. *Quaternary Science Reviews*. 220, 372-400.
- Orr, E.N.**, Owen, L.A., Saha, S., Caffee, M.W., 2018. Quaternary glaciation of the Lato Massif, Zaskar Range of the NW Himalaya. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 183 (1), 140-156.
- Saha, S., Owen, L.A., **Orr, E.N.**, Caffee, M.W., 2018. Timing and nature of Holocene glacier advances at the northwestern end of the Himalayan-Tibetan orogen. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 187 (1), 177-202.
- Orr, E.N.**, Owen, L.A., Murari, M., Saha, S., Caffee, M., 2017, The timing and extent of Quaternary glaciation of Stok, northern Zaskar Range, Transhimalaya of northern India, *Geomorphology* 284, 142-155.
- Chang, X., Hou, M., Liu, X., **Orr, E. N.**, Deng, M., Chao, H., Wang, S., Xiao, C., 2017. Abundant microspherules from the Upper Ordovician of northern Tarim Basin, Northwest China: Origin and paleoenvironmental implications. *Geological Journal*.

Publications without peer-reviewed process

- Orr, E. N.**, 2017, Put safety first, *Nature* 551, 663- 665.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- Orr, E.N.**, 2025 (*invited talks*) From ice to mud and back again... Hutton Club Seminar, University of Edinburgh and Chair of Physical Geography Research Seminar, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany.
- Orr, E.N.**, Schildgen, T., Tofelde, S., Wittman-Oelze, H., Alonso, R., 2024 (*invited talk*) Landscape response to tectonic deformation and cyclic climate change since ca. 800 ka in the southern Central Andes. EGU 2024 General Assembly and 2023 BSG Annual Meeting.
- Orr, E.N.**, Oien, R., 2024, Exploring landscape persistence and erosion dynamics in mountain catchments: A morphometric approach in the Swiss Alps and Blue Ridge Mountains, USA, EGU 2024 General Assembly.
- Schildgen, T, **Orr, E.N.**, Niedermann. 2024. Redefining exposure-age estimates of 400-to 800-ka surfaces with ¹⁰Be, ²¹Ne, and additional geological constraints. EGU 2024 General Assembly.
- Orr, E.N.** Deciphering processes of mountain erosion using ¹⁰Be (*invited talk*). Earth Science Seminar, University of Bergen, Norway. Feb 2024.
- Orr, E. N.**, Fame, M., 2023. Exploring colluvial channel agency in mountain sediment transfer and erosion. GM3.1/14365. EGU General Assembly 2023.
- Orr, E.N.**, Schildgen, T., Tofelde, S., Wittman-Oelze, H., Alonso, R., 2023. Opening Pandora's Box for fluvial geomorphology: Reclassifying, redating and reinterpreting landforms. BSG/INQUA workshop: Geochronology in Paraglacial Geomorphology.

RECENT RESEARCH FUNDING

- Marie Cure** Postdoctoral Fellowship (£250,000). 'GLACIAL-GRIT'. (2025).
- Royal Society of Edinburgh** Small Grant (£5000). 'GLACIAL-GRIT' (2025-)
- British Society of Geomorphology (BSG)** Research Network Grants (£7500). Workshop organiser – 'Catastrophic Sediment Transport Events in the Andes'. Collaboration with University of Chile. (2023-)
- Durham University**, Department of Geography Research Development Fund (£2000, £2500). 'Colluvial channel agency in mountain sediment transfer and erosion, and implications for fluvial hazards' and 'Catastrophic sediment transport events in the Andes under a changing climate'. (2023-)
- INQUA Grant** (Stratigraphy and Chronology), (£6000). ECR workshop organiser- 'Challenges in paraglacial fluvial terrace geochronology'. Collaboration with Amherst College, North Carolina State University and University of St Andrews. (2023)
- British Society of Geomorphology (BSG)** Conference Sponsorship Grant (£500). ECR workshop organiser- 'Challenges in paraglacial fluvial terrace geochronology'. Collaboration with Amherst College, North Carolina State University and University of St Andrews. (2023)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh

2025–present

- Convenor for BSc (x1) modules; Lecturer for BSc modules (x2), field trips (x1).
- Dissertation supervisor for BSc (x7) students.
- Year 4 Cohort Lead.

Department of Geography, Durham University

2022–2025

- Convenor for MSc (x1) and BSc (x1) modules; Lecturer for BSc modules (x3), field trips (x2).
- Dissertation supervisor for MSc (x1) and BSc (x23) students.
- Personal tutor for BSc (x24) students.
- Geography Postgraduate Careers Event organiser, University Open Day Instructor.

School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol

2021–2022

- Lecturer for BSc modules (x4), field trips (x2).
- Dissertation supervisor for MSc (x21) students.
- Personal tutor for BSc (x24) students.
- Outreach and University Open Day Instructor, Library Services Officer.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Associate Editor, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface*

Sept. 2022–present

Reviewer for peer reviewed journals and research proposals

Dec. 2018–present

- *Nature Geoscience* (January 2024), *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* (December 2022, April 2024, January 2026), *JGR- Earth Surface* (March 2021, June 2021, November 2024 January 2025), *Tectonics* (May 2020, September 2020), *Journal of Mountain Science* (March 2020), *Science Advances* (October 2019), *Journal of Quaternary Science* (December 2018, April 2023, June 2025), French ANR AAPG (April 2024), NERC Urgency Fund (January 2026).

EGU 2025 and 2026 Session Convenor

2025/2026

GM4.3: Impacts of Surface Processes on Life: From Silent Disasters to Evolving Ecosystems

ITS3.8/NH13.16: Climate Impacts and Environmental Change in Mountain Social-Ecological Systems

Research Staff Advisor, *School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh*

Jan 2026–present

Research Ethics Committee, *Department of Geography, Durham University*

Sept. 2023–Feb. 2025

BSG-University of Durham Workshop Organiser

June 2024

‘*Sediment Cascades and Climate Change*’, Maule Region, Chile.

INQUA-BSG ECR Methods Workshop Organiser

July 2023

‘*Geochronology for Paraglacial Geomorphology*’, Aviemore, Scotland

Landscapes Live Organising Committee Member, *EGU Geomorphology Division*

Feb. 2022–2025

EGU 2024 Session Convenor

April 2024

EOS2/GM13: Crowd Solving Problems in Earth Science

Council Chair, *Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)*

Oct. 2019–Oct. 2020

Editor of *SESS 2019 Report*, *Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System*

Mar. 2018–May 2019

Editorial Assistant, *Quaternary Research, Cambridge University Press*

Jan. 2018–Jan. 2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

European Geosciences Union (EGU), British Society for Geomorphology (BSG), Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society (SAGES), Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), Quaternary Research Association (QRA), American Geophysical Union (AGU).