

**Postgraduate Conference Support:
International Coastal Symposium, 6th - 11th March 2016, Sydney,
Australia**
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I was extremely grateful to receive a Postgraduate Conference Support grant of £750 from the British Society for Geomorphology. This enabled me to attend the 14th International Coastal Symposium (ICS), a biannual meeting hosted by the University of Sydney under the auspices of the Coastal Education and Research Foundation (CERF) and the Journal of Coastal Research. As a one of the largest meetings of coastal scientists in the world, the ICS was an ideal forum for me to disseminate results of my PhD research.

I delivered an oral presentation entitled 'Atoll-scale comparisons of coral reef rim island development, Huvadhu Atoll, Maldives' during the Coral Reef session. I did, of course, prominently acknowledge the British Society for Geomorphology during my presentation – both in the first and final slides. My talk was focused on key results from the first two chapters of my thesis, including geomorphological surveys, reef island core records, sedimentology and AMS radiocarbon dates. This study represents the first detailed work to be undertaken on atoll rim islands in the Maldives, despite the fact that the rim islands host the majority of the population (89%, ~285,000), land area (82%) and infrastructure (all 'safe islands' and district capitals). In addition, whilst existing reef island research concerns inter-regional differences, this is the first research to assess intra-regional variability in island geomorphology. Many of the current leaders in reef geomorphology were in the audience for my talk and so I was thrilled to receive positive feedback on my work. I also felt I benefited greatly from their subsequent discussions, which have helped me to develop ideas for my thesis and future publication plans.

I was also a co-author on the oral presentation 'Reef Sediment Supply and Island Building in the South Maldives', which was delivered by my field partner Yiqing Liang. This talk concerned the interior reef platforms of Huvadhu atoll, their sedimentology and the degree of reef-reef island connectivity. Both oral presentations have resulted in short peer-reviewed publications, which are forthcoming in a special issue of the Journal of Coastal Research. These papers are a valuable addition to my CV as I attempt to fulfil my goal of pursuing a career in academia.

In addition to my involvement with presentations, I was able to attend a multitude of talks that were closely aligned with my research interests in coastal geomorphology. Indeed, of the 18 sessions 11 had a geomorphological focus and this exposed me to new ideas that will inform both my PhD and ongoing research projects. The ICS also hosted launch of a network for 'Women in Coastal Geoscience and Engineering' (WiCGaE), which I have subsequently joined. As well as forging new connections, I was thrilled to have the chance to re-connect with others, including my field partner and her research group, which is based at the University of Auckland. I also was able to meet with my secondary supervisor Prof. Paul Kench (University of Auckland), and thus receive valuable feedback on my recent PhD work.

Use of BSG Funding

The award was used to cover my London-Sydney return airfare (£770). Please find the receipt for this attached. Without this funding I would have been unable to attend the ICS and I am therefore extremely grateful to the BSG for this opportunity.