Sixth Irish Geomorphology Scientific Workshop

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Summary of the event (aims and results)

The British Society for Geomorphology sponsored the 6th Irish Geomorphology Scientific Workshop. Hosted place in Northern Ireland for first time, by the School of Geography and Environmental Sciences at Ulster University, the event took place on the 6th and 7th of December 2018. The organising committee of the 6th Irish Geomorphology Scientific Workshop was composed of Dr. Emilia Guisado-Pintado (Lecturer at the University of Seville and Ulster University), Dr. Carlos Loureiro (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Ulster University) and Professor Derek Jackson (Professor of Coastal Geomorphology at Ulster University). The workshop welcomed scientists with interests in geomorphology from a range of fields covering fluvial landforms, coastal and marine morphological response to extreme events to analysis of vulnerability and societal implications of geomorphological change under a changing climate.

The main purpose of the workshop was to promote discussion of the latest developments in the field and facilitate knowledge exchange between researchers (especially early career scientists). In this regard, the first day was dedicated toward enhancing career development of postgraduate students and junior postdoctoral researchers. It was attended by 20 participants from a range of universities and consisted of a series of presentations related to publishing in international journals and research impact, guidelines for preparing postdoctoral research proposals and funding sources and advice for researcher development in the 21st century.

On the second day, 12 oral communications and 7 posters were presented by researchers across the Ireland and beyond. The session was preceded by a keynote address by Professor Oscar Ferreira from the University of Algarve (Portugal) on the theme of geomorphological hazards and early-warning systems for extra-tropical coastal storms. Professor Ferreira is a leading European researcher with more than 30 years of experience in coastal geomorphology and coastal risks. Highlights of the workshop included professional talks by Professor Andrew Cooper (Ulster University), Dr. Eugene Farrel (Galway University) and Maria O'Connell from the Climate Action Regional Office (Mayo County). Both, days were hugely successful and very well attended. Moreover, the workshop was followed widely in social networks.

Value of the BSG grant

The support from the British Society for Geomorphology allowed us to support two early career researchers to attend and participate in the 6th Irish Geomorphology Workshop on both days. Moreover, the support of the BSG facilitated the attendance of the keynote speaker and therefore improved significantly the relevance of the event. Figure 1 shows highlights of both days of the workshop.

The annual Irish Geomorphology Workshop is essential to help enable knowledge exchange and in particular, to promote the work conducted by early career scientists and encourage them to engage in the current challenges within our discipline. In particular, this year the event helped to promote the role of Geomorphology in a changing world, helping to highlight the importance of our discipline and its fundamental contribution to multitude societal challenges.

Figure 1. A) The organisers and the keynote speaker; B) Talk during early career workshop; C) Sponsors of the event; D) PhD Student presenting.