Aeolian Processes and Landforms at the EGU 2016

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The BSG supported session on 'Aeolian Processes and Landforms (both on Earth and other Planets)' was a great success at the EGU, Vienna, 2016. The session celebrated the tenth anniversary of an aeolian processes and landforms session at the EGU. It was first convened by Andreas Baas (KCL), Giles Wiggs (Oxford) and Philippe Claudin (ESPCI, Paris) in 2006, and has since run with 9 different convenors from the UK, USA and France. We were given the honour of starting the conference at 8:30 am on Monday 18th April. Indeed, the first time the session ran in 2006, it also opened the conference at 8:30 am on a Monday morning.

Topics covered a wide range of interesting, cutting edge research including field, modelling and remote sensing studies. There was a noticeable high quality planetary flavour to the work presented this year, spanning everything from the physics behind ripples on comets to measurements of avalanches on Mars with the Curiosity Rover.

A notable highlight was the invited talk by the three original convenors, where Giles Wiggs took us on a journey, from the abstracts presented ten years ago, to the outlook of aeolian research and future directions, including a shift in focus to interdisciplinary work.

We were also privileged to have 13 PhD and Masters students present a mix of oral presentations and posters, and awarded Laura Fernandez Cascales from the Institut de Physique Globe de Paris the best overall student presentation in our session. Her presentation was entitled 'Predicting Martian dune shape and orientation from wind directional variability and sediment availability', and during 13 minutes she was able to clearly and convincingly explain the principles of different modes of dune orientations to the audience, with an impressively detailed dataset of Martian dunes. She initiated quite a few questions from the audience which she addressed with confidence.

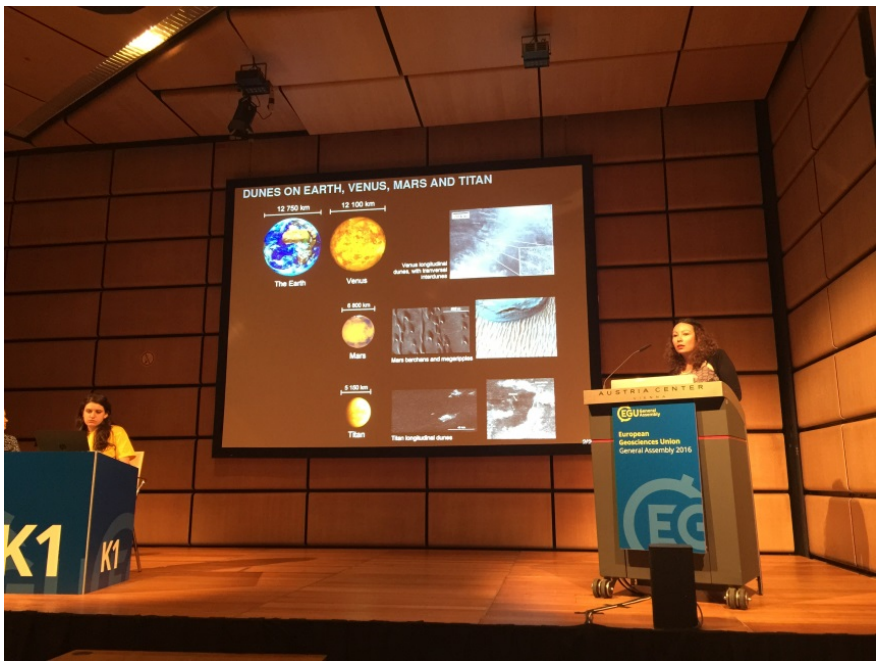

Figure 1 Laura Fernandez giving her talk on Martian dune shape and orientation during the 'Aeolian Processes and Landforms (on Earth and other Planets)' session at the EGU 2016 General Assembly.

The session received 43 abstracts, with 19 early career science contributions and first authors from 13 different countries (4 continents). Our audience numbers averaged around 70 – 80 for the double oral session (one of only 5 double sessions from the 23-session Geomorphology Division-led programme) and the posters were buzzing with scientific discussions until the conference closed for the day at 7 pm.

For more details on the session see: http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2016/session/21091