

British Society for Geomorphology Press Release

New Press Officer at the British Society for Geomorphology

Chris Skinner takes up the role of Press Officer for the BSG



Image - The BSG's new Press Officer, Chris Skinner, demonstrating Humber in a Box at Hull's Freedom Festival (Photo by Hull University Science @HullUniScience)

Dr Chris Skinner, University of Hull, has been appointed as the new Press Officer for the British Society for Geomorphology. The role of Press Officer was established in 2015 with the remit of raising the profile of Geomorphology and increase exposure of Geomorphologists in the media. Chris takes up this role, replacing Emma Shuttleworth. We thank Emma for all of her hard work in establishing the position.

Chris completed his PhD in 2013 in the fields of Hydrology and Meteorology, before making the shift to his first love, Geomorphology. He is currently employed as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant as part of the Natural Environment Research Council funded project, Flash Flooding from Intense Rainfall, where his research aims to understand how floods change the landscape and how this impacts on future flood risk.

A passionate science communicator, in 2014 Chris founded SeriousGeoGames, a project which aims to use games, and gaming technology, to enhance the research, teaching and communication of Geosciences. The 'Humber in a Box' application utilises the latest virtual reality technology and was part of the successful BSG stand at Cheltenham Science Festival in 2015.

"I'm really excited," Chris told us, "Geomorphology is very much underrepresented in the media today and I'm looking forward to working hard to enthusiastically promote the science, and the community."

One of Chris' first roles will be to make the media aware of the collective expertise of the Society, and we would ask the membership to please contact him if you would like to be considered on the Society's list of experts. We will also be launching a new

monthly series of expert blog articles highlighting interesting and contemporary topics in Geomorphology.

"Chris brings with him a wealth of enthusiasm for science communication," said Professor Jo Bullard, Chair of the British Society for Geomorphology. "We're very pleased to welcome Chris into the role, and I look forward to helping Chris build us a greater media presence".

Chris begins the role immediately and will act as the first point of contact for press and media wishing to approach the British Society for Geomorphology.

Note to Editors

Image Jpeg file can be supplied on request.

- Optional Biographies -

Dr Chris Skinner -

"H completed an undergraduate Masters in Physical Geography at the University of Hull in 2006. He worked in Sustainable Transport Planning for Coventry City Council before returning to academia in 2009 to start his PhD research at the University of Hull. He completed his thesis in summer 2013, and subsequently was employed as a Research Assistant in Numerical Modelling of Estuarine Morphodynamics as part of the Dynamic Humber project (DHP) for one year.

He is currently employed as a PostDoctoral Research Assistant in Modelling Fluvial Geomorphology at the University of Hull, since July 2014. He works on the Natural Environment Research Council funded project - Flash Flooding from Intense Rainfall. The purpose of the project is to learn more about what causes and what happens during flash flooding, and to use this information to better forecast and provide warnings of such events. His part of the project is to learn more about how the dirt, pebbles and rocks are moved by the events, and how the way rivers are changed during and afterwards changes the risks involved with flooding."

Professor Jo Bullard - " Her research focuses on aeolian processes, landforms and sediments in both dryland and coastal environments. It contributes to debates concerning, and our understanding of, the responses of arid and coastal aeolian systems to climate fluctuations and the potential importance of aeolian processes in global biogeochemical cycles. Some of her recent research projects have focused on dust emissions in cold climates, the identification of sub-basin scale aeolian dust sources using remote sensing imagery, and coastal dune development and geomorphology on the North Sea coast. Her current research is investigating multiscale impacts of cyanobacterial crusts on the stability of arid landscapes and focuses on how cyanobacteria response to rainfall events affects the susceptibility of surfaces to wind erosion. Another current project is investigating the rate of recovery of the UK east coast dune systems following the December 2013 storm events. She is the coordinator of the High Latitude and Cold Climate Aerosol Network. The majority of her field research has been conducted in southern Africa, south America,

Australia, the UK, Greenland and Iceland, and has been funded by The Leverhulme Trust, NERC and the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies."

- Contact details -

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"The British Society for Geomorphology (BSG) aims to bring together the community of Geomorphology researchers and educators in order to promote the subject. Formerly the British Geomorphological Research Group (BGRG), the Society was founded in 1960 and has over 600 members worldwide.

Geomorphology is the study of landforms, their processes, form and sediments at a planetary surface (usually Earth). We study landscapes to work out how the earth-surface processes, such as air, water and ice, can mould the landscape. Landforms are produced by erosion or deposition, as rock and sediment is worn away by these earth-surface processes and transported and deposited to different localities."