



International Association of Geomorphologists

Association Internationale des
Géomorphologues

IAG/AIG Newsletter No. 31 (1-2/2015)

1. Editorial

Traditionally IAG organises regional conferences in regions with a high geomorphological interest while trying to innovate in comparison with the classic tours in Geosciences or Geography conferences. The choice of Barnaul and the State University of Altai to hold the 2015 conference, "Gradualism vs Catastrophism in Landscape Evolution", in partnership with the Russian Group of Geomorphologists (RuAG) next July 2-4, is yet another example of this tradition. All the conditions are gathered for us to meet there in numbers and this is something I am glad about since it reveals the dynamism of our community. Geomorphology is indeed a key discipline not only to decipher the history of the Earth's relief but also to reconstruct the past consequences of climatic changes and to provide data enabling to model future evolutions.

At a time when the International Conference on Climate Change will be held in Paris, I encourage the community of geomorphologists to commit, among others, to the service of society, and to work towards a better visibility of our discipline within interdisciplinary programmes on those issues. Siberia is particularly sensitive to the consequences of climate change and with no doubt those questions will lurk behind our scientific debates!

I am looking forward to seeing you all again in Barnaul!

ERIC FOUACHE
IAG/AIG President

1. Editorial

L'AIG a pour tradition d'organiser ses conférences régionales dans des régions au fort potentiel géomorphologique tout en cherchant à innover par rapport aux circuits classiques des conférences dans le domaine des géosciences ou de la géographie. Le choix de Barnaul et de l'Université d'Etat de l'Altai, pour organiser du 2 au 4 juillet prochains, en partenariat avec le Groupe Russe des Géomorphologues (RuAG), la conférence 2015 «Gradualism vs catastrophism in landscape evolution» en témoigne une fois de plus. Tout est réuni pour que nous nous y retrouvions nombreux et je m'en réjouis car cela témoigne du dynamisme de notre communauté. La géomorphologie est en effet une discipline clef non seulement pour décrypter l'histoire du relief de la terre mais aussi pour reconstituer les conséquences passées des fluctuations climatiques et fournir des données qui permettent de modéliser les évolutions futures.

Au moment où se tient à Paris la Conférence internationale sur les changements climatiques, j'appelle la communauté des géomorphologues à

s'engager, sans exclusive bien sûr, de plus en plus au service de la société et à accroître la visibilité de notre discipline dans les programmes interdisciplinaires sur ces questions. La Sibérie est une région particulièrement sensible aux conséquences du changement climatique et sans nul doute ces questions seront en filigrane de nos discussions scientifiques!

Dans l'attente de vous retrouver nombreux à Barnaul!

ERIC FOUACHE
Président de l'IAG/AIG

2. En souvenir de Jean-Claude Flageollet

Esprit indépendant, héritier et continuateur de la grande tradition géomorphologique française

Jean-Claude Flageollet nous a quittés le 28 novembre 2014. Docteur d'Etat en 1976, il a mené sa carrière universitaire à Nancy, Caen et Strasbourg. Géomorphologue de formation, il s'est d'abord intéressé à l'altération différentielle et aux formations superficielles sur roches cristallines, en Limousin et en Vendée, ses terrains de thèse, mais aussi dans les Vosges. Dans les années 1980, il s'est orienté vers les risques naturels et tout particulièrement, dans la continuité de ses travaux antérieurs, vers les mouvements de terrain. Après son départ à la retraite, en 1996, il s'est tourné progressivement vers des problèmes de climatologie régionale. Jean-Claude Flageollet est l'auteur d'une abondante bibliographie, dont plusieurs ouvrages, parmi lesquels "Les mouvements de terrain et leur prévention" (Masson, 1988) et "Le réchauffement climatique en Europe. Depuis quand ? Pourquoi ?" (De Boeck, 2010). Physio-Géo salue un enseignant et un chercheur de grande valeur et s'associe à la peine de ses proches.

(Lettre Physio-Géo, 11 décembre 2014)

Ces lignes sont écrites volontairement à deux mains, par ceux qui non seulement ont été des collègues mais surtout des amis de plus de 30 ans, aussi proches par leur façon de penser qu'éloignés par les lieux universitaires (Caen, Strasbourg et Modène). Elles ne cherchent pas à représenter un souvenir exhaustif de ce que fut la figure scientifique et humaine du professeur Jean-Claude Flageollet, mais la pensée attristée de deux personnes qui, ayant perdu un «frère de cœur», veulent communiquer leur désarroi et leur douleur, non seulement à ceux qui l'ont connu, mais aussi à ceux qui n'ont pas eu la chance de le rencontrer.

Les souvenirs personnels viennent spontanément: les premières rencontres, par exemple à l'occasion du colloque de Caen: *Mouvements de terrain* (mars 1984). Jean-Claude déjà enseignant et chercheur confirmé, se présentait de manière amicale mais en même temps réservée, presque timide: nous devînmes tout de suite amis. Nos rapports, constants et discrets les premières années, devinrent au cours du temps toujours plus forts et partagés, autant dans les recherches que dans la formation et l'encouragement aux jeunes géomorphologues, aspect qui nous a toujours réunis.

Toutefois, ce qui est devenu ensuite la part la plus significative et spécifique de ses recherches et de notre collaboration a été la problématique liée aux risques naturels, avec une attention particulière portée aux aléas géomorphologiques et plus spécialement aux mouvements de terrain. Rappelons ici son ouvrage de base: *Les mouvements de terrain et leur prévention*.

Après ses recherches fondamentales de *Géomorphologie structurale et climatique*, et avant ses récentes investigations sur le *Réchauffement climatique en Europe*, à partir des années 80, son activité s'est développée surtout et de manière originale en direction des thèmes de la géomorphologie appliquée, avec un enthousiasme et un investissement qui ont abouti à la fondation du CERG (*Centre Européen sur les Risques Géomorphologiques*), dans la sphère du Conseil de l'Europe de Strasbourg. Cet organisme a suscité la collaboration d'universités et de centres de recherche de toute l'Europe avec la participation de prestigieux géomorphologues européens de niveau international. A partir de cette initiative, se sont développées deux voies scientifiques importantes: l'une concernant les recherches sur les risques géomorphologiques, dans le cadre des projets de la DG XII de la Commission européenne de Bruxelles (EPOCH, TESLEC, NEWTECH, etc.); l'autre concernant la formation, avec les projets ERASMUS, surtout sous la forme de cours intensifs de géomorphologie théorique et appliquée sur le terrain, dans les contextes variés de nombreuses régions européennes, jusqu'aux Antilles françaises. C'est vraiment dans ces occasions que Jean-Claude manifestait son caractère le plus naturel avec des aspects de chaleureuse sympathie et des comportements très personnels pleins d'un subtil humour.

Nous pouvons rappeler à ce propos les nombreux et cordiaux moments de convivialité, impliquant étudiants comme enseignants dans la représentation informelle ou vraiment caricaturale, de leurs caractères réciprocques, ceci dans une atmosphère de participation sereine, proche de la «bouffonnerie» (voir le baptême du rhum à la barrière de corail, celui de la neige dans les Alpes autrichiennes, ou bien de la polenta dans les Dolomites, ou de la bière dans les *Stube* allemands, ou encore du vin d'Alsace dans son pays de cœur, les Vosges).

Nous tous, qui avions pour lui une grande affection, aurons pour but de nous en souvenir et de faire vivre sa mémoire en poursuivant ses initiatives, et spécialement à travers son «enfant», c'est-à-dire le CERG, tout en sachant que sans sa précieuse présence, ce ne sera plus la même chose. C'est une consolation que la route tracée par lui et par les «vieux» géomorphologues est actuellement suivie avec un succès renouvelé par de nombreux jeunes qui ont acquis une récente conscience européenne, fondamentale pour l'esprit de la recherche, dont il faut se souvenir que c'est le CERG qui a contribué à la consolider.

Nos affectueuses pensées vont à son épouse Suzanne, tendre compagne des moments heureux et des moments douloureux des dernières années, quand la maladie, tout en prenant le dessus sur le corps, n'en affaiblissait ni l'esprit ni la connaissance, jusqu'aux derniers jours pendant lesquels, bien qu'à distance, nous avons partagé sa souffrance.

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(Traduction: ALAIN MARRE)

3. Remembrance of Jean-Claude Flageollet

Independent spirit, heir and continuator of the great French geomorphological tradition

These lines have been written by the two of us, who have been not only his colleagues but first of all his friends for over 30 years. We were very close to him for the feelings we had in common, although our respective universities were far away (Caen, Strasbourg and Modena). We do

not claim to present an exhaustive obituary of the scientific and human aspects of Professor Jean-Claude Flageollet, but rather the thoughts of two persons in grief, who have lost a “brother in the heart”. We therefore wish to share our bereavement and sorrow not only with those who knew him but also with all those who never had the chance to meet him.



Jean-Claude Flageollet at the AIGeo Conference held in Modena in 2009 in honour of Mario Panizza (Photo: Mauro Soldati).

Personal memories are conjured up: our first meetings, for example during the *Colloque de Caen “Mouvements de terrain”* (March 1984). Jean-Claude, already an established scientist and professor, showed an extremely warm character although at first rather reserved and almost shy. We became friends immediately. Our relationship was at first constant but discrete and it soon became more and more incisive as we participated both in the field of research and in the preparation and encouragement of young geomorphologists.

Nevertheless, what became the most significant and specific aspect of his research and our collaboration was the topic of natural risks, with particular attention to geomorphological hazards and, more specifically, to landslides. For this purpose, his fundamental book “*Les mouvements de terrain et leur prévention*” should be mentioned.

After his fundamental research on “*Géomorphologie structurale et climatique*” and before his recent investigations on “*Réchauffement climatique en Europe*”, since the mid-1980s his activity mainly concerned the topics of Applied Geomorphology. His enthusiasm and capacity of involvement led to the foundation of the CERG (*European Centre on Geomorphological Hazards*), within the framework of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. This Centre has organized the collaboration of universities and research centres from all over Europe, with the participation of prestigious international-level European geomorphologists. Out of this initiative two important scientific lines were developed: one concerning investigations on geomorphological hazards within the framework of DG XII projects of the European Commission of Brussels (EPOCH, TESLEC, NEWTECH etc.); the other regarding student formation by means of the ERASMUS projects and in particular the intensive courses on basic and applied geomorphology in the field and in various environmental contexts of numerous European regions and also in the French Antilles. On these occasions Jean-Claude showed his genuine and most-likable spirit and attitudes of sharp humour.

In this regard, we can recall the numerous and lively pleasures of the table with the involvement of both teachers and students in our formal and even caricature-like reciprocal personalities, in an atmosphere of serene and “goliardic” participation (see the rum christening on the barrier reef, the snow in the Austrian Alps, the *polenta* in the Dolomites, the beer in the German *Stube*, or the Alsace wine in his beloved Vosges).

We shall all try to remember him, so dear to our heart, by giving continuity to his initiatives, especially the one concerning his personal “creature”, that is the CERG, although we are well aware that without

his precious presence things will not be the same as before. It is a source of consolation to know that the path traced by him and other “old” geomorphologists is now followed with renewed success by numerous young researchers who have acquired a new European conscience, which is of paramount importance in the spirit of investigations consolidated by the CERG.

Our thoughts of deep sympathy are addressed to his wife Suzanne, loving mate both in the happy and sad moments, when his illness gradually overwhelmed his body but not his spirit and awareness, up to his last days when – although far away – we shared his suffering in our hearts.

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4. The Bagnold Medal granted to Heather A. Viles

The 2015 Ralph Alger Bagnold Medal has been awarded to Heather A. Viles for establishing the field of biogeomorphology and providing the foundation synthesis of the biological component of geomorphology in a range of climatic environments.

Heather A. Viles is a member of the IAG Executive Committee, responsible for International Publishing (see IAG Newsletter 4/2014). Congratulations!

More information: <http://www.egu.eu/awards-medals/ralph-alger-bagnold/2015/heather-viles/>



5. 6th Congress of the Argentinian Society for Quaternary and Geomorphology

Argentina has a very large community of geomorphologists and Quaternary scientists who regularly meet every three years. The 6th Congress of the Argentinian Society for Quaternary and Geomorphology (*Asociación Argentina de Cuaternario y Geomorfología*) was held in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, on 8–10 April 2015. This important event, attended by more than 200 participants, was organized by the group of Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology of CADIC (Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas) – CONICET, under the leadership of Professors Jorge Rabassa and Andrea Coronato. The conference was divided into eight thematic sessions, which covered different aspects of geomorphology, Quaternary geology and Quaternary palaeoenvironments. In total, nearly 50 talks and more than 90 posters were presented, many of them by young researchers, including PhD and MSc students. The program was supplemented by four invited plenary presentations from international participants, including one from the author of this report who also represented IAG at the meeting.



Participants of the field trip on top of a clay dune at Lago Amalia, in the northern part of Tierra del Fuego (photo: Piotr Migoń).

An important part of the conference program was a half-day field trip to the National Park of Tierra del Fuego, focused on glacial landforms and Pleistocene history of the region. The conference itself was followed by a well-attended post-conference field trip on 11–14 April, during which a variety of geomorphic landscapes of the ‘End of the World’ was presented, including Alpine-type mountain topography, impressive drumlin fields, peat bogs, sedimentary records of proglacial environments, erratic boulders, shore platforms, fossilized sea cliffs, and dry lakes with associated clay dunes and paleosol record. An illustrated report about geomorphological heritage of Tierra del Fuego, based on field trip experience, will be soon available at the IAG website (www.geomorph.org).

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 Wrocław, Poland, and IAG/AIG Executive Committee Member*

5. Young Geomorphologists

IAG grants for the participation in the Regional Conference on Geomorphology, Barnaul, Russia

Six IAG grants, ranging from 900 to 1100 Euros (total budget 6000 euros), were awarded to Young Geomorphologists from less favoured countries of Asia and East Europe with a Purchasing Power Parity below 21,000 International Dollars (according to the World Development Indicators database, World Bank, updated 6 November 2014) to favour their participation in the IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology and Post-conference field trip and intensive course (Barnaul and Altai Mountains, Russia, 2–11 July 2015). The IAG Regional Conference in Russia is organized by IAG jointly with the Russian Association of Geomorphologists (RuAG) and is hosted by the Altai State University.

IAG grants will be officially delivered in Barnaul to Shreya Bandyopadhyay (India), Kapil Ghosh (India), Iliyan Kotsev (Bulgaria), Diganta Kumar (India), Archana Patil (India) and Yuanyuan Zhou (China).

MAURO SOLDATI
IAG/AIG Vice-President and Training Officer
 MARTA DELLA SETA
IAG/AIG Executive Committee Member and Webmaster

6. Working Groups

Several working groups have sent their annual report 2014 or published information on the IAG website. Here is a summary.

Tropical Rivers Working Group

Several activities were developed during 2014. The most remarkable was organizing a session at the American Geophysical Union AGU-Fall meeting in San Francisco, titled *EP54A Multiscale and Multidisciplinary Fluvial Research in Tropical Regions*, which was coordinated by E. Latrubesse, (UT-Austin), J. Abad (Univ. Pittsburgh) and T. Hoitink (Wageningen University). The session included contributions from tropical South America, SE Asia, Australia, and India and important rivers such as the Mekong, Amazon, Araguaia, Murray, Fly, Mahakam, and others were discussed. Researchers from Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, India, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Peru, Thailand, UK and USA contributed to the session. The IAG working group co-chair, Rajiv Sinha (IITK), offered one of the invited talks, synthesizing the state of the art of the geomorphological knowledge of the Ganges basin.

In 2015, the Working Group is involved in the organization of the RCEM Conference 2015 (9th Symposium on River coastal and estuarine morphodynamics) that will take place at Iquitos, Peruvian Amazon, at the banks of the Amazon river.

More information on: <http://www.creamazonia.org/rcem2015/>

EDGARDO LATRUBESSE

Department of Geography and the Environment, The University of Texas at Austin, United States

Geomorphosites Working Group

The working group organized several scientific meetings in 2014: the session “Geoheritage: Integrating geo- and biodiversity research” at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly, Vienna, 27 April – 2 May 2014; an Intensive course on geodiversity and geoheritage interpretation, Fortress of Bard (Valle d’Aosta, Italy), 9-12 September 2014; a workshop at the Forum Alpinum 2014, Darfo Boario Terme (Italy), 17-19 September 2014; an Intensive course at the International Workshop “Geomorphosites, lever of local socio-economic development”, Beni Mellal (Morocco), 2-4 October 2014.

In 2015, it is organizing a session at the EGU General Assembly in Vienna (with IAG WG on Landform Assessment for Geodiversity and other partners) and a session at the IAG Regional Conference in Barnaul (joint session with the IAG WG on Geoarchaeology). The WG is also supporting the Conference “Geosites: research and tourism development for regional promotion” organised in Tozeur (Tunisia), 19-24 October 2015.

The full report 2014 is available at <http://www.geomorph.org/wg/wggs.html>

Planetary Geomorphology Working Group

Much of the planetary data are available online, and indeed are free. The Planetary Geomorphology Working Group collates information on available resources and reading lists and image compilations that can be used in teaching planetary geomorphology. These resources as well as a calendar can be consulted on the WG website: <http://www.psi.edu/pgwg>

Geoarchaeology Working Group

The working group published its 2014 annual report in November 2014. In 2015 it is organising a session at the EGU General Assembly in Vienna, a common session with the Geomorphosite IAG WG at the IAG Regional Conference in Barnaul, and a session on geoarchaeology at the INQUA Congress in Nagoya in August 2015. A selection of papers from the 8th International Conference of Geomorphology has been published in

Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences in 2014 and a special issue on Geoarchaeology was published in *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* in 2014.

More information at the WG website: <http://iag-geoarch.org/>

Submarine Geomorphology Working Group

The first activity of the Submarine Geomorphology is a Seafloor Exploration Training Course (University of Malta, 3-14 August 2015). This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the theoretical, scientific, technological and operational aspects of seafloor exploration and surveying through intensive theoretical classes and hands-on practical sessions on a research vessel and in the laboratory. Further information: <http://hgiss.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/P07-15008-Brochure.pdf>

7. Upcoming Events

Note: This calendar proposes a list of events organised by IAG, IAG working groups, and large international conferences concerning geomorphology. It is based on information transmitted by IAG members. For more information see also the IAG website: www.geomorph.org

France

International Colloquium “The Geoarchaeology of Mediterranean Islands”, Cargèse, France, 30 June – 2 July 2015. Website: <http://www.geomedislands.org/>

Russia

IAG Regional Conference 2015 “Gradualism vs Catastrophism in Landscape Evolution”, Barnaul, Russia, 2-4 July 2015. Website: <http://iag2015.rurs.net/>

Spain

8th Littoral Geomorphology Conference, Marbella, Spain, 3-5 July 2015. Website: <http://glupo2015.wix.com/glupo2015>

Russia

First Lower Yenisei Observation Network Workshop, Krasnoyarsk-Igarka, Russia, 18-21 July 2015. Information: 2015.lyon@gmail.com

Japan

XIX INQUA Congress, Nagoya, Japan, 27 July – 2 August 2015. Website: <http://inqua2015.jp/>

Germany

Soil and Sediment transfer during the Anthropocene (GloSS) Kickoff Meeting, Bonn, Germany, 19-21 August 2015. Website: <http://www.pages-igbp.org/calendar/2014/127-pages/1499-gloss-kickoff-mtg>

United States

International Society of River Science (ISRS) Conference, Symposium special session “Fluvial Geomorphic Response to Landscape Disturbance: A tribute to the life and career of James C. Knox”, La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA, 23-28 August 2015. Website: <http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/isrs2015/index.html>

United Kingdom

Annual Meeting of the British Society for Geomorphology (BSG), Southampton, UK, 7-9 September 2015. Website: http://www.geomorphology.org.uk/annual_general_meetings

Spain

Pedometrics 2015 Biennial Conference, Cordoba, Spain, 14-18 September 2015. Website: www.pedometrics.org

United States

46th Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium on “Laboratory Experiments in Geomorphology”, University at Buffalo, NY, USA 18-20 September 2015. Deadline for poster abstract submission: 1st August 2015. Website: www.UbeventS.org/event/bgs46

France

European Congress “Geological Heritage Inventories: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives”, Toulouse, France, 22–26 September 2015. Website: <http://www.progeo.se/Inventaires-du-patrimoine-FR-2015.pdf>

Ethiopia

TropiLakes2015 Conference: Tropical lakes in a changing environment, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, 23–29 September 2015. Website: <http://geoweb.ugent.be/tropilakes2015>

Tunisie

Colloque international “Géosites: Recherches et développement pour la promotion des territoires”, Tozeur, Tunisia, 19–24 October 2015. Website: www.geosites.tn

India

28th Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) Conference and National Seminar on “Human Impact on Landscapes”, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong 793022, Meghalaya, India, 29–31 October 2015. First circular: www.nehu.ac.in

United Arab Emirates

Conference “Karstology in Arid Regions”, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 20–27 January 2016. Website: <http://abudhabi.zrc-sazu.si/en-us/home.aspx>

Australia

International Coastal Symposium, Sydney, Australia, 6–11 March 2016. Website: <http://ics2016.org>

Germany

11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP 2016), Potsdam, Germany, 20–24 June 2016. Deadline for abstract submission: 15 December 2015. Website: www.icop2016.org

India

9th International Conference on Geomorphology, New Delhi, India, 6–11 November 2017. Website: <http://www.icg2017.com>

Editor's Note

The success of the IAG/AIG Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. On behalf of IAG/AIG we would ask you to assist us by supplying information related to the forthcoming activities and innovations in geomorphology in your respective countries (commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology and announcements of future meetings and workshops). Your contributions should be forwarded to the IAG/AIG Publications Officer.

Published by

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Deadline for the next issue: **1st August 2015**

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