

EVENT REPORT

Date and location of event:	Tuesday 2 July – Wednesday 3 July, Faculty of Natural Sciences	Reporters name and contact details:	Korbinian Breinl Stefan Kienberger Department of Geoinformatics (Z_GIS) Paris Lodron University Salzburg (PLUS) Phone +43 (0)662 8044 7578 Fax: +43 (0)662 8044 7560 Email: Korbinian.breinl@sbg.ac.at
------------------------------------	---	--	--

Name and Type of Event	Event: Young Researchers' Forum Organized by: Korbinian Breinl (PLUS), Christoph Fink (PLUS), Peter Zeil (PLUS)
N° of participants	40 plus internal and external visitors

1) Introduction

Every year, University of Salzburg hosts the interdisciplinary GI_Forum, which attracts an international GIScience audience with the goal of promoting interest in translating theory, methods and techniques into a broad range of GI application domains. GI_Forum runs concurrently with the highly regarded German conference on Applied Geoinformatics – AGIT (www.agit.at). The two symposia share some 1200 participants, the innovative AGIT EXPO exhibit and stimulating social events. The GI_Forum communicates innovative research and learning in Geographic Information Science with focus on hardware, software, and brainware for the GISociety, and their inter-relationships. Young researchers are especially invited to contribute and discuss their research. Together with recognized scientists the GI forum boasts a vibrant community from academia, business, and education ready to embrace new ideas and explore new research directions.

To increase opportunities for early stage researchers, a Young Researchers' Forum was included in the framework of GI forum, taking place for the first time 2012.

2) Objectives

The Young Researchers' Forum 2012, offered PhD students a unique possibility to present, discuss, receive feedback, and exchange comments and views on their doctoral research proposals and research in general. The forum consisted of PhD students from CHANGES, experienced researchers including keynote speakers from the GI_Forum, faculty members of the GIScience Doctoral College at the University of Salzburg, Doctorate School in Global Change Science and Policy (ChangeS), and other external PhD or MSc students participating.

The event was open to any PhD student working in the field of GIScience, with an emphasis on climate change or disaster risk management. The submitted research plans were evaluated in a two-stage selection and feedback process: firstly, a committee of senior scientists and students selected the most valuable contributions. All contributions were reviewed, and successful submissions were invited to resubmit revised contributions. Secondly, the reviewers prepared in-depth feedback and opponent statements for the final submissions, which were presented orally at the Forum after each respective presentation. This provided the authors of the proposals a platform to present their research to an academic audience and receive valuable feedback.

All in all, each PhD student actively participating received feedback in the following format:

- Written feedback from the first stage of the review process
- Oral and written feedback from the opponent speakers at the event
- Oral feedback from discussions (each PhD student was also provided with minutes)

3) Agenda

The event was spread over two days to maximize the educational aspect for each PhD student. Keynotes were given by Dr. Michael Staudinger, director of the Central Institution for Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) in Vienna and Prof. Dr. Thomas Blaschke, professor for Geoinformatics and head of the GIScience Doctoral College at the University of Salzburg.

Monday, 2 July

11.30 am Introduction, Keynotes:

Dr. Michael Staudinger (ZAMG): "Climate change in the Alpine region"
Prof. Dr. Thomas Blaschke (PLUS): "Young Researchers' Forum: rationale and concept"

LUNCH

- 2.00 pm** Thea Turkington: “Translation of the results of climate change models to expected changes in triggering conditions of hydrometeorological hazards”
- 2:30 pm** Korbinian Breinl: “Pluvial and fluvial flooding: integration in probabilistic flood hazard and risk assessment”
- 3.00 pm** Roxana Liliana Ciurean: “Expressing uncertainties in vulnerability and value of infrastructure, buildings and land use to hydro-meteorological hazards”

COFFEE BREAK

- 4.00 pm** Zar Chi Aye: “Development of an internet-based Decision Support System for the use of risk information in risk reduction”
- 4.30 pm** Juliette Cortes: “Emergency preparedness and early warning scenarios based on the outcomes of the probabilistic risk assessment”
- 5.00 pm** Veronica Zumpano: “Development of a method for constructing risk scenarios and risk maps with associated uncertainties”

- 5.30 pm** ROUND-UP

DINNER

Tuesday, 3 July

- 9.00 am** Ziga Malek: “Analysis of expected changes in ecosystems and land use patterns in relation to climate change and future economic development”
- 9.30 am** Gain Animesh Kumar: “A Dynamic Approach of Climate Change Adaptation and Vulnerability Assessment of Water Resources Systems at Lower Brahmaputra River Basin”
- 10.00 am** Haydar Hussin: “Probabilistic risk assessment of hydro-meteorological hazards”

COFFEE BREAK

- 11.00 am** Feizizadeh Bakhtiar: “IPCC Climate Change Scenarios Based Landslide Risk Modelling: A Geospatial Approach”
- 11.30 am** Nigel Downes “Spatial Indicators for Assessing Climate Hazards and Opportunities within the Urban Environment—Development of an Assessment Framework for Urban Planning Support under the Considerations of Climate Change”
- 12.00** EVENT ROUND-UP AND CLOSING

4) Conclusion

The event was considered very successful. The PhD students highly appreciated the feedback they received, not only from the opponent speakers but also from other researchers in the audience and general discussions. Discussions amongst the students were considered to be particularly fruitful.

For most of the PhD students, receiving anonymous critical feedback during the first stage of the review process was a new experience and therefore considered to be excellent training for the peer-review process in scientific journals. The same applies to the discussions after the oral presentation, which was comparable to a PhD defense to a certain degree and thus good training for such a situation.

In general, in the majority of cases, the scientific level of the contributions was very high and research ideas original. According to the reviewers, some PhD students seemed to lack focus in their research. For those, it was recommended by the reviewers to further discuss the focus of the research with the corresponding supervisors and narrow down the topics to ensure a realistic scope.

Due to its success, it is planned to establish the Young Researchers' Forum in the future as an integral part of the GI_Forum.

5) Participants

PhD students	Animesh Gain	Foscari University of Venice	animesh.gain@gmail.com
	Bakhtiar Feizizadeh	Salzburg University	Bakhtiar.FeiziZadeh@stud.sbg.ac.at
	Nigel Downes	TU Cottbus	downes@tu-cottbus.de
	Haydar Hussin	ITC / CNR	haydar.hussin@irpi.cnr.it
	Juliette Cortes	TU Delft / CNR	juliette.cortes@irpi.cnr.it
	Korbinian Breinl	Salzburg University	korbinian.breinl@stud.sbg.ac.at

	Ziga Malek	Vienna University / IIASA	malekz@iiasa.ac.at
	Roxana Ciurean	Vienna University	roxana.liliana.ciurean@univie.ac.at
	Thea Turkington	ITC	turkington@itc.nl
	Zarchi Aye	University of Lausanne	zarchi.aye@unil.ch
	Veronica Zupano	IGRAC	zumpanoveronica@gmail.com
Reviewers / Opponent Speakers	Andreas Koch	PLUS	andreas.koch@sbg.ac.at
	Barbara Hofer	PLUS	andreas.hofer@sbg.ac.at
	Bernd Resch	Heidelberg University	bernd.resch@geog.uni-heidelberg.de
	Carlo Giupponi	University of Venice	cgiupponi@unive.it
	Cees van Westen	ITC	westen@itc.nl
	Daniel Hölbling	PLUS	daniel.hoelbling@sbg.ac.at
	David Rossiter	ITC	rossiter@itc.nl
	Dirk Tiede	PLUS	dirk.tiede@sbg.ac.at
	Elizabeth Delmelle	UNC Charlotte	edelmell@unc.edu
	Eric Delmelle	UNC Charlotte	Eric.Delmelle@unc.edu
	Gudrun Valentin	PLUS	gudrun.valentin@sbg.ac.at
	Hermann Klug	PLUS	hermann.klug@sbg.ac.at
	Jan-Christoph Otto	PLUS	Jan-Christoph.Otto@sbg.ac.at
	Josef Strobl	PLUS	joseph.strobl@sbg.ac.at
	Karl Rehr	PLUS	karl.rehr@sbg.ac.at
	Lothar Schrott	PLUS	lothar.schrott@sbg.ac.at
	Michael Leitner	Louisiana State University	mleitne@lsu.edu
	Michi Staudinger	ZAMG	michael.staudinger@zamg.ac.at
	Peter Zeil	PLUS	peter.zeil@sbg.ac.at
	Robert Marschallinger	Austrian Academy of Sciences	robert.marschallinger@oeaw.ac.at
	Salman Quareshi	HU Berlin	salman.quareshi@geo.hu-berlin.de
	Sara Frabrikant	Zurich University	sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch
	Stefan Kienberger	PLUS	stefan.kienberger@sbg.ac.at

6) Impressions

