

IfGR - Flash News - October 2024



Welcome Back!

The newsletter resumes this October after a summer break! Over the summer, the institute experienced growth, welcoming new faces and fresh ideas. Exciting developments and news have emerged during this time, and these updates will be shared in the coming issues. Stay tuned for the latest insights and progress

We encourage you to share and promote your research and activities through this platform.

We are excited to hear from you! Please send your announcements to:
sarah.kristine.konieczka@univie.ac.at

1. Staff and Guests

- **Alejandra Donato:** She spent three months as a visiting PhD student at Delft University of Technology, renowned for its research and innovation. Working with Prof. Thom Bogaard in the Department of Water Management, I developed a conceptual hydrological model and explored data-driven models for groundwater response to snowmelt, rainfall, and evapotranspiration. The welcoming community of hydrology experts provided invaluable support and engaging scientific discussions. This inspiring experience is something I will always be grateful for.
- **Kirill Grachev:** Kirill Gachev is a new PhD student in the ENGAGE, NoeSLIDE, and Geocology working groups. His research at the Hofermühle NoeSLIDE landslide observatory focuses on how slow-moving landslides affect grassland soil emissions of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O.

- **Simona Koreňová:** Simona Koreňová researchs sediment connectivity in flash flood-prone small catchments. She identifies high-connectivity locations and hot spots to reduce soil erosion and improve local flood control measures. Her previous work, linking sediment connectivity with risk assessment of bedload transport, is published in the article "Linking sediment connectivity with sediment transport risk assessment in small, forested catchments in the Czech Republic".
- **Samuel Roudbar:** Samuel Roudbar, a PhD student from Belgium, studies microplastics as a new sediment. He works across the departments of Geography and Regional Sciences and Geology. His goal is to use microplastics as a tracer in water, sediment, and atmospheric samples to study sedimentary transport and anthropogenic activities at the catchment scale, based on geomorphological connectivity and source-to-sink analyses.
- **John Perez:** John Perez is starting a new research project in Strasbourg that aims to understand hydrodynamics and sediment transport in the Rhine River to inform the optimization of dredging practices, particularly to maintain navigation in the vicinity of the Gamsheim locks while also obtaining hydrodynamic and morphodynamic balance in the river. While in this project, he remains to be a member of ENGAGE and finalizes his PhD on soil erosion and sediment connectivity in agricultural catchments.
- **Ailin Benítez Cortés** has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the Universidad Andres Bello in Santiago, Chile. She completed the Master's programme in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland with a focus on migration. She joined the TransForm Research Group as university assistant (Prae-doc) in September 2024. In her PhD project, she will research the limits of migration as adaptation with a regional focus an Latin America. Welcome!
- **Songlin Wang** studied Cartography in Wuhan University where he got his BSc degree. He has a Master degree in GIS, with a minor in Data Science from University of Zurich. In September 2024, he started working as a university assistant (Prae-doc) in the TransForm Research Group, focusing on climate change and migration. In his PhD research, which will be co-supervised by Krzysztof Janowicz, will explore the use of GeoAI for the understanding of the climate-migration nexus. Welcome!
- **Johanna Ruhm** has been working as a university assistant praedoc in the Geography and Economic Education didactics working group since October. Her dissertation project deals with transformative education in the teaching of geography and economics with a focus on professionalization research and language(s) sensitivity. Welcome to the project!
- The social and cultural anthropologist **Clemens Greiner** is visiting professor at the Department of Geography and Regional Research until end of October. In his research, he is connecting global questions - for example, the development of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure - with small-scale ethnographic research. By considering the experiences and perspectives of the people who are directly affected, he manages to formulate policy recommendations for action
- **Medina Adulyarat** started her PhD as an OeAD scholarship holder in the [TransForm Research Group](#) in March 2024. She has a Bachelor's degree from the Mahidol University, Thailand and completed the Joint Master's programme in Population and Social Gerontology at Miami University and Mahidal University. She is working on her dissertation "Understanding the Intersection of Climate Change, Political Conflict and Human Mobility among Older Adults in the southernmost provinces of Thailand" and supports the working group in the [Habitable project](#). Welcome!

- **Helena Schuch** joined the working group Spatial Research and Spatial Planning in the institute of Geography and Regional Research as a PhD student in September 2024. For her master's degrees, she studied Philosophy & Economics at the University of Vienna and Environment and Bio-Resources Management at BOKU University. Specialising in traffic and mobility management in the latter, Helena wants to combine the concept of spatial justice with traffic planning in her doctoral research.
- **Philip Krassnitzer** joined the working group Spatial Research and Spatial Planning in September 2024 as a PhD student. He studied Spatial Planning at the Technical University of Vienna, where he then started to work as a project assistant. Before joining the PhD Program at the University of Vienna, he was part of the planning office "Stadtland" where he focused on dialogue-oriented planning and participation processes while still cooperating with the Technical University of Vienna as an external lecturer at both the Research Units of Local Planning and Regional Planning and Regional Development. Philip is currently investigating the interrelations between space and sustainability transition processes on local and regional levels.

2. Congratulations

Stephan Glatzel has been appointed to the Main Board of the International Mire Conservation Group. Congratulations!

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3. Publications

- Behrend, L. (2024). Understanding is what planners do - Towards a hermeneutic perspective on planning practice and research. *Planning Theory*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14730952241279633>
- Lindegaard, L. S., Webster, N., Sørensen, N. N., & Borderon, M. (2024). Introduction to the special section: unfolding a governance perspective on climate-related mobilities. *Climate and Development*, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2024.2379464>
- Thongchaithanawut, M., Borderon, M., & Sakdapolrak, P. (2024). Regional evidence of environmental mobility in Southeast Asia: A systematic review of the empirical evidence. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjtq.12562>
- Voßbeck, N., & Fastenrath, S. (2024). How resilient are regional industrial decarbonization pathways? Insights from the building materials industry in Lower Austria. *Progress in Economic Geography*, 2(2), 100019. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.peg.2024.100019>

4. New Projects

EUMA

The EUMA Project was proudly introduced to the European Civil Protection and Disaster Management community in Brussels in June 2024: EUMA Project Coordinators Sophia Sternath and Annika Fröwis, along with esteemed Advisory Board member Peter Billing, hosted an EUMA booth at the European Civil Protection Forum on June 4th and 5th. EUMA's participation in a panel discussion about synergy-building among DRR research and capacity-building projects at the concluding CERIS event highlighted the project's dedication to engaging with stakeholders and understanding their needs and expectations for graduates of the final Master's programme.

CERIS = Community for European Research and Innovation for Security

5. Project Updates

PARATUS

The EU-Horizon project PARATUS aims to enable stakeholders to participate in the research processes, to foster links with other practitioners and scientists, and to explore new multi-hazard risk tools. The new Stakeholder Hub, shared with many other EU-Horizon projects, shall help us to achieve this goal and can be found here:

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6. Viennes Geographers in the world....

From July 22nd to 24th, 2024, a Workshop on Climate Migration took place at Villa Grumello, Como Lake, Italy. The event gathered experts in the field of climate migration to present their latest findings and discuss the implications of climate change on human mobility.

The 3-day workshop, organized by Cristina Cattaneo and Soheil Shayegh from the European Institute on Economics and the Environment (EIEE), was attended by several researchers, including **Marion Borderon**, who contributed to the discussions on this critical issue.

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Coline Garcia recently attended the 2nd Annual ECMN Conference in Liège, Belgium, held from July 9-12, 2024. The conference, centered on the theme "Environmental Changes & Migration: Bridging Disciplines for a New Research Agenda," provided a valuable opportunity to explore these critical issues.

During the conference, Coline presented a paper from her PhD dissertation titled "Mapping the Complexities of Distress Im/mobilities: A Spatial Analysis of Social Vulnerability, Drought, and Migration in Eastern Ethiopia." In addition to her presentation, she co-organized two side events. The first was a meet-and-mingle for early career researchers held just before the conference began, offering a fantastic chance for networking and connecting with newcomers in the field. The second event was the Gender Workstream Social Event, marking their first in-person gathering. Both events were well-received and played a significant role in fostering connections among participants.

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Coline Garcia participated in the "Démographie & Mobilités" conference organized by the Association Internationale des Démographes de Langue Française, held in Aveiro, Portugal, from August 27-30, 2024. This event gathered experts from across the francophone world to discuss critical issues in demography and mobility. During the conference, Coline presented a paper based on her PhD dissertation titled "Lives Under Constraints: Between Involuntary Immobility and Distress Mobilities in Rural Communities of Walta Bilisuma, Ethiopia." Her presentation, part of a session focused on mobilities and constraints, marked a significant milestone as it was the first time she presented her research in French. This experience allowed her to connect with emographers from various French-speaking countries. In addition to presenting her work, Coline also had the opportunity to chair a session on Climate Change and Mobilities. This session delved into the impact of environmental changes on population movements, contributing to the broader discussions at the conference.

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7. News

Janek WALK 0.1: Janek Walk's research on 115 years of sediment deposition in the Urft Reservoir in the Eifel Mountains (western Germany) – a collaborative effort of a team of researchers from Aachen, Jülich, Düren, Würzburg, and Vienna – recently culminated in two peer-reviewed open access publications in *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. On the one hand, a topographic change detection by comparing recent digital terrain models with one created from historical topographic maps resulted in a high-resolution assessment of sedimentation rates (Stauch et al., 2024a, <https://doi.org/10.1002/esp.5722>). On the other hand, applying a wide range of sedimentological analyses on extracted cores, complemented by dating one core by caesium-137, allowed to deduce the impacts of both the catchment's industrial history and environmental protection on the reservoir sediments (Stauch et al., 2024b, <https://doi.org/10.1002/esp.5914>).

Janek WALK 0.2: We gladly announce that the third funding phase of the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) 1211 "Earth - Evolution at the dry limit", coordinated at the University of Cologne, has been approved by the German Research Foundation. In the upcoming 4 years, Janek Walk will lead together with Frank Lehmkuhl (RWTH Aachen University), Dominik Brill (University of Cologne) and Jean Braun (GFZ German Research Centre for Geoscience), the project C02 "Transport and deposition: Formation of alluvial fans and their geo-bio-archive function under hyperaridity – Integrating empiricism and landscape evolution modelling". A PhD student, a postdoctoral research fellow, the project leaders and associated scientists from national institutions will work in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile on this geomorphological topic presenting an important link in the highly interdisciplinary CRC.

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8. Past Events

INTERPRAEVENT, Science Day

The INTERPRAEVENT 2024 conference took place in Vienna from June 10 to 13, focusing on "Natural hazards in a changing climate – How to manage risks under global warming?". It featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, and field trips. A total of seven IfGR students supported the administration of the conference, Dr. Philipp MARR organized together with other ENGAGE staff a one-day field-trip, and Thomas GLADE lead the main plenum discussion during the INTERPRAEVENT conference and organized the "Science day".

As one of the highlights of the conference, the "Science Day" held at the IfGR on June 13th provided students with opportunities to participate in workshops, summarize conference outcomes, and network with experts. The day included various workshops on topics such as nature-based solutions, fluvial dynamics, and landslide dynamics, alongside with a dedicated GIS-based workshop on pluvial floods that continued throughout the day. Thanks to all who participated as lecturers.

Institute trip

The annual institute trip went to Schwechat Airport on Friday, June 14th. We were invited to the normally non-accessible Airport tower, which offered phantastic panoramic views of the entire airport and the surroundings. We were invited by the head of the professional fire brigade of the Airport, who captivated us with a wealth of fascinating facts and insights. Following this, we embarked on a comprehensive tour of the airport facilities, immersing ourselves in its operational dynamics that span across all hours of the day. We gained numerous insights during this immersive experience. Finally, we received an in-depth introduction to the operations of the professional fire brigade, where we familiarized ourselves with their various vehicles and techniques. Supported by specialized staff, we explored the different vehicles – a great experience.

To conclude the day, we enjoyed a delightful meal and engaging discussions at the Kaminstubn restaurant in Mannswörth – after which we returned to the institute.

Outlook on the EUMA workshop in Vienna

On July 3rd-4th, 2024, the second specialized workshop within the EUMA project took place in Vienna. Organized by the project coordinators, the workshop aimed to inform experts and professionals about the concepts, fields of application, and future trends, as well as current challenges and solutions in dealing with natural hazards and risks. One of the aims of the two-day workshop was to identify positive aspects as well as areas for improvement, not only topic-related but also in terms of teaching and learning styles. The feedback of the 19 participants, five of them participating online, was taken into account during the development of the final postgraduate Master's program.

Robert KANTA

On 13 June, we carried out a pile-driving core probe with the GTR-1100 MF drill crawler at the Brandstatt site. This was used to obtain drill cores from the active subsystem 1 and to install an inclinometer tube, which was modified into a smart inclinometer together with colleagues from the University of Campania (Erika MOLITIERNO, MSc, Ing. Martina de CRISTFARO and Prof. Lucio OLIVARES). For this purpose, the fiber optic cables of the smart inclinometer are attached to the outside of the inclinometer tubes and later read out regularly using a special data logger. The PhD student Erika MOLITIERNO will join the IfGR from 01.09.2024 until 28.02.2025

"The Resilient Region" – A Recap

How can regions effectively address crises like climate change and demographic aging? This was the focus of the new certification program, "The Resilient Region," led by experts including Prof. Dr. Martin Heintel and Dr. Yvonne Franz from the University of Vienna. During an intensive week in Landeck, Tyrol, from July 8-14, 2024, students explored innovative projects, engaged in public discussions with local experts, and participated in excursions to the Kaunertal and South Tyrol. A key outcome was the creation of a Resilience Charter to guide future tourism initiatives. The program concluded with a panel discussion emphasizing the importance of bold actions across all levels of society.

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Impressum

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Redaktion: Sarah Konieczka

| Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien | geographie.univie.ac.at | [Newsletter abonnieren](#)

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