

IfGR Flash-News May



Dear Viennese Geographers,

(The scroll is opened.)

Attend thee, for I, the news falcon, am here to unveil the happenings of the month of June and the bounteous fruits of our labours in May.

(The end of the scroll drops to the ground.)

Clearing the throat

Seize thy chalice of tea or coffee and rejoice in the merriment of the Flash News!

Dramatic silence

Dost thou find thyself besieged by labour, scholarship, the art of instruction, and matters of thine own heart? I have procured a noble utterance from Hildegard von Bingen for thy contemplation:

*"Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars.
Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings. Now, think."*

Shouldst the burdens of politics, strife, and enmity press heavily upon thy heart, harken to this:

*"Mehr als Gold hat das Blei in der Welt verändert.
Und mehr als das Blei in der Flinte das im Setzkasten."
(More than gold, lead has changed the world.
And more than the lead in the shotgun,
the lead in the type cases changed the world.)*

- Unknown.

If you have any announcements, please send them to: clara.winkler@univie.ac.at

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1. Publications

Frantzeskaki, N., Collier, M., Holscher, K., ... Meike Levin-Keitel et al. Premises, practices and politics of co-creation for urban sustainability transitions. *Urban Transform* 7, 7 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s42854-025-00075-9>

Liu, Z., Janowicz, K., Majic, I., Shi, M., Fortacz, A., Karimi, M., Mai, G. and Currier, K. (2025), Operationalizing Geographic Diversity for the Evaluation of AI-Generated Content. *Transactions in GIS*, 29: e70057. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tgis.70057>

Shi, M., Janowicz, K., Verstegen, J., Currier, K., Wiedemann, N., Mai, G., ... Zhu, R. (2025). Geography for AI sustainability and sustainability for GeoAI. *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, 52(4), 331–349. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15230406.2025.2479796>

Shi, M., Janowicz, K., Liu, Z., Karimi, M., Majic, I. and Fortacz, A. (2025), Defining Concept Drift and Its Variants in Research Data Management: A Scientometric Case Study on Geographic Information Science. *Transactions in GIS*, 29: e70058. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tgis.70058>

2. Project Updates

EUMA: Workshop

The **call for applications** for our final **Specialised EUMA Workshop at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences (EASS)** is now open until the end of May. The workshop, titled *Geopolitical and Security Issues in Risk Management*, will take place in **Tallinn from June 30 to July 1, 2025**.

Thomas Glade, Philipp Marr, Sophia Sternath and Annika Fröwis will be on site. Further details can be found on the [EUMA website](#).

NoeDRILL

The NoeDRILL project has been completed following the installation of the 40 m long automatic inclinometer. The project provided important information on subsurface conditions to a depth of 40 m with a complete profile of the upper 26 m. In addition, the inclinometer now provides data every 5 minutes with a resolution of 50 cm. The first readings are already providing promising insights about the deep-seated Brandstatt landslide.

Taiwan-Austria Cooperation Project

Part one of the knowledge transfer between the ENGAGE working group and geoscientists from NCHU, Taiwan, took place in April. From the Austrian side, the NoeSLIDE sites (Brandstatt, Gresten and Hofermühle), the Gschliefgraben in Gmunden with the support of **Dr. Weidinger**, the Kitzsteinhorn were explored and future cooperations within a small workshop were discussed in Innsbruck.

In June, the Austrian team, led by Dr. Marr, will travel to Taiwan to visit various landslide sites and institutes there.

Zilong Liu, a third-year PhD student in the Spatial Data Science and Geocommunication working group, had his first-authored paper, "Operationalizing Geographic Diversity for the Evaluation of AI-Generated Content," accepted by *Transactions in GIS*. Motivated by the need of debiasing **generative AI**, **his team drew on ecological concepts of species diversity to develop an information-theoretic definition and measurement of geographic diversity. Applying these measures** to content generated by six large language models, they found that more intelligent models—such as GPT-4o—exhibited

less geographic diversity than older models like GPT-3.5. The team speculates that this decline might be an unintended consequence of AI alignment efforts aimed at reducing hallucinations and increasing content regulation.

3. General News

Obituary: Christian Vielhaber

We received the sad news that Christian Vielhaber, who was pivotal in establishing Fachdidaktik GW at the University of Vienna, has passed away. Over the decades, he touched and influenced generations of students, teachers, and didactic experts. While his loss deeply saddens us, we are also grateful for the formative experiences we shared with him. Your convictions and ideas, dear Christian, will continue to live on in many ways. We will greatly miss your seemingly inexhaustible energy for shaping and developing schools and teaching in the best interests of students.

Writing Afternoons

Starting in June: the Writing Afternoons provide an opportunity for focused work on dissertations and academic texts. We invite all PhDs from the institute, advanced master's students, postdocs, and everyone else wanting to get some writing done. Join for a productive work atmosphere and enjoy the (sometimes needed) social pressure to finally write. We meet on Thursday afternoons in the conference room at NIG.

Upcoming sessions:

05.06. 13:30-17:30

12.06. 13:30-17:30

19.06. 13:30-17:30

26.06. 13:30-17:30

For questions, mail helena.schuch@univie.ac.at.

Results of ÖH election

Firstly, we would like to congratulate the StV team on the results of the ÖH election.

- In **Geography**, Nina Katharina Ballhausen, Jean Siggy Estgen, Gunda Maria Theresia Meindorfer, Helene Pichler and Livia Schulz received a mandate.
- Daniela Zazhil Monsberger, Milica Arsenovic, Leonie Gulder, Jakob Korosec and Sam Pandora Rein obtained a mandate in the **geography and economics teaching programme**.

Circle U. Climate Day at the University of Vienna, 5 June 2025

"Participatory Climate Justice – Vienna as the Capital of Democracy in the Year of 2025"

On Thursday, 5 June 2025, the University of Vienna invites you to the first **Circle U. Climate Day** in the Ceremonial Halls in the main building from 10:00 to 17:00!

Visitors will join children and young people from the co-creative climate education project DOCK for Change (Children's Office) on a **journey into the good future** and explore research, projects and initiatives on climate change, climate justice and participation at the **Marketplace of Initiatives**. **Flash talks** from research and **Climate Walks** around the main building provide exciting insights. Interactive activities such as the **Climate Fresk** will get visitors involved. Different perspectives on the topic of climate justice will be discussed by an **expert panel**.

The Circle U. Climate Day is an initiative of the Circle U. Knowledge Hub on Climate and is being held simultaneously for the first time at all nine universities of the Circle U. Alliance partner universities. The event is organized in cooperation with the Urban Sustainability Living Lab (USLL) , the Environment and Climate Research Hub (ECH) and the Children's Office of the University of Vienna and is aimed at students, researchers and interested parties of all ages; **admission is free**.

[More information.](#)

11th International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG 2026): Submission Deadline

- **Event:** 11th International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG 2026)
Date: February 2-6, 2026
Location: Christchurch, New Zealand
- **Session Title:** Geomorphology Education for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
Conference Theme: Education, outreach, and ethics in geomorphology
Convenors: Annika Fröwis, Dr. Philipp Marr, Prof. Thomas Glade (University of Vienna)
- **Submission Deadline:** End of May 2025

For more details and submission guidelines, visit: [ICG 2026 Confirmed Sessions](#)

16. Sustainability Challenge

THE chance to use your skills outside of everyday university life and to develop yourself professionally and personally!

- Get to know new people from 7 different universities! Get out of your bubble and exchange ideas with many other students!
- Work together in an interdisciplinary team on future-relevant projects!
- You don't have to write an exam, but instead learn to tackle sustainability directly through intensive project work - and get 8 ECTS for it
- Elective course focusing on sustainability, SDGs & climate protection - we look at it from different perspectives - art, technology, social sciences, humanities and natural sciences
- Your bonus: The certificate of participation and the many networking opportunities open up different future prospects and more diverse job opportunities for you
- 2 ways to take part:
 - Would you like to get a taste of start-up life and realise your own sustainable idea? Then the Start-up Track is just right for you!
 - Would you like to implement a sustainable project together with a company or organisation? Then the Service-Learning Track is perfect for you!
- Start: October 2025

Be part of it!

If you are studying for a master's degree or are at an advanced stage of your diploma or bachelor's degree, you can take part, regardless of your degree programme and university.

Pre-register now!

You can pre-register now via the [Sustainability Challenge website](#). By pre-registering, you secure a place on our list of interested parties and receive early information and updates on the application phase.

Bewegte Pause

"Bewegte Pause" on Tuesday at 13:00 and Thursday at 11:00 in the Conference Room on the fifth floor. Fifteen minutes of mobilising the body can make a big difference for the body, especially for the muscles and joints, and the productivity.

4. Future Events

JUNE

- **WISESS Completion Grants:** Call for applications for grants starting in winter semester 2025
Application period: 15.05.-15.06.2025
- **BOKU Energiecluster:** „Herausforderungen einer sozial gerechten Energie- und Mobilitätswende" [More information and registration](#)
03.06.2025, 18:00-20:00, on-site and livestream
- **Online-Event "Digitale Barrierefreiheit | ask me anything - Schwerpunkt barrierefreie PDF's"**
by the interdisciplinary team "Digitale Barrierefreiheit"
04.06.2025, 14:00-15:30, online via Zoom
- **Circle U. semester meeting**
04.06.2025, 09:30-12:30, Aula am Campus, Spitalgasse 2, Hof 1.11, 1090 Wien
- **Circle U. Climate Day**
05.06.2025, 10:00-17:00, Main Building University of Vienna, 1st floor, Large & Small Ballroom, Senate Hall
- **Pierre Wenzel: Dakar - Capital of Concrete:** Why has concrete become so central to understanding Dakar's urban landscape? [More information and registration](#).
26.06.2025, 12:00-13:30, Conference Room, 4th floor
- **Faculty Conference**
12.06.2025
- **Talks & BBQ - Meet the Faculty for Exploration**
12.06.2025, 16:30, UZA II, limited seats - please register!
- **Vienna Pride 2025:** Rainbow tours, diversity competence - training program, Vienna Pride Run & [more](#)
31.05.-15.06.2025
- **James Vandenberg**, working group Urban Studies, will give a **co-creation workshop** on the topic **"A Systems Approach to Scaling Urban Agriculture's Impact"** within the framework of the Systems Innovation Network – Food Hub. The Planning for Impact workshop is designed to unite participants under a shared mission: Co-creating innovative, inclusive, and equitable strategies that enable cities to harness Urban Agriculture's diverse resilience and sustainability benefits. [More information and registration](#).
17.06.2025, 17:00-18:30, online

- **Martin Heintel**, working group Economic Geography, will give a presentation on the topic **"Modell Parkraumveränderung in einer Gasse im 7. Wiener Gemeindebezirk: Ableitung methodischer Learnings für partizipative Mobilitätsprozesse"** (Engl.: *Model parking space change in an alleyway in Vienna's 7th district: Derivation of methodological learnings for participatory mobility processes*) within the symposium of [Natürlich Wir](#). Therefore, he will represent the University of Vienna in the ["Naturforum Mobilität im Lebensraum"](#) (2025) at the Naturepark Weissensee.

26.06.2025, 10:00-11:00, Weissensee

- **IFGR Summer Event 2025**
date will be announced

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

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