

EGU General Assembly 2016, 18th – 22nd April

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The European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna was the last conference I will attend before submitting my thesis. As such, I decided that I should widen my horizons and go to other sessions beyond just those for cryospheric sciences. To keep it still applicable for my project on debris-covered glaciers in the European Alps, I focused on sessions on the mountain environment, remote sensing using the Structure-from-Motion (SfM) technique and Mars, where debris-covered glaciers are numerous.

I dedicated the two first days to rock slope instability, Mars (the latest remote sensing work) and SfM in every possible domain. I particularly enjoyed PICO (Presentation of Interactive Content) sessions, where presenters had two minutes to explain why their topics are interesting, and then you could go meet them next to a touch screen where you could discuss more in detail. These first days were very instructive on how varied the applications of SfM are.

After the two first days and finding my way through the huge conference centre (like many other scientists), I browsed the diverse exhibitors present in Vienna: a lot of publishers and companies with very high-tech geophysical instrumentation (even two set-up outside the building) but surprisingly no unmanned aerial systems manufacturers.

Thursday was the day of the debris-covered glaciers session where I was a co-convener and had a poster in the afternoon. The oral presentation session was very strong with, for example, an intriguing talk on ice-sails in the Karakoram. This talk ended up being the topic of a few articles on the BBC website. My poster session went very well with a lot of good comments on the visual aspect of my poster, even though my topic (the European Alps) was not the most popular for debris-covered glaciers. The session was followed by a dinner with most of the participants which was a great opportunity to discuss and exchange non-official points-of-view on debris-covered glacier-related topics.

I spent my Friday in cryospheric science sessions, especially the double session on monitoring mountain glaciers. To conclude this EGU conference, Friday night was the night of the convener reception: good beer, good food, good music and a very good opportunity to exchange ideas with other conveners.

The main conclusion of this conference is that geosciences offer a lot of opportunities to apply my cryospheric knowledge in potential postdoc jobs.



Figure 1: Me and my poster display (on the right) during the Debris-Covered Glaciers session on Thursday 21st April 2016. Photo Credit: Kai Boggild for <http://blogs.egu.eu/divisions/cr/2016/04/22/image-of-the-week-egu-general-assembly-2016/>