POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE, EGU 2015

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I was kindly awarded £600 from BSG to cover the costs of attending the EGU AGM in April 2015. I gave an oral presentation titled "Sediment supply and grain size export from normal fault footwalls in Southern Italy", in the co-organized Tectonics and Geomorphology session "Interactions between tectonics and surface processes from mountain belts to basins". Additionally, I was also a co-author on another talk and a poster that were also presented in different sessions of the Geomorphology division.

In my talk, I presented some of the findings of my two field campaigns in Southern Italy investigating sediment supply from active normal faults footwall catchments (one of which had been generously sponsored by a BSG Postgraduate Research Grant). We have found that sediment supply (Qs) from these catchments is highly responsive to tectonics, with sediment supply predictions scaling with steady-state estimates of sediment flux (Fig. 1). These Qs estimates also scale with the flux derived from the landslides (Fig. 1), and coarse landslide input is probably needed to explain the grain sizes exported from these catchments (Fig. 2). The talk received some positive interest and comments, and also some helpful feedback that I am now incorporating into my thesis and future papers.

Participating in EGU was also very beneficial because of the many sessions relevant to my research that I was able to attend. These gave me some new insights and ideas that I am now materializing in my thesis. Additionally, I was able to meet many geomorphologists and have some useful informal discussions. Attending the Steepest Descent Meeting, the Saturday after the conference closure was also a very valuable networking opportunity.

Overall, attending EGU, which would not had been possible without the BSG support, was an excellent opportunity to first promote my work in an international conference environment, greatly improved the quality of my PhD research and future papers, and enabled me to start building my own professional network.
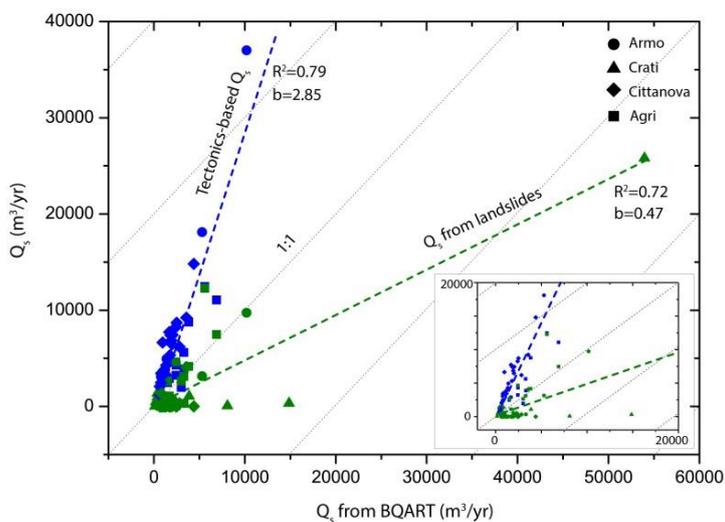

Figure 1. Sediment flux (Q_s) predicted based on steady-state assumptions and from landslide maps scales with predictions from the BQART model.
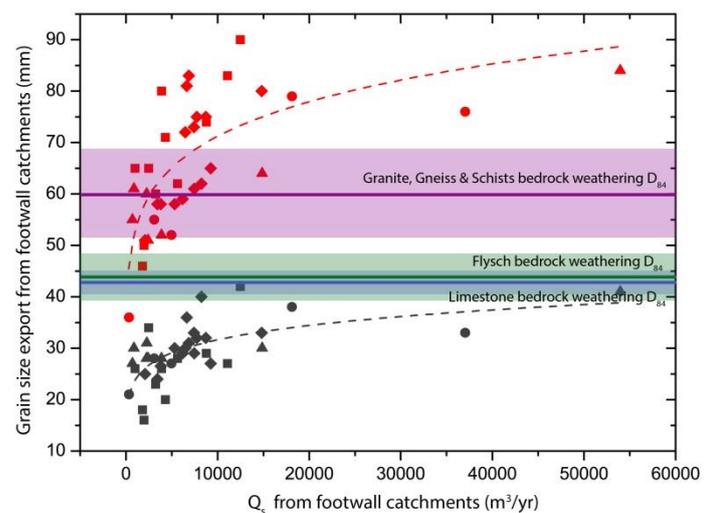

Figure 2. The grain sizes (D_{50} and D_{84}) exported from the catchments scale with the predicted Qs, and are coarser than those that weathering is supplying, so landslide input is needed to explain the signal.