

5 April 2024

Dear Louise and BSG Executive,

I am writing to make an application to be President of the BSG. Having carefully read the role description, I am confident that I can fulfil the duties required of the President and would be grateful if you would consider my nomination. In addition to my willingness to serve, this application is supported by Professor Louise Slater, Oxford University (louise.slater@ouce.ox.ac.uk) as nominator and seconded by Professor Daniel Parsons, Loughborough University, d.parsons@lboro.ac.uk.

I have the experience, passion for geomorphology and commitment to BSG to make a valuable contribution as President, supporting the EC in its activities, representing the BSG externally and driving the BSG fellowship programme. I have held a number of senior leadership positions at Loughborough University, where I was based until very recently, including HoD and Associate Dean, and been a successful and collegiate member of several scholarly bodies, including the BSG Executive and the Bureau of the International Association of Sedimentologists (2000 members from over 100 countries).

These roles have furnished me with a degree of experience that I can bring to the BSG Presidency, along with a style of working that is reflected in comments like this one from a recent 360: "Stephen is the kind of person everyone wants to work with, and everyone wants to work for. He is inclusive, kind, gracious, clever, articulate and extremely competent." I understand that the President's role is to support and advocate not lead, but this quote indicates the manner in which I would be able to do that: with energy, integrity and kindness.

I am a physical geographer who has always been proud to identify as a geomorphologist, and I have been a member of the BGRG and BSG throughout my career. I am passionate about geomorphological research and my CV indicates the contributions I have made to the discipline, as confirmed by the award of a BSG Fellowship in 2023. I have a reasonable international reputation and therefore have sufficient convening power and networking ability to fulfil the President's roles.

I understand the Society's core values and can prioritize its best interests. I would continue to build on Heather's recent push to *diversify* the Fellowship and work wherever possible to strengthen the BSG's long-term future precisely by driving *inclusivity*. My background as a first-generation undergraduate, doctoral researcher and now professor, means that I am committed to *outreach* and ensuring opportunity based on competence, which cannot be taken for granted at the present time. I have been pleased to see recent re-emphasis that BSG is for *professional* as well as academic geomorphologists, and would support continued efforts in that regard, especially within the President's remit to drive the Fellowship. I also recognise the importance of *doctoral researchers* to the future of the discipline. My successful supervision of approximately 20 PhDs/MPhils, and leadership of doctoral research matters in my ADR role, are good indications of how seriously I approach the support and development of the ECR community. There are ways in which the BSG Fellowship could be encouraged and utilised to support the Executive's work across all of these areas, and I would make that my focus, if elected.

Thanks for considering my application.

Yours sincerely

S. P. Rice

Stephen Rice – brief CV

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<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/natural-sciences/staff/profile/professor-stephen-rice>

1985 – 1988 B.A. Geography, Oxford University (Hertford College), G.W. Gilbert Prize
1988 – 1996 M.Sc. & PhD Geography, University of British Columbia
1995 – 2024 Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader, Professor, Loughborough University
2024 – Prof. of River Science and Environmental Sustainability, Manchester Metropolitan University

Fluvial geomorphologist with research interests in lotic ecology: (1) the physical processes at work in gravel-bed rivers and the sediments and landforms produced; (2) the interactions between fluvial processes and freshwater ecosystems, including biogeomorphology, ecohydraulics and habitat provision. Inaugural Professorial lecture (2014) at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYaXZ-ekaws>

Research outputs

79 peer-reviewed papers, >20 book chapters, 5 journal special issues, 4 edited books.

Clarivate (Web of Science) citations = 2729; Google Scholar citations = 5953 (April 2024).

6 recent papers (full list at [https](https://www.mmu.ac.uk/natural-sciences/staff/profile/professor-stephen-rice) link above):

- Johnson MF, Albertson LK, Everall NP, Harvey G, Mason R, Pledger A, Rice SP, Thorne, CR. 2024. Accounting for the power of Nature: Using flume and field studies to compare the capacities of bio-energy and fluvial energy to move surficial gravels, *ESPL (early view)*, [www](#)
- Mason R, Rice SP, Johnson, MJ, Wood PJ, Vettori D. 2022. Aquatic insect bioconstructions modify fine-sediment entrainment and mobility, *J. Geophysical Research: Earth Surface* 127, [www](#)
- Sanders H, Rice SP, Wood PJ. 2021. Signal crayfish burrowing, bank retreat and sediment recruitment to rivers: a biophysical sediment budget, *ESPL* 46: 837–852, [www](#)
- Rice SP. 2021. Why so sceptical? The role of animals in fluvial geomorphology. *WIREs Water*, [www](#)
- Rice SP, Pledger AG, Toone JA, Mathers K. 2019. Zoogeomorphological behaviours in fish and the impact of benthic feeding on bed material mobility in fluvial landscapes, *ESPL* 44: 54-66, [www](#)
- Rice SP. 2017. Tributary connectivity, confluence aggradation and network biodiversity, *Geomorphology* 27: 6-16, [www](#)

Research funding

Awards from NERC (PI & Co-I), European Commission (Co-I), Leverhulme (PI) and Nuffield (PI) as well as the Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, and Natural England. At present I am Co-I on a NERC award with Durham and PI on an EA (Regional Flood & Coastal Committee) award.

Research supervision

9 completed Post-docs; 15 completed PhDs; 2 current PhDs; 3 completed M.Phil. (100%)

Journal editing

Chief Editor, *Sedimentology* (2010-2014); *RGS-IBG Book Series* (2017-); *Sedimentology AE* (2007-2010); *IAHR Journal of Ecohydraulics* (2016-2021); *Journal of Maps* (2004-2011)

Examples of service and leadership

- Scientific bodies: British Society for Geomorphology, Executive (2003-2010); Vice-chair (Publications) British Society for Geomorphology (2008-2010); Bureau, International Association of Sedimentologists (2010-2014)
- Senior leadership at Loughborough: Associate Dean Research & Innovation, School of Social Sciences & Humanities (2018-2022); Co-Chair REF Review Working Group (2021-22) and strategic lead for five UoAs in REF 2021; Lead NERC CENTA Doctoral Training Partnership (2012-2016); Head of Department of Geography and Environment (2016-2018)
- Examining of Physical Geography degree programmes at Durham (2017- 2021), Lancaster (2013-2016); Manchester MSc (2006-2009)
- External appointment panels: e.g., École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne EPFL, Utah State University, University of Lleida, St Andrews, Birmingham, Southampton, Cardiff.
- External examining of PhDs: 10, including at Durham, Nottingham, Cardiff, QUL, Southampton, Aberdeen, Wollongong, Exeter