

# Volunteer to serve on an AGU committee or advisory board

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## Earth and Planetary Surface Processes

Dear EPSP Community:

With the start of a new school year unlike any other, we thought it would be a good time to bring the community up to date on several EPSP activities that might be of interest. First, we wanted to update everyone on the status and next steps of issues identified during last spring's URGE ([Unlearning Racism in the Geosciences](#)) initiative that close to 40 of our members participated in. A huge shout out to all who took part in that multi-month program of learning, thinking and discussion about complex issues that need to be grappled with to enhance our scientific community's ability to engage all members fully and fairly. Some participants described their experience as “magical,” and all of us owe a deep thanks to those who took many hours of their time to wrestle with this difficult subject.

But URGE was not just an academic exercise, and a number of recommendations and proposals emerged from the process that deserve serious consideration. Chief among them was the establishment of a standing EPSP committee for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to promote and further ideas raised during the URGE process and beyond. While establishing a committee seems a simple process, we've been holding off setting one up until we established our new bylaws, which lays out the process for standing up new committees, among other things. Up until now, EPSP has not had any bylaws – we've largely done things by a combination of historical precedent, consensus and fiat – mechanisms that worked when we were small and just getting started, but don't provide the continuity, accountability and transparency that robust organizations have.

We're eager to move forward on the URGE recommendations and are making real progress on the bylaws. With the leadership of our past-president, Dorothy Merritts, who graciously took on the task of synthesizing best practices from our and other sections together with direction from AGU staff, we have a first draft of the new bylaws, which will be circulated among the officers, standing committee chairs and others before being finalized with AGU. We hope to have this done by early fall, after which we can move to establish a DEI committee among other tasks. Thanks for your understanding as this process moves forward.

In other news, AGU is continuing to move forward with plans for a hybrid [Fall Meeting](#) (#AGU21) in New Orleans in December. Yes, this is a tricky path under challenging and ever-changing circumstances, but AGU is relying on its flexibility and nimble staff, to plan for a hybrid, safe meeting where both in-person and virtual attendance is possible (see below for more on that from the Program Committee). The situation is, of course, fluid, with COVID, hurricanes and other issues playing large roles. All of this makes planning difficult, but we're very much hoping that there will be an in-person component to the meeting. Stay tuned for on-going guidance but know that early registration is now open.

All for now. Hoping all of you and yours are staying safe and sane in these most interesting of times. We leave you with a quote from Red's Wolman, who in turn, was fond of quoting the Italian socialist philosopher, Antonio Gramsci "One is permitted pessimism of the intellect but only optimism of the will."

Optimistically yours,

Gordon Grant – EPSP President

Kimberly Hill – EPSP President-elect

### **EPSP Section Awards**

Please join us in congratulating this year's winners of the [EPSP Section Awards](#). The G.K. Gilbert Award which recognizes sustained and outstanding contributions to earth and planetary surface processes was given to **Dr. David Mohrig** at the University of Texas, Austin. The Marguerite T. Williams Award recognizes significant contributions to research and community-building by a mid-career scientist; **Dr. Nicole Gasparini** at Tulane University is this year's winner. The Luna B. Leopold Award is given annually to one early career scientist (no more than 10 years post-degree), and recognizes significant and outstanding contributions that advance the field of earth and planetary surface processes; this year's winner is **Dr. Mathieu Lapôte** of Stanford University. Dr. Lapôte will also deliver the Robert Sharp Lecture at the upcoming AGU Fall Meeting. We very much look forward to celebrating our awardees and their achievements at our annual community gathering at the Fall Meeting, hopefully in person in New Orleans.

### **AGU Fall Meeting Updates**

Dear EPSP community,

Planning for the [Fall Meeting](#) 2021 (#AGU21) is currently underway, with session scheduling happening on 8 Sept and 9 Sept. This will be the most adventurous

planning meeting yet with the new hybrid format...

The Fall Meeting will take place from 13-17 December and is being designed for both in-person (New Orleans, LA) and virtual participation (online from anywhere). Oral sessions will be a mix of in-person and virtual and will be 75 min long, allowing for short talks (~3-5 mins) from presenters, followed by lively discussions. Oral presenters will also post pre-recorded 15 min talks prior to the start of the meeting. Poster presenters will be able to present their poster either virtually or in-person or both. As the physical meeting will be held in New Orleans, the conference will generally run each day from 8 am to 7:15 pm CST.

**Details for registering** for the meeting [can be found here](#).

Also, if you are planning on attending the meeting in person, you will need to show proof of full vaccination when picking up your badge. More **details on the COVID-19 policies** for the meeting [can be found here](#).

And general **FAQs** about the meeting/program [can be found here](#).

Best,

Marisa Palucis (EPSP Program Chair) and the Program Committee

### **Wonderful coffee**

September marked the ninth installment of our Wonderful Coffee hour. It continues to be an enjoyable way to see old friends, make new ones and discuss a broad range of EPSP-related topics. Thanks to everyone who has joined and made the recurring event great. The [EPSP Wonderful Coffee Hour](#) will continue on the first Wednesday of each month (6 October, 3 November) at 8 am San Francisco time. All are welcome, and we want to encourage interested students at all stages to participate.

[Join Link](#)

When you arrive in the wonder room, jump into any group to join a conversation.

### [EPSP Connects seminar series](#)

EPSP-Connects is seeking volunteers to join the coordination team which plans and hosts monthly science talks or panels. It is a great way to engage with the EPSP community and become familiar with emerging research in our field. If you are interested or would like to apply to join the team, please email [Risa Madoff](#). In the email, please provide the following information: current position, research or professional interests and why you would like to join.

**Upcoming Schedule of Science Talks** (please visit the [EPSP Connects website](#) to register):

**September 22:** Robert Mahon (University of New Orleans) - Overview of research on sedimentology, bedforms and building an open accessible lab. [Register for the talk here](#).

**October 13:** Jocelyn West (CU-Boulder) - Social Vulnerability to Natural Hazards and Climate Change

**November 17:** Kristin Sweeney (University of Portland) - Science talk title TBD

### **Nominations open for the Early Career Spotlight!**

Know an early career scientist in an EPSP-related field that deserves more recognition? Nominations are open for our [EPSP Early Career Spotlight](#). Students, postdocs and any other early-career scientists are welcome to be nominated and self-nominations are accepted. You can [submit your nominations here](#).

### **EPSP Student Writing Group**

Thanks to [Karin Lehnigk](#) and [Udita Mukherjee](#) who are leading our AGU EPSP student writing group. The writing group continues this fall and will meet over zoom from 7:30 am - 9:30 am PDT on Tuesdays and 12:30 pm -2:30 pm PDT on Thursdays ([convert PDT to your local time here](#)), 7 September through 9 December 2021. Graduate students, undergrads and recent graduates (<1 year post-graduation) are encouraged to come work on anything they choose, from manuscripts and grant applications to coursework and blogs in the (virtual) company of other surface processes students. [Sign up here](#) anytime during the semester to receive the zoom info. We hope to see you there!

**Dear Colleagues & Friends,**

**Announcing [PRF2022](#) The Progressive Failure of Brittle Rocks - A GSA Penrose Conference with support from NSF. Please Save the Date! 20-24 June 2022.**

PRF2022 will host **geomorphologists, rock physicists, stone heritage preservationists, planetary geologists, geotechnical engineers and critical zone scientists** to explore progressive rock fracture, the factors that influence it, and how it impacts surface processes and the built environment.

If you are from an underrepresented group - including women and early career

faculty - we may be able to offer financial assistance.

Please share this information and contact us if you have any questions or would like to get on our email list to get future updates!

Best to you in the upcoming year,

Martha Cary (Missy) Eppes, Kerry Leith, Alex Rinehart, Matt Brain - **Conference Leaders**

Phil Meredith, Heather Viles, Laura Pyrak-Nolte, Stephen Laubach, Jill Marshall, Erik Eberhardt and Seulgi Moon

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