



**AGU**  
American Geophysical Union  
Near-Surface Geophysics Focus Group  
Newsletter: January 2018

Dear Colleagues:

The latest Near-Surface Geophysics focus group (NSFG) newsletter is now available. Please follow this link to see the [full version online](#).

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Recent announcements of interest to the NSFG community (conferences, academic positions, graduate student opportunities, etc.) can be found on the [AGU Near-Surface Geophysics focus group website](#).

**Early-career scientists:** Check out the [NSFG early-career website](#).  
Follow NSFG on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@NS AGU!](#)

Best regards,  
Sarah Kruse  
President, Near-Surface Geophysics Focus Group, AGU

# Near-Surface Geophysics Focus Group (NSFG) January 2018 Newsletter

## Upcoming Meetings at a Glance

Meeting (click to go to website)	Location	Meeting Dates	Submission	Registration
<a href="#">SAGEEP</a>	Nashville, Tenn.	25–29 March 2018	Closed	TBA
<a href="#">EGU</a>	Vienna, Austria	8–13 April 2018	10 January 2017	TBA
<a href="#">ICEEG2018</a>	Hangzhou, China	10–13 June 2018	Closed	Starting 1 January 2018

## AGU Updates

### Events

- **2017 Fall Meeting review—Feedback wanted**

The Fall Meeting in New Orleans brought some invigorating changes to our annual gathering. AGU clearly recognized the importance of Near-Surface Geophysics by placing our posters in the first row in the hall! We had great sessions on landslides, hydrogeophysics, induced seismicity, airborne geophysics, exploration geophysics, anthropogenic targets, and open-source software. We took advantage of new formats available, including Lightning talks (2 minutes) to introduce posters. A highlight for me was a fascinating panel discussion on open-source software. Thanks to all the session organizers, participants, and especially Andy Parsekian for organizing!

We swapped some San Francisco quirks for some New Orleans ones. Instead of running across the traffic intersection between the two Moscone Centers, we found ourselves running back and forth along an apparently infinitely long convention center. We exchanged our sit-down luncheon for a wilder fest at Mardi Gras World. And our student rep Matt Sirianni found a perfect replacement for the Near-Surface/Hydrogeophysics social gathering—it was like the Hotel Utah but less squished. Thank you, Matt!

The Executive Committee met on Wednesday. We want to grow NS sessions for next year by mixing up some Exec Comm energy with our usual “grassroots” session organizing. Please think about sessions you would like to see (and help organize). Please contact [me](#) and [Andy](#) with suggestions.

We would love to get your feedback about what you liked and didn’t like about NS in New Orleans. I, for one, was happy to let go of the historical alphabetical ordering of posters but would like to see our posters get lumped in with the Earth Surface theme in the future. Suggestions for Washington, D. C.? Any activities in the meantime?

Happy New Year!

Sarah Kruse

President, NS Section (We are all sections now.)

- **AGU Honors Program: Nominations open 15 January 2018**

The AGU Honors Program recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the geophysical sciences, to service to the community, and to the public’s understanding. Nominations for the 2018 Union awards, Fellows, medals, prizes, and section and focus group awards will open on 15 January. We urge you to take this opportunity to nominate a student, a colleague, a peer, or a mentor whose achievements have made a difference in the Earth and space sciences. Visit the [AGU Honors Program online](#) for more information.

- **ESSOAr—A new Earth and space science server for preprints and conference presentations**

AGU is developing a server, the Earth and Space Science Open Archive, for the international Earth and space science community to accelerate the open dissemination of Earth and space science preprints and rich conference presentations with an advisory board of other international Earth and space science societies. Sign up for updates at [www.essoar.org](http://www.essoar.org).

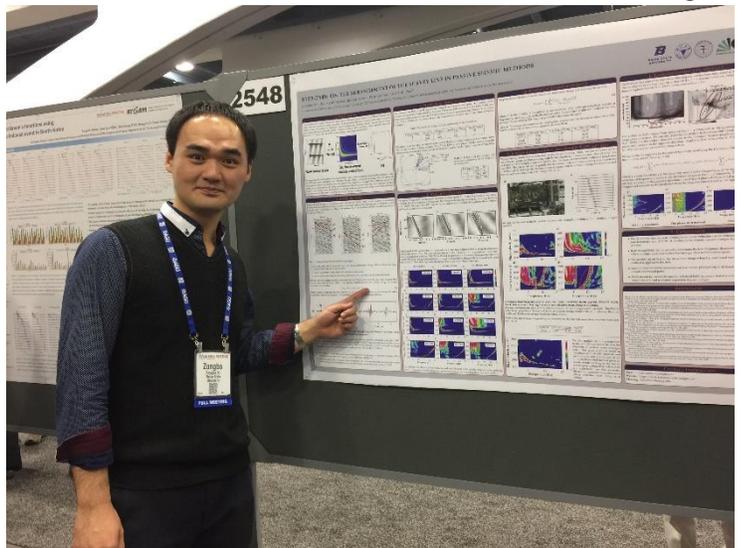
- **AGU approaches its Centennial**

AGU will celebrate its Centennial in 2019 and will focus on worldwide events and programming that recognize the value and contributions of Earth and space science over the past century and how the science will continue to add value to everyday life in the future. As we approach this milestone, AGU wants to reflect on the past 100 years of achievement and discovery and look forward to the impacts to come. We're excited to announce that the oral history group StoryCorps again will be at the Fall Meeting to help us record and capture the scientific and personal stories of our sciences. The nonprofit podcast focuses on stories about humanity, and they are coming to the meeting to help you tell your stories! If you know of a story that should be shared, we want to hear about it. Nominate someone today by visiting [centennial.agu.org/](http://centennial.agu.org/).

### NSFG Student Spotlights and Research Highlights

[Zongbo Xu](#) is a second-year Ph.D. student in Boise State University's Department of Geosciences, where he works under Dr. Dylan Mikesell in the [Environmental Seismology Laboratory](#). Zongbo's research is focused mainly on near-surface passive seismic methods in urban areas for underground structure investigations. During his time at China University of Geosciences, Wuhan Campus (B.S., 2013; M.Sc. Eng., 2016), Zongbo studied many different near-surface methods but was particularly drawn to near-surface seismic methods. While having always been intrigued by physics, Zongbo credits his father and his master's thesis advisor, Dr. Jianghai Xia, for encouraging him to pursue geology and introducing him to near-surface geophysics, respectively. What really cemented his desire to pursue near-surface geophysics was a revelation he had during a conference he once attended. At this conference, Zongbo listened to a presentation about the application of near-surface geophysical techniques for landslide hazard detection in western China. After seeing the potentially lifesaving benefits that geophysics could offer humanity, Zongbo was hooked!

During his time as a master's student, Zongbo authored or coauthored numerous publications, was a two-time recipient of the National Scholarship for Graduate Students from the Ministry of Education of China, and won the Outstanding Master Thesis Award from the China University of Geosciences. Zongbo's academic success has not faltered as a Ph.D. student, having received the Allen V. Cox Research Award from the Geological Society of America and a Society of Exploration Geophysicists Anadarko Scholarship. Zongbo has also recently authored two publications, [Xu et al. \(2017\)](#) and [Xu and Mikesell \(2017\)](#).



Zongbo has attended the AGU Fall Meeting twice (in [2016](#) and [2017](#)) and particularly enjoys the opportunity to get useful feedback on his own research as well as being exposed to new and exciting research from a variety of disciplines. Zongbo loves the "end of the year party" feel of Fall Meeting and appreciates the chance to meet up with old friends at "one of the best geophysical conferences."

Being an avid researcher, Zongbo intends to further pursue his research after graduation, as a professor. Using his knowledge and experiences, he plans to mentor the next generation of near-surface geophysicists and hopes to instill the same passion in them that he has for the subject.

For more information about near-surface applications of passive seismic methods, please contact [Zongbo Xu](#).

*Interested in being highlighted, or know a student who should be? Please email [Matthew Sirianni](#) for more information about the Student Spotlight. We are also seeking research highlights that showcase use of near-surface geophysics in other [AGU sections and focus groups](#). If you are interested in writing a short, one-page highlight, please contact [Chi Zhang](#).*

## **FYIs**

### **8th International Conference on Environmental and Engineering Geophysics**

- The Chinese Central Government put forward the goal of the construction of urbanization in China: “Three 100 Million People.” In the next 10 years, China’s urbanization process will run at the highest speed in the history of China. The near surface is the most complex, sensitive, and fragile part of the Earth. The near surface furnishes the vast majority of materials necessary for human living. As a result, China’s urbanization relies on a “healthy” and sustainable near surface. Because of broad applications of geophysical techniques in the environmental and engineering fields, they are of great significance for the sustainable development of human society. To promote the communication of environmental and engineering geophysical problems, and provide a world-class forum for new technical advances, developments, and applications in environmental and engineering geophysics, the 8th International Conference on Environmental and Engineering Geophysics (ICEEG2018) will be held on the campus of Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, the most beautiful city in China, from 10 to 13 June 2018. We sincerely welcome leading experts, international media, young professionals, and students to contribute and attend the meeting. This conference will offer an opportunity to all geophysicists and engineers to present recent achievements including case studies and theoretical studies in related techniques, software, and instruments. Expanded abstracts should not exceed six pages (including figures) and should be in the format of the abstracts for the SEG annual meeting. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 December 2017. Please send abstracts and papers to [email box](#).

### **5th International Workshop on Induced Polarization**

- The 5th International Workshop on Induced Polarization will take place 3–5 October 2018 at Rutgers University–Newark, just outside New York City. The focus of the 5th workshop is to critically evaluate the information content of induced polarization data based on the past decade of theoretical, laboratory, and field-scale developments. Further details on the 5th workshop will be announced on the [website](#) as the program is developed by the technical [committee](#). For now, please mark your calendars and hold the date.

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To contribute material to the NSFG newsletter, send an email to [Chi Zhang](#).

**Deadline:** Material must be received 5 full business days before the first of the month.

**Guidelines for submissions:** All members are welcome to submit content of interest to the near-surface community. Please keep messages brief, and provide contact information and (if available) a Web address for additional information.

**Get your message out to NSFG members faster.**

You no longer need to wait until the end of the month to share an important or time-sensitive contribution via the newsletter. Appropriate contributions to the newsletter will also be shared ASAP via Twitter. Please note that only NSFG members who follow [@NS\\_AGU](#) will receive Twitter announcements, so make sure that you sign up!