



A news update from the students and new professionals group of the International Society of Biometeorology

Peter J. Crank¹ · Ariel Prinsloo² · Claire Gallacher^{3,4}

Received: 22 January 2024 / Revised: 4 March 2024 / Accepted: 6 March 2024 / Published online: 12 March 2024
© The Author(s) under exclusive licence to International Society of Biometeorology 2024

Abstract

An update from the new Chair and Executive Committee of the Students and New Professionals Group of the International Society of Biometeorology.

Keywords Update · International society of biometeorology · Students and new professionals · Professional development · Early career researcher

Update

We are excited to announce our roles as the new Chair (Peter Crank), Secretary (Ariel Prinsloo), and Communications Director (Claire Gallacher), of the Students and New Professionals Group (SNP) of the International Society of Biometeorology (ISB). As elected SNP executive committee in the fall of 2023, we will be leading this group through the next triennium (2023–2026), leading up to the 24th International Congress of Biometeorology in 2026. We would like to recognize and thank previous leadership, Angela Lees, Daniel Vecellio, and Yuliya Dzyuban as they weathered some incredibly challenging times during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their dedication and commitment to supporting the group during an extraordinary period of academic and social isolation deserves high praise and recognition. We, as the new executive committee, would not be in these roles without their hard work. Thank you. We also would

like to recognize and thank leadership of the SNP in prior years: Hamed Mehdipoor, Andrew Leung, Brittä Janicke (2017–2020); Jennifer Vanos (2014–2017); Simon Gosling (2011–2014); and Kate Bassil (2008–2011). We stand on your collective shoulders (proverbially speaking), committing to the support and development of the next generation(s) of biometeorologists.

The SNP has been a significant part of the ISB since the first meeting of the SNP at the 18th International Congress of Biometeorology (Tokyo, Japan) in 2008 led by Kate Bassil. In 2011, Simon Gosling organized the second SNP meeting at the 19th International Congress of Biometeorology (Auckland, New Zealand). Under Simon's leadership, two special issues were produced by the SNP within our journal (Gosling 2014, 2018) and a number of SNP International Workshops were formulated. The first of these workshops took place in Vindlen, Sweden in 2014 where Jennifer Vanos became the chair of the SNP (Vanos 2018). The third SNP meeting was led by Jennifer Vanos at the 20th International Congress of Biometeorology in 2014 and consequently led to the 2nd SNP International Workshop held in Norfolk (USA) in 2016 (Allen et al. 2017). Along with the 21st International Congress of Biometeorology (Durham, United Kingdom), the leadership was formalized into an executive committee led by Hamed Mehdipoor. Under their leadership, the 3rd SNP International Workshop was held in Enschede, The Netherlands in 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted both the International Congresses and the SNP International Workshops. The 22nd International Congress of Biometeorology, originally scheduled for 2020 (Jaboticabal, Brazil), was moved

✉ Peter J. Crank
peter.crank@uwaterloo.ca

¹ Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada

² School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science, Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, South Africa

³ Faculty of Environmental Science, The Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany

⁴ Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Dresden, Germany



Fig. 1 Includes portions of the SNP community at the 23rd International Congress of Biometeorology held in Tempe, Arizona in May 2023. Photo panel d was taken by Gisela Guzman Echavarria. Used

with permission. Photos in panels a–c were taken by the conference organizers and disseminated to all in attendance

to an online platform in 2021 (Lees et al. 2022). The SNP held its 5th meeting virtually alongside the Congress, led by Angela Lees (Chair), Daniel Vecellio (Secretary), and Yuliya Dzyuban (Communications). This virtual meeting led to the creation of a webinar series on various research topics and skills-based workshops.¹ Their work brought the SNP together despite the physical limitations and led to the 6th meeting at the 23rd Congress. The 23rd International Congress of Biometeorology returned to its prior triennium cycle and to in-person activities (Fig. 1) in 2023 (Tempe, USA).

The SNP throughout the conferences and workshops has also worked to produce multiple peer-reviewed journal articles on a variety of biometeorology topics, highlighting both the breadth of the research of the SNP and variety of challenges and issues biometeorology seeks to address through research, teaching, and service (Gosling et al. 2014; Hondula et al. 2014; Dixon et al. 2016; Allen et al. 2017; Mehdiipoor et al. 2017; Perkins et al. 2017; Anderson et al. 2021). This breadth of work by SNP members is evidence of the diversity in academic background and training

among ISB and SNP membership and speaks to the character and excellence of the individuals themselves. Looking back and looking forward, we are humbled and honored to be part of this legacy and to have the opportunity to lead the SNP toward new spaces to exhibit their unique and innovative contributions to the field of biometeorology. All of these accomplishments (and future opportunities) would be unattainable without the support of ISB and the Tromp Foundation, as well as hosting institutions around the world, thank you.

The SNP has also become a training ground for ISB leadership, supporting the goal and mission of the ISB through the professional development of SNP members (Lees et al. 2022). Lees and colleagues (2022) highlighted the roles and leadership of current and former SNP members in 2021; since then SNP members have continued to fill the ranks of leadership within the ISB with Jennifer Vanos (2014–2017 SNP Chair) and Yuliya Dzyuban (2020–2023 SNP Communications) as current Vice Presidents; Michael Allen (2014–2017 Communications) as Secretary and Treasurer; Angela Lees (2020–2023 SNP Chair) and Daniel Vecellio (2020–2023 SNP Secretary) as Oceania and North America Councillors (respectively); additionally, two current/former SNP members now hold the Africa and Asia Councillor positions. Their leadership highlights the value of the SNP to ISB and also the level of mentorship, development, encouragement, and trust the ISB has for its SNP members.

¹ these webinars have been attended by 20–40% of the SNP membership at each webinar, reaching across the globe in terms of attendance as well as organization and participation in the webinars. Finally, we are in the process of making them accessible internationally via YouTube.

In light of the previous successes and challenges to the work of the SNP, we aim to continue the previous leadership's work toward the expansion of the SNP network, with global participation and attention given to representing all commissions and groups within the SNP. Further, we anticipate maintaining strong ties with our SNP membership through a series of professional development webinars (such as the webinar on “Burnout” held on February 27, 2024)² and peer mentoring, following the success of our predecessors three skills development and research presentation webinars in 2022. Through this we aim to support students and new professionals through professional development training that often is less available to under-represented minorities and those from the Global South. With an official membership of about 50 and a reach of around 150 through multiple communication channels, the current executive committee aims to continue to recruit and develop members who are making meaningful and significant contributions to the ISB and to society as a whole. Our membership includes individuals from every ISB continent/region, yet we seek to increase our numbers as well as expand our reach to include more of the increasingly diverse community of scholars in biometeorology. Historically, and, by extension, the composition of this executive committee, the SNP has been dominated by human biometeorologists with more than 60% of SNP members identifying their research as “human biometeorology” in 2017 (Vanos 2017, Fig. 2). We seek to expand our representation to include more animal biometeorologists and phenologists. We also aim to attract more early career researchers from climate and tourism to the SNP and encourage their engagement as this would continue to strengthen and broaden the impact of the SNP.

Even as we seek to expand the SNP, we recognize efforts by the ISB more broadly in a similar vein of outreach. We would like to note the success of the ISB regional councillors (Africa: Jennifer Fitchett, Asia: Shreya Banerjee, Europe: Thanos Damialis, North America: Daniel Vecellio, Latin & South America: Fabio Luix Teixeira Goncalves, and Oceania: Angela Lees) and encourage readers to connect with their regional councillor to learn more about research happening within their region. That said, the SNP recognizes that there is an under-representation in the research and participation in the ISB from the Global South. Thus, we seek to broaden the engagement to include more Global South early career researchers. The last in-person workshop was held at the University of Twente, Netherlands, in 2019 which had 22 participants from 13 countries. Considering this, we will endeavor to host a workshop (resurrecting another pillar of the ISB SNP that was cut down by the COVID-19 pandemic) in the Global South, with particular focus on

highlighting the research outcomes, challenges, and opportunities of biometeorology research in the Global South. We view this an important opportunity to explore how the field has grown, developing organically and deserving of recognition, as well as where future international collaborations may exist to further promote the field of biometeorology. Further, we will engage and collaborate with other international multi- and transdisciplinary networks and societies to continue the work of highlighting the value of biometeorology in addressing global issues such as climate change and to work toward more sustainable futures.

If readers of this article and IJBM have any suggestions or items to share with the SNP group, we welcome their feedback. Please reach out and contact us as we are committed to serving the ISB and SNP bodies and cannot perform our duties well without such community support. Finally, we strongly encourage active membership³ and participation with the SNP and ISB. A great mechanism to remain connected to the SNP is through the quarterly newsletter of activity. Previous newsletters and means of contributing are found on the SNP webpage (<https://uwm.edu/biometeorology/students-and-new-professionals/>). We look forward to the ways we will be able to serve and get to know the SNP community over this triennium.

Acknowledgements The authors would like to thank the reviewers and editor for comments that improved the manuscript. Additionally, a thank you is necessary to Gisel Guzman Echavarria for sharing their photographs from the SNP social at ICB23 in Arizona with us. Lead author, Peter J. Crank acknowledges that much of his work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The main campus to the University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. The University of Waterloo's active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is coordinated within the Office of Indigenous Relations.

References

- Allen MJ, Vanos J, Hondula DM et al (2017) Supporting sustainability initiatives through biometeorology education and training. *Int J Biometeorol* 61:93–106. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-017-1408-z>
- Anderson V, Leung ACW, Mehdipoor H et al (2021) Technological opportunities for sensing of the health effects of weather and climate change: a state-of-the-art-review. *Int J Biometeorol* 65:779–803. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-020-02063-z>
- Dixon PG, Allen M, Gosling SN et al (2016) Perspectives on the Synoptic Climate Classification and its Role in Interdisciplinary Research. *Geogr Compass* 10:147–164. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12264>

² <https://youtu.be/vES41e4t7ks>

³ via registering with the International Society of Biometeorology, <https://uwm.edu/biometeorology/>

- Gosling SN (2014) New insights into biometeorology. *Int J Biometeorol* 58:101–102. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-014-0793-9>
- Gosling SN (2018) Additional new insights into Biometeorology. *Int J Biometeorol* 62:1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-017-1478-y>
- Gosling SN, Bryce EK, Dixon PG et al (2014) A glossary for biometeorology. *Int J Biometeorol* 58:277–308. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-013-0729-9>
- Hondula DM, Vanos JK, Gosling SN (2014) The SSC: a decade of climate–health research and future directions. *Int J Biometeorol* 58:109–120. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-012-0619-6>
- Lees AM, Vecellio DJ, Dzyuban Y (2022) A news update from the students and new professionals group. *Int J Biometeorol* 66:427–429. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-021-02203-z>
- Mehdipoor H, Vanos JK, Zurita-Milla R, Cao G (2017) Short communication: emerging technologies for biometeorology. *Int J Biometeorol* 61:81–88. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-017-1399-9>
- Perkins DR, Vanos J, Fuhrmann C et al (2017) Enhancing the Teaching and Learning of Biometeorology in Higher Education. *Bull Am Meteorol Soc* 98:ES239–ES242. <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-16-0343.1>
- Vanos J (2017) An update from the Chair of the students and new professionals Group of the International Society of Biometeorology. *Int J Biometeorol* 61:89–92. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-017-1388-z>
- Vanos JK (2018) ISB news from the Chair of the Student and New Professionals Group. *Int J Biometeorol* 62:139–140. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-015-0981-2>