

IAHR Cardiff Young Professionals Network

2020 Annual Report of Activities



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1. Introduction

The Cardiff University chapter of the IAHR YPN was formed in 2014 with the aim of bringing together members of the scientific community – from both academia and industry – to share current research and practice in the field of water resources. As a network in the broad field of hydro-environmental engineering the group not only covers a wide range of research topics, they are also able to learn from each other and help one another make the most of their time studying in Cardiff. Together, and in cooperation with Cardiff University’s Water Research Institute and CIWEM, the network has steadily grown through a series of seminars, social gatherings and field trips. Monthly seminars tackle current issues under the theme of ‘Understanding water issues in a rapidly changing world’, with early career research students featuring alongside guest speakers from organisations including Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water and JBA. Since Coronavirus lockdown restrictions were imposed the network has continued its activities online, maintaining its regular seminar series, and has even included a water-themed pub quiz! We also have monthly member’s only round-table events to share research opportunities and challenges to help each other move forward in our work. For more information about the IAHR YPN’s activities, visit their Twitter page @YpnCardiff.

2. 2020 main goal and key objectives

Our main objectives for 2020 were:

- To consolidate the previous work of the network in terms of research and network activities through more frequent and more focused meetings.
- To build on relationships with hard won industry and academic contacts.
- To create a more inclusive atmosphere to all events so that a wider range of people can get involved and engage with our work.

3. Communications

Website	Under construction
Facebook	YpnCardiff
Twitter	@YpnCardiff
Instagram	N/A
Linkedin	N/A
Other	N/A

Newsletter/s	See attached for 2019 newsletters, the 2020 newsletter will be published in late December
Publication/s	Included in newsletters
Other	N/A

4. Activities

Activity 1

	<p>Activity: Seminar Series (in person at the beginning of the year, continued online from April due to Coronavirus restrictions)</p> <p>Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29/1/20 – Water Quality • 21/2/20 – Natural Flood Management • 8/4/20 – Water & the Consequences of Climate Change • 24/4/20 – Flooding Hazard and Risk (followed by a water-themed quiz!) • 3/6/20 – Coastal Processes <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hear from early career researchers and members of industry and academia on topics relating to all realms of the water world • To learn about and discuss topics relating to member’s research • To give members a platform to share their work • To provide network opportunities for YPN members & raise the profile of the YPN <p>Description:</p> <p>The theme for our seminar series this year was “Understanding water issues in a rapidly changing world.” The seminars are semi-formal events presenting the work of student members and academic and industry contacts around a theme followed by a social time for networking. Attendance</p>
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at in-person events usually reaches around 20 people so we were really pleased that when we started to meet online we were able to draw up to 45 participants to each event.

Activity 2



Activity: Trip to see the Severn Bore followed by dinner

Date: 13/3/20

Objectives:

- Research interest for students studying tidal energy and estuarine dynamics
- Motivating membership

Description:

Road trip to a site on the Severn estuary to see the phenomena of the bore wave and enjoy a meal together.

Activity 3




Activity: Bake Your PhD (in conjunction with Cardiff University Water Research Institute Early Careers Group)

Date: 16/6/20

Objectives:

- Motivating members
- Exposure for research

	<p>Description: A creative way for students to share their research, representing their projects in cake! This was a really fun project for students to get involved in whilst working remotely. Here are the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries showing pollution in waterways, hydro-dynamic modelling or turbines and fish passage through HEP projects.</p>
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5. Partnerships and collaborations

Organisation	Description of partnership
Cardiff University Water Research Institute	Shared responsibility for organising some seminar events and online competitions/events for early career members
GW4 Water Security Alliance	Shared responsibility for organising some seminar events, academic support for student members
WISE CDT	Sponsorship of student membership and support for online events
Cardiff University Doctoral Academy	Sponsorship of in-person events
CIWEM	Student membership, online professional development and networking opportunities, industry speakers for some seminar events

Natural Resource Wales	Industry speakers for seminar events and research teaching opportunities
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Collaboration with other YPNs

YPN name	Description of collaboration
N/A	We were hoping to be able to develop partnerships with other YPNs at this year's conferences which have been delayed due to the pandemic, but we hope that our group will be able to make these connections in future.

6. Contributing to the strategic plan

Our 2020 activities have disseminated the cutting-edge research of our members as well as inspiring further work and collaborations through sharing the work of other professional bodies and members of academia and industry. We have enhanced member experience through a balance of regular academic and social events and promoted the international work of the IAHR at monthly round-table events. Many of our members were due to attend this year's IAHR European Congress, which has since been postponed, and our Vice President Stephanie Muller presented at the first online Young Professional's Congress.