

Editorial 2018.

The last year has been an exceptionally busy one at ESPL as a result of a marked increase in submissions to the journal. The result has been that the end of year deadline for an Editorial has crept up upon me and so, to meet production deadlines, it is somewhat shorter than normal.

In terms of the Editorial Board, we have only one change in membership to report, which is the appointment of a new Associate Editor to help us with the growing volume of submissions. I would like to welcome Kim Cohen of the Department of Geosciences of Utrecht University. We appointed him after evaluating a very large number of responses from excellent and appointable candidates because he brings skills in the geomorphology of more lowland systems, including lowland rivers-floodplains-deltaic systems, sea level rise and chronostratigraphy. These are areas that have seen quite significant growth in submissions in recent years. It will be a pleasure to have him on the Board. Kim's presence takes us to 8 Associate Editors (including one job share), with parity between women and men. The number of Associate Editors is healthy in allowing us to cover the discipline but not so great that we can't maintain a centralised overview of all submissions, and so guarantee equality of treatment of papers regardless of which Associate Editor handles them.

We have continued to work on outreach to the community, with the goal of improving young scientists' access to high quality advice on getting their work published. A workshop at the International Association of Geomorphologists in New Delhi in November was particularly valuable because it allowed us to talk to a very large number of geomorphologists from Southern Asia, a region from which we are now receiving many more submissions. We have also been able to supply senior geomorphologists with slides to help them train more junior geomorphologists. We have contributed to two "webinars" organised by Wiley for Chinese authors. We are always available to provide training at geomorphological meetings given enough warning. Please get in touch with me if you would welcome such a contribution.

The year has seen some further changes in Wiley's staff, many of which reflect the rapidity with which publishers are having to respond to the changing landscape of academic publishing. Reflecting the way in which our own academic publishing practices are changing, marketing is placing less emphasis on physical presence at meetings and much more emphasis upon electronic communications, including social marketing. One of the real benefits of these changes is that Wiley can help get our work read by new communities. Indeed, the data that I have seen suggests that ESPL is now read well beyond the geomorphological community, helping to raise the profile of the discipline more widely.

We have some new projects that will reach fruition in 2018. We have now formally adopted "graphical" abstracts which will appear alongside the more traditional abstract in the table of contents for each submission. We are in the process of introducing video papers and data papers as additional contributions to the Earth Surface Exchanges (ESEX) section of the journal. We have also been able, with Wiley's support, to link our acceptance rate directly to our publication rate, eliminating any serious delays to getting work through to final publication. We are maintaining "accepted articles" as the system much liked by our authors where after acceptance, and as soon as copyright formalities are dealt with, a paper is assigned a DOI, published online (before typesetting) and so can be read and cited by the community. We have also decided to maintain our Special Issue system, which involves publication of Special Issue papers in the run of the journal, with the Special Issue papers being grouped on-line when all are published. Authors tell us that they like this system as it prevents their papers being delayed, waiting for other papers in the Issue to be published.

With these project and the work done by Wiley, it is perhaps not surprising that our submissions are steadily increasing. We sometimes wonder if the submissions will ever stop increasing. But, we are

managing, with an excellent editorial board, continued Wiley support and, most importantly, the continued work of my Assistant Editor, Fiona Kirkby, who does an outstanding job for the journal.

Stuart Lane

Managing Editor, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*

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