The Construction of Cultural Consensus Models to Characterize Ethnogeological Knowledge

Angel A. Garcia Jr, Steven Semken & Elizabeth Brandt

Limited research interest has been focused on the understanding of culturally framed geology knowledge in comparison with more mature ethnosciences such as ethnobotany or ethnogeography. Ethnogeology is the scientific study of human relationships with and knowledge of the Earth system, generally investigated within the context of a specific culture, through the implementation of field geologic and field ethnographic methods. The purpose of this paper is to present the use of cultural consensus analysis for the exploration of culturally framed knowledge of geological processes. We used rapid assessment methods from the discipline of field ethnography with local cultural consultants, to construct a cultural consensus questionnaire about karst processes and riverine geomorphology in Puerto Rico (PR) and the Dominican Republic (DR). We employed the results from structured interviews and identified common themes that we organized as a cultural consensus model (CCM). Our results indicate a CCM for the knowledge domain of karst processes and riverine geomorphology that is shared by inhabitants of karst regions.
describe geomorphic processes and speleothem. We discuss the use of rapid assessment and cultural consensus analysis as a method for ethnogeological research, and the implications for place-based geoscience education, participatory research, and geoheritage.


Call for Nominations for GER Transformation and Collaborations Award

Nomination process is now open!

These awards recognize those who have made significant contributions to the development of and capacity for geoscience education research, including non-GER colleagues (e.g. geophysicists, educational psychologists, education researchers, etc.) who have infused the GER community with new ideas.

Find out more [here](#) and make your nominations by June 15th!

Interested in joining a GER Writing Circle?

Are you interested in joining a small group of writers? Do you want to develop a regular, scheduled, and committed writing practice? Would you like to give and receive feedback (or just generally chat about writing projects) with colleagues?

Currently a small writing circle that is meeting each Friday online from 11 AM to 2 PM ET is open to receiving new members.

The writing circle is a continuation of writing retreats that were held at prior Rendezvous. If interested, please contact Peggy McNeal, [pmcneal@towson.edu](mailto:pmcneal@towson.edu).

Graduate Student Writing Group

NAGT-GER Division is hosting a weekly writing group on Wednesdays at 3 pm Central Time.
This group's goal is to 1: provide a block of time for students to dedicate towards writing in a social capacity that also helps keep us accountable for our time, and 2: to bring in experts from the GER community to share writing tips and strategies.

If you have any questions, please contact Zo Kreager, the Graduate Student Liaison, at bkreager1@niu.edu.

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**Job Opportunity**

**Director of STEM Education Initiatives, University of Oregon Teaching Engagement Program**

The Director of STEM Education Initiatives within the UO Teaching Engagement Program (TEP) and Office of the Provost is responsible for facilitating curricular and pedagogical innovation and reform efforts that promote inclusive excellence and student success in STEM.

The Director will continue and extend the nationally recognized efforts of UO's Science Literacy Program to improve the outcomes of all UO undergraduates, working with faculty to sharpen UO's articulation of key concepts and skills related to scientific thinking; develop curricular and pedagogical approaches linked to those core concepts and skills; and, with their colleagues in TEP, provide faculty and graduate student teaching development in inclusive and research-informed practices linked to UO's teaching excellence framework.

The Director of STEM Education Initiatives will help coordinate and consolidate the use of evidence-based pedagogy including structured active learning in science gateway courses with the goal of improving educational outcomes and increasing equity. Moreover, the Director of STEM Education Initiatives will collaborate with schools and colleges on curriculum reform efforts aimed at improving, integrating, and making more navigable curricula within and across STEM majors and the Clark Honors College.

The Director will pursue external funding opportunities in support of science education initiatives and serve as a connector, linking various sites of STEM education outreach and reform efforts in the University of Oregon campus and wider community.

To learn more and apply, visit [https://careers.uoregon.edu/en-us/job/527248/director-stem-initiatives](https://careers.uoregon.edu/en-us/job/527248/director-stem-initiatives)
**Earth Educator Rendezvous 2021**

July 12-16, 2021- Virtual

Check out the agenda for 2021

The GER division would like to invite our membership to participate in a writing retreat presented by Peggy McNeal, Towson University on "Writing as a Community of Practice". Prior registration is required and space is limited.

The GER division will also be hosting a virtual mixer at the EER, and more information will be provided closer to the date of the meeting.

**Big 12 Teaching and Learning Conference**

June 10-11: Virtual conference sessions and workshops via video conferencing solution.

Registration- online

If you have questions about the event, feel free to email kuec_cfaba@ku.edu.

**GER Session at GSA 2021**

Consider submitting an abstract to the "Making Sense of Methodologies and Theoretical Frameworks in Geoscience Education Research". More session information will be posted on the Geological Society of America website in Mid-May and abstracts open on June 1st. Abstract must be submitted by July 20th, 2021 by 11:59 pm Pacific Time.

**Grant, Award, and Scholarship Deadlines**

- International Association for Geoscience Diversity Inclusive Geoscience Education and Research Awards

- National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)- Full Proposal Deadline July 26, 2021

- National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduate- Full
Association for Women Geoscientists IDEA Scholarship deadline **June 30**

Association for Women Geoscientists Sand and Takken Student Research Presentation Travel Awards- deadline **August 10**

Association for Women Geoscientists Professional Excellence Awards deadline **June 15**

NAGT Dorothy Stout Professional Development Awards (for faculty and students at two-year colleges and K-12 teachers) deadline **May 15**

Geological Society of America and the Geology & Society Division E-an Zen Fund Geoscience Outreach Grant deadline **July 15**

NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources

- Institutional and Community Transformation Capacity-Building- Due August 3, 2021
- Engaged Student Learning and Institutional and Community Transformation Level 1- Due August 3, 2021

Submit to the GER Exchange

NAGT-GER provides monthly updates on professional opportunities, funding, articles of note, researcher profiles, and other content of interest to our membership. Please consider contributing items of interest for inclusion in future editions of the Exchange!

For questions, or to join the GER Communications Committee, contact Media Director, Lauren Neitzke Adamo at lauren.adamo@rutgers.edu.

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