

IASC Workshop & Network on Arctic Glaciology annual meeting, 25-27 January 2016, Benasque (Spain)

My name is Léo Decaux, I am 26 years old and I started my PhD in November 2015 at the faculty of Earth Sciences at the University of Silesia – Centre for Polar Studies in Sosnowiec, Poland. The glaciology community is new for me but it is a small family and the fact that working in science is based on collaborations, it is crucial to be able to meet the people who are working in this field. It is also very important to be aware about the all ongoing work to be able to carry out a relevant work which will enhance our global knowledge. This is why being part of an international conference in relation with my research area was one of my major goal of the beginning of my PhD.

The subject of my PhD is "Water drainage in the polythermal glacial system based on radio-echo soundings and model solutions" supervised by Jacek Jania and Mariusz Grabiec. My research project aims to lead to a better understanding of supraglacial, englacial and subglacial drainage system of polythermal Svalbard glaciers. A first step consist in the recognition of the patterns of the supraglacial drainage system on Svalbard glaciers by using satellite and aerial remote sensing images (including data from UAV) which could indicate where moulins are present and where percolation predominates. The next step involves GPR measurements and explorations of moulins and subglacier caves. The final step will be to model the water drainage system and to compare the obtained results with our field measurements and theories.

I participated to the conference by doing a presentation of fifteen minutes following by five minutes of questions. My talk was titled "Comparison of the supraglacial drainage system on different timescale from remote sensing data on Werenskioldbreen, land-terminating Svalbard glacier". It was a brief presentation of the very first step of my PhD work. and it was also focus on the prospective of my project in order to receive some constructive comments.

In conclusion, doing my first presentation, in this small committee, was an excellent exercise and allowed me to be more confident than if it has been in a huge conference (e.g. AGU). During these three days, I have got the opportunity to meet a lot of experimented researchers which has led to many very interesting conversations about my research. Thanks to that, I now have a more precise and realistic plan for my research activities. I also make some contacts which will be implies in my project, (e.g. for some field work in Svalbard).

More generally, this conference gave me a better overview about the ongoing work on Arctic glaciers, even for the unpublished one which is impossible to be aware of without participating to this workshop. Now, I also have a more concrete idea about the scientific methodology used in this research.

Leo Decaux