

Hugh Nesbit Building, Lecture Theatre 3 & The GRID  
Heriot Watt University  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

---

**Wednesday 3rd**

- 09:30 – 09:50 Registration, presentation upload & coffee – *The GRID*  
10:00 – 10:15 Welcome from SAGES Director – *Hugh Nesbit Building*  
10:15 – 10:30 Welcome from HW Senior Management Team  
10:30 – 12:00 Session 1 Climate Change, Energy (6 talks)  
12:00 – 12:50 SAGES Phase 4 – Director and Fora update  
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch, posters and networking – *The GRID*  
14:10 – 14:15 Video from Andy Kerr – NetZero Director General – *Hugh Nesbit Building*  
14:15 – 15:45 Session 2 Soils, Substrates and Ecology (6 talks)  
15:55 – 16:10 30 second elevated poster pitch  
16:20 – 17:00 Refreshments, posters and networking – *The GRID*
- 19:00 Dinner [Everest Restaurant](#) 52 Home Street, Edinburgh EH3 9NA
- 

**Thursday 4th**

- 09:00 – 09:10 Registration – *The GRID*  
09:20 – 10:35 Session 3 Marine and Freshwater Dynamics (5 talks) – *Hugh Nesbit Building*  
10:45 – 11:10 Coffee – *The GRID*  
11:20 – 12:05 Keynote: Dr Laurie Parsons, Royal Holloway, University of London – *Hugh Nesbit Building*  
12:05 – 12:25 Caitlin Burns, Dundee Science Centre – STEM Development Lead  
12:25 – 12:50 Conor Ellis & Helen Chomczuk - Dynamic Earth  
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch, poster and networking – *The GRID*  
14:10 – 15:25 Session 4 Glaciers, Ice Sheet and Landscape Change (5 talks) – *Hugh Nesbit Building*  
15:35 – 16:00 Prizes & closing remarks
-

**Session Schedule – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**

Title: Welcome – <i>Hugh Nesbit Building, Lecture Theatre 3</i>	
Day: Wednesday 21 May 2025	
Start – End: 10:00 – 10:15	
Time	Event
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome from Professor Brice Rea, SAGES Director.
Time	Event
10:15 – 10:30	Welcome from Heriot Watt Senior Management Team

Talks Session 1: Climate Change, Atmosphere and Energy	
Session chair: Aline Meyer Oliveria	
Day: Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	
Start – End: 10:30 – 12:00	
Time	Event
10:30 – 10:45	Katherine Taylor (Edinburgh) - Quantifying Extreme Drought Risk using Palaeoclimate and Model Observations from the Last Millennium
10:45 – 11:00	Andrew Schurer (Edinburgh) - Long lived influence of early 19th century volcanic eruptions on climate.
11:00 – 11:15	Leam Howe (Edinburgh) - From Scottish Snow Patches to Global Snow Cover: A Deep Learning Approach to Snow Cover Fraction Retrieval
11:15 – 11:30	Yifu Ou (Heriot Watt) - A cross-city analysis of mobility responses to air pollution in China
11:30 – 11:45	Daniela Alvarez Gallo (St Andrews) - Spatial microsimulation for residential energy consumption, a case study of Scotland
11:45 – 12:00	Emily Wackan (Glasgow) - Comparisons Between the Trace Element Composition and Magnetic Structure of the Cloudy Zone in the Imilac and Odessa Iron-Nickel Meteorites

Title: Keynote: SAGES Phase 4 – Director and Fora update	
Session chair: Brice Rea	
Day: Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	
Start – End: 12:00 – 12:50	

Title: Lunch, posters & networking – <i>The GRID</i>	
Day: Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	
Start – End: 13:00 – 14:00	

Title: Message from Andy Kerr, NetZero Director General – *Hugh Nesbit Building*

Day: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 14:10 – 14:15

Talks Session 2: Soils, Substrates and Ecology

Session chair: Meg Baker

Day: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 14:15 – 15:55

Time	Event
14:15 – 14:30	Wenguang Tang (Glasgow) - Tropical forest carbon sequestration accelerated by nitrogen
14:30 – 14:45	Wenxin Zhang (Glasgow) - Modelling Impacts of Deepened Snow on Plant Nitrogen Uptake in Arctic Tundra
14:45 – 15:00	Louise Smith (Aberdeen) - Using remote sensing and vegetation surveys to analyse the landscape effect of crofting in Scotland and Sweden
15:00 – 15:15	Meg Baker (BGS) - First assessment of the stocks and vulnerability of organic carbon buried in Loch Lomond, Scotland's largest freshwater loch
15:15 – 15:30	Zane Havens (Heriot Watt) – Legacy of Dutch Plantation Polders on Mangrove Regeneration in Coastal Suriname
15:30 – 15:45	Xunhua Li (St Andrews) - Inferring multi-cue migratory navigation in geese using inverse reinforcement learning

Title: 30 second elevated poster pitch

Day: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 15:55 – 16:10

Title: Refreshments, posters and networking – *The GRID*

Day: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 16:20 – 17:00

Title: Conference dinner – Everest Restaurant, Edinburgh

Day: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Start: 19:00

**Session Schedule – Thursday 4th June 2026**

Talks Session 3: Marine and Freshwater Dynamics – <i>Hugh Nesbit Building</i>	
Session chair: Andrew Schurer	
Day: Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	
Start – End: 09:20 – 10:35	
Time	Event
09:20 – 09:35	Bertie Miles (Edinburgh) - Warm sea surface temperatures threaten Antarctic ice shelves following sea-ice decline
09:35 – 09:50	Emma Cameron (St Andrews) – Depth-dependent influence of Greenland’s fjords on predicted submarine melt rates
09:50 – 10:05	Duncan Stevens (BGS) - Turning legacy geotechnical logs into regional insight: clustering shallow subsurface variability across the North Sea
10:05 – 10:20	Meixuan Liu (St Andrews) - Machine-learned dimethyl sulphide (DMS) for the North Atlantic (2002-2024) to support movement studies
10:20 – 10:35	Brady Johnson (Aberdeen) - Characterising groundwater drought: Using standard indices and cluster analysis to quantify drought response and propagation across Scottish aquifer typology and identify areas of resilience

Title: Coffee – <i>The GRID</i>
Day: Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025
Start – End: 10:45 – 11:10

Title: Keynote: Dr Laurie Parsons – Royal Holloway, University of London <b><i>Climate Hegemony: Confronting the Politics of Environmental Impasse</i></b>
Session chair: Brice Rea
Day: Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Start – End: 11:20 – 12:05

Title: Caitlin Burns, Dundee Science Centre – STEM Development Lead <b><i>Creating Memorable Science Experiences</i></b>
Session chair: Brice Rea
Day: Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Start – End: 12:05 – 12:25

Title: Conor Ellis, Science, Learning & Engagement Director & Helen Chomczuk, Director of Fundraising, Marketing, & Comms, Dynamic Earth

***Platforming and Partnering for Public Engagement***

Session chair: Brice Rea

Day: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 12:25 – 12:50

Title: Lunch, posters and networking – *The GRID*

Day: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 13:00 - 14:00

Talks Session 4: Glacier, Ice Sheet and Landscape Change – *Hugh Nesbit Building*

Session chair : Jingtao Lai

Day: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 14:10 – 15:25

Time	Event
14:10 – 14:25	Chang Zhong (Glasgow) - Decoupled Upper-Crustal Deformation and Foreland Exhumation Along the South Tianshan–Tarim Basin, Central Asia
14:25 – 14:40	Riccardo Arosio (BGS) - Truncated drumlins and their implication for past sea level reconstructions
14:40 – 14:55	Steven Wallace (Aberdeen) - Exploring Foundation Models for Automated Crevasse Mapping in Glacial Environments with Aerial Images from UaV Drones
14:55 – 15:10	Will Harcourt (Aberdeen) - Monitoring and forecasting the state of Svalbard’s cryosphere using a digital twin (SvalbardDT)
15:10 – 15:25	Stephen Woroniecki (Glasgow) - How does Knowledge Pluralism Contribute to Transformation?

Title: Prizes

Day: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Start – End: 15:35 – 16:00

**Poster details**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Niamh Doherty (Aberdeen)	Impact of glacier surging on glacier mass balances in Svalbard
Mhairi Hallford (Aberdeen)	Calculating Snowline Altitudes on Glaciers with Patchy and Irregular Snow Cover Using Satellite Imagery
Jacob Seston (Aberdeen)	Self-supervised learning reduces labelling requirements for sea ice segmentation in Sentinel-1 SAR imagery
Juliane Huebert (BGS)	An update to the first three-dimensional electrical conductivity model of the lithosphere below Britain and its application to space weather hazard modelling
Doria de Souza Etchells (Edinburgh)	Climate and Societal Change: Perspectives from Greenland over the last 2,000 years
Ryan Ing (Edinburgh)	Extreme melt event causes widespread multi-year increase in basal friction across the western Greenland Ice Sheet
Lokesh Jain (Edinburgh)	Arctic Hub: Making Science Matter in Greenland
Gillian Smith (Edinburgh)	Estimating and evolving glacier thickness in High Mountain Asia with a deep-learning-based ice flow model
Lucy Daniels (Glasgow)	Process-based riverscape restoration using large wood in a Scottish gravel-bed river
Mirjam Schaller (Glasgow)	Catchment-wide erosion rates in Scotland from in situ-produced <sup>10</sup> Be and <sup>26</sup> Al
Sarah Cryer (Heriot Watt)	Composition of particulate inorganic carbon (PIC) across a coccolithophore bloom in the Icelandic Basin
Nair Equibar (Heriot Watt)	Alcanivorax borkumensis DOM and surfactant production lead-lag relationship with oceanic gas exchange
Valeria Ferrari (Heriot Watt)	Making the most of opportunistic aerial surveys: modelling baleen whales distribution across large offshore areas
Asiye Mehraban (Heriot Watt)	Long-term Maintenance of NFM: A case-based inquiry into practice and policy
Sevda Norouzi (Heriot Watt)	Advancing Carbon Flux Measurement with GETCO <sub>2</sub> and Insi-K: Novel Tools for Air–Water Gas Exchange Monitoring
Ryan Pereira (Heriot Watt)	Organic matter compositional control of gas exchange at the air–water interface
Alison Cook (SAMS)	Implications of changing shipping patterns near communities in Inuit Nunangat
Benjamin Ong (St Andrews)	Down the drain where it began: Ecological futures of tropical urban interstices
Ryan Strickland (St Andrews)	Ways of Ice: Teaching glaciology through a narrative podcast