

IAPSO ECS MEDALLISTS 2021

Congratulations to the IAPSO Early Career Scientist Medallists of 2021 for

Physics - Dr Thomas Wahl (University of Central Florida, USA)

for his fundamental contributions to the research on changes in mean sea level, tides, storm surges, waves, and their interactions.

Chemistry - Dr Jessica Fitzsimmons (Texas A&M University, USA)

for her contributions to advances in the analysis, distribution and cycling of trace elements in the oceans, particularly iron

Read more [here](#)

BULLETIN BOARD >>

NOAA - UN DECADE OF THE OCEAN | 22 APRIL

The UN Ocean Science Decade: What a Scientist Needs to Know

Presenter(s): Liz Tirpak, NOAA Research, Senior Advisor Policy & Partnerships;
Theresa Keith, NOAA Research, Knauss Marine Policy Fellow - UN Decade
Domestic Engagement Policy Advisor

Time: 2pm eastern US |

Google meet link | <http://meet.google.com/dfj-goje-ces>

EARTH DAY | 22 APRIL

Celebrate 3 days of climate action with #RestoreOurEarth

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

ASLO | 22 - 27 JUNE

Aquatic Sciences for a Sustainable Future: Nurturing Cooperation

Registration ends 19 May | <https://www.aslo.org/2021-virtual-meeting/>

VACO | 19 -23 JULY

The Virtual Atmosphere-Cryosphere-Ocean seminar series

IAMAS, IACS and IAPSO will be hosting an international online seminar series.

See <https://cryosphericsscience.org/vaco-21/> for the programme and updates.

Registration ends 25 April | Website [here](#)

IN FOCUS >>

Unlearning Racism in Geoscience (URGE)

| Website: <https://urgeoscience.org/>

How junior scientists can land a seat at the leadership table

By Kendall Powell | [Article here](#)

COMMENTARY >> RISING AGAINST THE TIDE OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT BY DR DANIELLE SU

When I was a postdoc in France last year, I lived in two worlds. The first, in my own scientific community where I was treated with respect and kindness by my colleagues. The second was the world outside my laboratory. That world became increasingly hostile with the rise of Anti-Asian sentiment due to the COVID pandemic. Where people would not sit near me on the metro, chase me off the train or openly harass my friends and I by calling us walking Chinese viruses. As the pandemic swept across the world, my experiences became not the exception but the norm for many of the Southeast & East Asian diaspora living overseas.

One of the objectives of the IAPSO ECS network is to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the scientific community. Thanks to this, I find myself in a unique position as this newsletter's editor and member of the IAPSO ECS committee. It's provided me a platform to reach out to other oceanographers through science and community. Still, I hesitated in writing this because I wondered whether such feelings were valid against the current landscape of isolation, fear and uncertainty. But when I think of current and future generations of Asian oceanographers who are far from home, I did not want them to feel that they have to accept such experiences as a price for their careers. So, how can you be an ally to your Asian colleagues? The first steps sound simpler than it looks. Check in with your Asian colleagues and listen to their experiences without invalidating them. Call out injustice when you see it in the workplace or outside. Lend us your voice as we learn to find ours.

ADOPT AN ARGO FLOAT >>

SOCOM and GO-BGC are interested in working with Early Career Researchers to help you with your presentations and research/outreach efforts.

We are also interested in your help expanding our growing network of adopted floats, so please spread the word to friends or family that might be interested.



Adopt an Argo float and spark joy at <https://www.go-bgc.org/outreach/adopt-a-float>.

Image courtesy of the Twittersverse

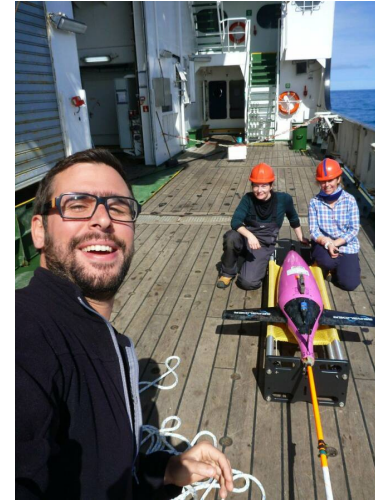
We are also looking for researchers that might be interested in sharing research stories and data with educators and having them create some lesson plans around your data. As part of the MBARI EARTH (www.mbari.org/EARTH) effort, there will be float specific workshops in 2022 and 2024 at the University of Washington and there will also be a scientist virtual workshop June 28-30, 2021 to introduce folks to the GO-BGC program, profiling floats, and data analysis. Registration (free) information will be posted soon on the Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry website (<https://www.us-ocb.org/>). In case you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to George Matsumoto (mage@mbari.org).

In the last few months, I've changed my career path from being a research scientist in physical oceanography to become a data scientist / software engineer in a Research and Development company with OSE Engineering.

My background and career trajectory in academia

I hold a Master's degree in atmospheric and oceanic physics from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris) and a PhD in physical oceanography from Université de Perpignan. I also have 7 years of professional experience as a postdoc and research scientist working with ocean and climate data.

I have always been interested in using new technologies to solve interesting data problems. Over the last 6 years, I worked at the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences (Oban, UK) and at the National Oceanography Centre (Southampton, UK) where I developed and led the data processing associated with several ocean observation programmes, such as an array of underwater buoys or repeated hydrological surveys with underwater robots. In addition, I also developed new physical and statistical methods to quantify the strength of the North Atlantic Current (the eastward extension of the Gulf Stream) in order to understand its impacts on the European and Arctic climate.



Why I decided to leave academia?

Over the past year, I have been seriously thinking about transitioning from academia to the industry. It started mostly because I couldn't achieve a good life-work balance. We tried for several years with my partner to find academic positions in the same geographical location (or close enough) but we didn't manage. I really loved working in research but after all the years, I think I needed more life-work balance.

I remembered the first time I thought about leaving academia, I was kind of feeling "trapped" in my hyper-qualified role as an observational physical oceanographer.

Then searching on the Internet, I found stories about other scientists who had left academia, such as the one from Liam Brannigan ([link](#)), which made me realise that this is not an impossible transition! The more I was reading about transitioning to industry, the more I realised that academic profiles are greatly valued in industry. After a while, I also realised that compared to academia there are a lot more jobs out there. For instance, you can even have the luxury to limit your job search to a specific geographical region!

How/what I did to find my new post

The first thing I did was to think about what I would like to do outside academia. I have always been interested in using new technologies to solve interesting data problems so I naturally thought about becoming a "data scientist". But looking for data scientist jobs is similar to looking for research scientist jobs, it is a very generic search. To narrow your job search, you may have to add more criteria to your search (it can be geographical, technological, etc). After reading articles and blogs about data science and data science careers, I ended up limiting my search to positions involving Python and Machine Learning and jobs located in North-East England or fully remote positions.

My experience so far

After interviewing for several jobs, I accepted a position in a small company developing software to approach complex physical systems. I have only been working in industry for a month and half, but so far, my experience is very positive. In terms of time-management, my current position in some aspect is very similar to an academic position. For example, I have a lot of flexibility on how to organise my time or on how to do my work. One main difference is that we are generally at least two people working on the same project and the length of the project is a lot shorter (average of 2-3 months). Every company is different, so it is worth checking in details the working conditions before starting.

Yes, there are so many jobs outside academia that you even have the luxury of rejecting a job offer if you think the working conditions are not right for you :)



The IAPSO ECS team wishes to congratulate Loïc on his exciting new role and wish him the very best in his future endeavours! Thank you for sharing your story with the community!

Got a story like Loïc's to share?
Write to us at info@iapsoecs.org (attn: Daniëlle Su)