

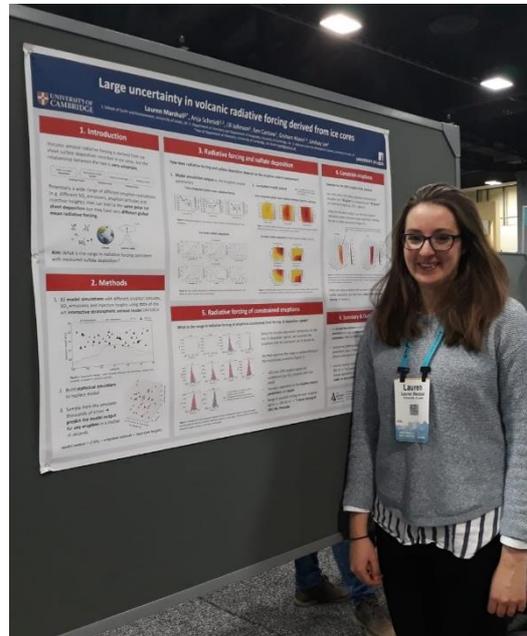
Early Career Scientist Travel Award

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2018, Washington, D.C

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In December 2018, with generous funding from the Aerosol Society, I attended the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall meeting held in Washington, D.C. AGU is a week-long gathering of more than 20,000 scientists from a wide range of geophysical disciplines from around the world. With thousands of poster and oral presentations, and sessions running from 8 am until 6 pm, this was the largest conference I have attended.

Having just completed my PhD on the climatic impact of volcanic sulfate aerosol, the timing of the conference was perfect, allowing me to present my PhD work in its completed form for the first time. I presented a poster titled 'Large uncertainty in volcanic radiative forcing derived from ice cores' during the session: 'Understanding the Effects of Volcanic Eruptions: From Plume Evolution to Climate and Societal Impacts'.



The session was a great opportunity to discuss my research and I received valuable feedback including suggestions and improvements, which will be incorporated during preparation of a paper manuscript. Since AGU has such a diverse audience I discussed my work with atmospheric scientists, volcanologists and attendees that came by who had no background in aerosol science. I learned a lot by having to tailor my presentation and describe my work with varying levels of complexity. Presenting a poster is a great way to gain confidence and renew your enthusiasm about your work (especially after finishing a PhD!) and I found the conference highly motivating and refreshing. I was also able to meet collaborators in person and network with fellow attendees, and I attended a diverse range of oral sessions throughout the week, extending my subject knowledge and stimulating ideas for further research. I also took the opportunity to attend an Early Career Scientist talk on career options and enjoyed exploring many industry and academic exhibits in the exhibition hall.

Overall the conference was a great experience, both in terms of progressing my research but also in experiencing a large international and multi-disciplinary meeting. I am extremely grateful to the Aerosol Society for supporting me to travel to this conference. Thank you!