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The 11th Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia, 30 June – 5 July 2019

The Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS11) was a large conference with around 500 delegates from 6 continents. This biennial conference is the perfect platform to present new and innovative research in one of the numerous themed sessions.

My presentation explored how aquatic macroinvertebrates respond to river-bed drying as a result of global climate change and anthropogenic pressures. Using novel artificial flumes, the paper quantified the ability of a model organism to recover from drying riverbed sediments when surface water and flow returned. This presentation was part of a 2-day special session on 'The science and management of intermittent rivers and ephemeral streams: a European perspective'.

This conference was packed with great presentations and posters over the 6-day meeting. These included papers from Professor Clifford Dahm (University of New Mexico) presenting his research on how forest fires in western America have impacted stream water quality, Dr Rachel Stubbington (Nottingham Trent University) presenting a global study that demonstrated how riverbed communities have changed as a result of drying, Dr Catherine Leigh (Queensland University of Technology) presenting research on how education influenced attitudes towards temporary streams, Dr Kate Mathers (Eawag, Switzerland) demonstrated how experimental floods can help clean riverbeds of accumulated fine sediment and provide access to subsurface sediments, and Harry Sanders (Loughborough University) quantified the amount of sediment moved by non-native crayfish in UK rivers.

The capital city of Zagreb, Croatia, was a fantastic setting for the conference and was full of cultural attractions, wonderful people and amazing sites. I am very grateful to the Royal Society of Biology for awarding me the Early Career Research Travel Grant as it allowed me to develop my post-doctoral research and contribute to European-wide and global discussion on the current and emerging pressures affecting rivers across the world.



Me presenting as part of 'The science and management of intermittent rivers and ephemeral streams: a European perspective' session