

CAPOD Funding Report

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Event /Course Title	RGS-IBG 2017 Annual Conference / PGF-ACTS (Postgraduate Forum Annual Conference Training Symposium- 'Introductory Computer Programming for Geographers Workshop')
Date of event	29/08/2017 to 31/08/2017

1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

Postgraduate Forum Annual Conference Training Symposium prepares postgraduates for the transition into academic careers through a series of Workshops, panel discussions and Q&A, led by established professional geographers. The Introductory Computer Programming for Geographers Workshop provides programming skills training in both R and Rstudio specific for geographers which with advent of NeoGeography, big data, and open GIS means that are becoming more important.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

Attending both training events (PGR-ACTs and R training) provided a great opportunity to network within geography, and share experience.

The Sustainable software workshop in particular was a valuable experience as it provided an accessible environment with like-minded people to get to grips with the very basics of R. It has firstly raised my awareness of the different packages and resources which I could use which are appropriate for my current and future research. Secondly, for a one day course I felt I learned enough to begin to read and navigate the software, which for me is the most daunting aspect. This mainly was about knowing what the help command could tell me on what to expect for each section of code, and how I code make life easy for myself through note writing. Essentially knowing how to make R user friendly for me and customise the layout really broke down the barriers and presented this as a far more useable tool.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

The PGR ACTS session, help me engage more thoroughly at the RGS-IBG main conference which followed, and lead to connections and networking through the momentum of this event.

In addition, since attending the event I continued to work on the code from the mapping exercises I did on the workshop and used the outputs at a practitioners' conference in Dundee on 14th Sept.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials.

During the ACTs symposium the icebreaker was really effective and intend to use it whilst teaching in upcoming tutorials .

During the R training we received some key website links specific to coding in geography, as well as the slides which were circulated and provide a good basic training for R in geography which I intend to circulate within dept. as a resource for PGRs

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

The workshop demonstrated multiple approaches of doing some of the basic code writing that the three instructors brought to the day and knowing that there is more than one way to do things, and having input to how I might write code or more likely source code for specific mapping exercises was valuable

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

n/a