THE PHOTOGRAMMETRIC RECORD

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Editor Update

NEW CO-EDITORS FOR *THE PHOTOGRAMMETRC RECORD*

The Photogrammetric Record is proud to announce that two new Co-Editors-in-Chief will be taking the journal forward during the latter part of 2021 and into the future, following the resignation of Stuart Granshaw (who will complete his tenure at the end of October 2021). The two Editors will be Professor Yongjun Zhang (School of Remote Sensing and Information Engineering, Wuhan University, China) and Professor Debra Laefer (Center for Urban Science and Progress, New York University, USA). Wiley, our co-publishers, who have undertaken the appointment of the new Co-Editors in conjunction with the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society (RSPSoc), state that both candidates provided impressive vision statements for the journal and believe they have strong compatibility in their different areas of expertise. The following profiles are derived from online sources (SkyEarth, 2020; NYU Tandon, 2021).

Professor Yongjun Zhang

Professor Yongjun Zhang is the Dean of the School of Remote Sensing and Information Engineering at Wuhan University, China. He has, for many years, been engaged in the research of integrated photogrammetric processing of space and aerial multisource data. This has included bundle block adjustment of multisource remote sensing datasets, and combined processing of satellite imagery and low-altitude imagery. He is responsible for the development of the first Digital Photogrammetric Grid (DPGrid) processing system for space and aerial remote sensing imagery, with complete independent intellectual property rights in China. DPGrid was successfully applied to major national projects and various geographical information products, as well as the rapid response of serious disasters such as the Wenchuan earthquake. In 2015, the technology was transferred to Esri (USA), becoming the first technology export from China with independent intellectual property rights in the field of surveying and remote sensing.

Prof. Zhang won the second class of the National Science and Technology Progress Award in 2017, in addition to the outstanding class of the Surveying and Mapping Science and Technology Progress Award in 2015, as the principal investigator. He has presided over more than ten Chinese projects of the National Natural Science Foundation, National Key Research and Development Programme, National Science and Technology Support Programme and National 863 Programme. He holds 25 national patents for inventions and 25 computer software copyrights. He was also the lead chairman of the international academic conference "PhotoGA 2017". In addition, Professor Zhang has published more than 80 academic papers in top-tier SCI journals, including several in the *Record* (for instance Zhang et al., 2005, 2014) and others in various *IEEE Transactions*, *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing*, *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, the *ISPRS Archives* and the open-access *Remote Sensing*.

Prof. Zhang's research interests include: digital photogrammetry and remote sensing; computer vision; geometric processing of aerial and space optical imagery; multisource spatial data integration; integrated sensor calibration and orientation; low altitude UAV photogrammetry; combined bundle block adjustment of multisource datasets; lidar and image integration; digital city modelling; visual inspection of industrial components; intelligent extraction of remote sensing information and knowledge modelling.

Professor Debra Laefer

With degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Columbia University, USA, Prof. Debra Laefer has a wide-ranging background spanning from geotechnical and structural engineering to art history and historic preservation. Prof. Laefer's work often stands at the crossroads of technology creation and community values, such as devising technical solutions for protecting architecturally significant buildings from subsurface construction. As the density of her aerial remote sensing datasets continues to grow exponentially with time, Prof. Laefer and her Urban Modeling Group must help pioneer computationally efficient storage, querying and visualisation strategies that both harness distributed computing-based solutions and bridge the gap between data availability and its usability for the engineering community.

In her decade and a half as a faculty member in both the USA and Europe, Prof. Laefer has served as the principal investigator for grants from a wide range of sponsors including the National Science Foundation, the US Federal Highway Administration, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Science Foundation Ireland, and the European Research Council (including a €1.5 million single investigator award from the flagship ERC program for which she is the only civil engineer to have been funded in Ireland in the programme's 11-year history).

Prof. Laefer has been awarded four patents and has supervised 15 doctoral and 20 masters' theses. Among many honours from IEEE (first place, Data Fusion Contest, IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, Milan, Italy, 2015), ISPRS (Best Track award, IQumulus Processing Contest (GeoBigData Workshop), ISPRS Geospatial Week, La Grande Motte, France, 2015) and other professional societies, the most notable is perhaps the 2016 commissioning and hanging of her portrait by the Royal Irish Academy as one of eight researchers selected for the Women on Walls project to celebrate Irish women in science and engineering. She has helped to form national research programmes and policies in her governmental appointment to the Irish Research Council (2016–2020).

While Professor Laefer has not published in the *Record*, she has authored over 160 peer-reviewed publications. Although many of her papers are featured in various engineering journals, these also include numerous articles in our competitor journals *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing* (for example Mosa et al., 2012), *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* (including Zolanvari and Laefer, 2016; Vo et al., 2019) and the *ISPRS Archives* (such as Truong-Hong et al. (2019), where IEB member Roderik Lindenbergh was another co-author).

Outgoing Editor: Stuart Granshaw

After informing RSPSoc and Wiley in September 2020 that I wished to retire from my role as Editor of *The Photogrammetric Record*, I know much work has gone into finding a successor. I was informed in early August 2021 that my tenure as Editor will finish at the end of October 2021 following a short transition period. Given the lead times for

production, the Editorial in this issue was written without knowledge of this development. I therefore do not have the luxury of the two previous Editors (current Editors Emeriti Paul Newby and Keith Atkinson) of writing a final "valete" Editorial. This "note" will have to suffice in its stead.

Over my ten years as Editor both our discipline and the publishing landscape have changed tremendously. The second edition of our terminology guide (Newby, 2012) made no mention of structure from motion; today it is all-pervasive and used by both specialists and non-specialists alike, opening up photogrammetry to a huge audience. As for scientific publishing, the move to open-access journals means an ongoing rethink for subscription journals, like the *Record*, sponsored by learned societies.

A primary role of an Editor is to oversee the review of papers, though this is often a rubber-stamping administrative task as the hard work has been done by the team of reviewers (acknowledged in our December issues every two years) under our International Editorial Board (IEB). Our IEB is ably coordinated by Danilo Schneider and, before him, by Simon Buckley and Jim Chandler. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our IEB (listed at the beginning of each issue), who have undertaken a sterling job in coordinating reviews and thus improving the quality of the journal. I trust they will work as diligently for the new Editors. I also need to single out Editor Emeritus Keith Atkinson who has, since his retirement as Editor in 1999, written (or coordinated) every obituary; he has also undertaken the thankless task of checking every paper's references, frequently finding missing details, inconsistencies or even incorrect identification of an author's family name. Keith has been intimately associated with the journal for an incredible 56 years, beginning in March 1965 when he became Assistant Editor to E. H. Thompson (Anon, 2015, provides a summary). It is Keith's intention put his red pen down to coincide my own resignation.

Editorials have been somewhat of a feature of the *Record* (the new Editors will make their own decision on their role). My predecessor, Paul Newby, wrote in his final Editorial (Newby, 2011, p. 149) that "*This Editorial is thus my last opportunity to indulge in the Editor's perk of a free run at any subject which has caught my interest … this licence for eccentricity is one of the few prerequisites of the job*.". However, E. H. Thompson, surely the most esteemed Editor in the history of this journal, has related (Anon, 1968, p. 3): "*An editorial is written to put readers right*" before substituting a scientific paper for his intended exposition (on the standard error of unit weight) as "*such a technical essay was out of place as an editorial*". In my own theses I have veered between these two views. Several colleagues have remarked that mine are not like Editorials at all. They have certainly been lengthy, and sometimes a little technical, in an attempt to investigate a topic thoroughly. For example, Kinghan (2020) in *GIM International* wrote: "*In June 2018, RSPSoc's 'Photogrammetric Record' publication devoted 11 pages to determining which term they would use for drones*".

This was not, however, my longest dissertation: Granshaw et al. (2017) ran to 19 pages on photogrammetry and industry, though it was co-authored by five eminent figures from our discipline. Indeed, I have enjoyed writing joint Editorials more than most: for example, Granshaw and Fraser (2015) on computer vision and photogrammetry or Granshaw et al. (2015) with our two Editors Emeriti to celebrate our 150th issue. My Editorial in the current issue, entitled "Neural networks and neurodiversity" was perhaps at the eccentric end of the scale. What I did not disclose is that I, myself, have been diagnosed with mild Asperger's, which may partly explain the detailed content in my Editorials or the systematisation in our most recent 146-page terminology guide (Granshaw, 2020).

In an attempt to uphold the highest standards, it may not be widely known that every paper in the *Record* is currently edited by the Editor as well as by Wiley's copy editor, and the language amended for authors whose first language is not English (the new Editors may have different priorities). This scrutiny is perhaps a vestige of the *Record* formerly being the official journal of the Photogrammetric Society (PSoc) which upheld the highest standards. However, the dangers of unrelenting scrutiny, especially with a language as fickle as English, is vividly related by Wickens and Dallas (2021) in their excellent informal history of PSoc. For example, Stewart Walker related (p. 157), in the context of recording PSoc minutes: "*Then the wolves pounced, nipping at missed commas, minor typos, misdemeanours such as shortfalls in the subjunctive*". I myself have argued with former Editors over the nonsense of split infinitives.

More important than improving the English is enhancing the quality of the content and the reach of the journal. We certainly need an injection of new blood and I am hopeful that Yongjun Zhang and Debra Laefer will drive the *Record* forward with their wide expertise and youthful vigour. I sincerely wish them well. After 41 issues (from nos. 135 to 175) I am happy to lay down my Editor's "pen". After a recent drought of submissions, I am pleased that the current issue contains five reviewed papers (with international authors from France, Canada, Turkey, Poland and Taiwan), together with an obituary, book review and letter to the Editor. I also leave my successors with an improved two-year impact factor of 2.744. I trust this provides a firm foundation for the future, though I expect your new Co-Editors will make numerous changes to ensure success. Please give them your support.

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