

# Daniel Buscombe

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Research Geologist,  
United States Geological Survey,  
Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center  
<http://dbuscombe-usgs.github.com>

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Place of Birth: Greenwich, London, UK (3 December 1981)  
Nationality: British

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am a geomorphologist/sedimentologist with a principal research interest in sediment dynamics, which includes the physical and biochemical makeup of sediment beds in a range of aquatic environments, the role of sediment heterogeneity in the physics of sediment transport, and the morphodynamics (both micro- and macro-scale) that result from sediment transport, sedimentation, stratigraphy and geomorphological forms. I study the complex inter-relations between fluid flows, geomorphology, sediment transport and sedimentology. I investigate these processes by developing novel field-deployed optical and acoustic imaging systems, and computational algorithms for small-scale sediment hydroacoustics, in-situ particle and bed imaging and flow-field/turbulence measurements.

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. (2008), Coastal Geomorphology/Nearshore Oceanography, University of Plymouth**, Plymouth, UK. *Morphodynamics, Sediment Dynamics and Sedimentation of a Gravel Beach*. Advisor: Prof. Gerhard Masselink.

**BSc (Hons), 1st class (2003), Physical Geography with Minors in Environmental Sciences and Biology, Lancaster University**, Lancaster, UK. *Morphodynamics of a Ridge-and-Runnel System on a Macrotidal Beach*. Advisor: Dr Suzanna Ilic.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**November 2012 – present.** *Research Geologist, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Flagstaff, AZ, USA.*

**October 2009 – November 2012.** *Post-doctoral Research Fellow, School of Marine Science & Engineering, University of Plymouth, UK.*

**September, 2008 – 2011.** *Computer Programming Contractor, Marine Biology & Ecology Research Centre, University of Plymouth, UK.*

**October, 2008 – October 2009.** *Post-doctoral Research Scholar, United States Geological Survey, Santa Cruz, California, USA.*

**June, 2008 – September, 2008.** *Research Assistant, School of Geography, University of Plymouth, UK.*

**December, 2007 – April, 2008.** *Research Assistant, School of Earth, Ocean & Environmental Science, University of Plymouth, UK.*

**October, 2004 – July 2008.** *Associate Lecturer and Demonstrator (part-time), School of Geography, University of Plymouth, UK.*

**August 2003 - September, 2004.** *Assistant tutor, Field Studies Council, Castle Head, Grange-over-Sands, UK.*

PROFESSIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

**Membership**

British Society for Geomorphology; International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS); American Geophysical Union (AGU); Coastal Zone Network (COZONE); The Challenger Society for Marine Science.

**Journal Review**

Arctic; Continental Shelf Research; Earth Surface Processes and Landforms; Geo-Marine Letters; Geophysical Research Letters; Journal of Hydraulic Engineering; Journal of Mountain Science; Journal of Sedimentary Research; Marine Geology; Sedimentology; Sedimentary Geology; Water Resources Research.

**Conferences Organised**

On the organising committee for:

- 1 *The Quaternary Research Association's 4th International Postgraduate Symposium*, hosted by the School of Geography at the University of Plymouth 31st August - 2nd September 2005.
- 2 *Young Coastal Scientist and Engineers Conference, 2007* (YCSEC 2007) hosted by the School of Geography at the University of Plymouth 19-21 April 2007.
- 3 *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, December 2007: H60. Linking sediment supply, bed-sediment particle size, sediment transport, and bed morphology in fluvial, marine, and aeolian settings. Co-convened with David Rubin (USGS), David Topping (USGS), and Scott Wright (USGS).
- 4 *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, December 2013: EP010. Fluvial sediment budgets: Can we do better? Co-convened with David Topping (USGS), Paul Grams (USGS), and Susannah Erwin (USGS).

SKILLS

- 1 Community models: General Ocean Turbulence Model (GOTM, <http://www.gotm.net/index.php>); Simulating Waves Nearshore (SWAN; <http://www.swan.tudelft.nl/>); Simulating Waves 'til Shore (SWASH; <http://swash.sourceforge.net/features/features.htm>).
- 2 Operating Systems: Linux (various Ubuntu and Fedora), Microsoft Windows (1998, XP, Vista, 7), Mac OSX.
- 3 Distributed computing using Condor.
- 4 Programming Languages: Matlab, shell scripting, Python (proficient); Fortran (experienced); HTML, C, R (beginner).
- 5 Full UK driving licence. Arizona State driving licence. LANTRA sit-astride ATV qualification.
- 6 Other interests: Phidgets (<http://www.phidgets.com/>), instrument control, machine vision, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

SELECTED  
PUBLICATIONS

JOURNALS

- 1 **Buscombe, D.**, and Masselink, G. (2006) Concepts in Gravel Beach Dynamics. *Earth Science Reviews* 79, 33-52.
- 2 Masselink, G., **Buscombe, D.**, Austin, M.J., O'Hare, T., Russell, P. (2008) Sediment Trend Models Fail to Reproduce Small Scale Sediment Transport Patterns on an Intertidal Beach. *Sedimentology* 55, 667-687.
- 3 Austin, M.J., and **Buscombe, D.** (2008) Morphological Change and Sediment Dynamics of the Beach Step on a Macrotidal Gravel Beach. *Marine Geology* 249, 167-183.
- 4 **Buscombe, D.** (2008) Estimation of Grain Size Distributions and Associated Parameters from Digital Images of Sediment. *Sedimentary Geology* 210, 1-10.
- 5 Masselink, G., and **Buscombe, D.** (2008) Shifting gravel: A case study of Slapton Sands. *Geography Review* 22 (1), 27-31.
- 6 **Buscombe, D.**, and Masselink, G. (2009) Grain Size Information from the Statistical Properties of Digital Images of Sediment. *Sedimentology* 56, 421-438
- 7 Warrick, J.A., Rubin, D.M., Ruggiero, P., Harney, J., Draut, A.E., and **Buscombe, D.** (2009) Cobble Cam: Grain-size measurements of sand to boulder from digital photographs and autocorrelation analyses. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 34, 1811-1821.
- 8 Williams, J., Masselink, G., **Buscombe, D.**, Turner, I., Matias, A., Ferreira, O., Meltje, N., Bradbury, A., Albers, T., and Pan, S. (2009) BARDEX (Barrier Dynamics Experiment): taking the beach into the laboratory. *Journal of Coastal Research* SI 56, 158-162.
- 9 **Buscombe, D.**, Rubin, D.M., and Warrick, J.A. (2010) Universal Approximation of Grain Size from Images of Non-Cohesive Sediment. *Journal of Geophysical Research - Earth Surface* 115, F02015.
- 10 Williams, J.J., **Buscombe, D.**, Masselink, G., Turner, I., and Swinkels, C. (2012) Barrier Dynamics Experiment (BARDEX): Aims, Design and Procedures. *Coastal Engineering* 63, 3-12.

- 11 **Buscombe, D.**, and Conley, D.C. (2012) Effective Shear Stress of Graded Sediment. *Water Resources Research* 48, W05506.
- 12 **Buscombe, D.**, and Rubin, D.M. (2012) Advances in the Simulation and Automated Measurement of Granular Material, Part 1: Simulations. *Journal of Geophysical Research - Earth Surface* 117, F02001.
- 13 **Buscombe, D.**, and Rubin, D.M. (2012) Advances in the Simulation and Automated Measurement of Granular Material, Part 2: Direct Measures of Particle Properties. *Journal of Geophysical Research - Earth Surface* 117, F02002.
- 14 Lacy, J.R., Rubin, D.M. and **Buscombe, D.** (2012) Currents and sediment transport induced by a tsunami far from its source. *Journal of Geophysical Research - Oceans* 117, C09028.
- 15 **Buscombe, D.** (2013) Transferable Wavelet Method for Grain Size-Distribution from Images of Sediment Surfaces and Thin Sections, and Other Natural Granular Patterns. *Sedimentology* 60, 1709–1732. DOI: 10.1111/sed.12049
- 15 Puleo, J., Blenkinsopp, C., Conley, D., Masselink, G., Turner, I., Russell, P., **Buscombe, D.**, Howe, D., Lanckriet, T., McCall, R., and Poate, T. (2013) A Comprehensive Field Study of Swash-Zone Processes, Part 1: Experimental Design with Examples of Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Measurements. *J. Waterway, Port, Coastal, Ocean Eng.*, 140, 2942. 10.1061/(ASCE)WW.1943-5460.0000210.
- 16 **Buscombe, D.**, Rubin, D.M., Lacy, J.R., Storlazzi, C., Sherwood, C., Hatcher, G., Chezar, H., and Wyland, R.. (2014) Autonomous bed-sediment imaging-systems for revealing temporal variability of grain size. *Limnology and Oceanography: Methods*, in press
- 17 **Buscombe, D.**, Grams, P.E., Kaplinski, M.A., in review, Characterizing riverbed sediment using high-frequency acoustics 1: Spectral properties of scattering. *Journal of Geophysical Research - Earth Surface*.
- 18 **Buscombe, D.**, Grams, P.E., Kaplinski, M.A., in review, Characterizing riverbed sediment using high-frequency acoustics 2: Scattering signatures of Colorado River bed sediment in Marble and Grand Canyons. *Journal of Geophysical Research - Earth Surface*.
- 19 **Buscombe, D.**, Grams, P.E., in prep., An automated approach to riverbed sediment classification using low-cost sidescan sonar. Intended for *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*.
- 20 Davies, E.J., **Buscombe, D.**, Graham, G.W., Nimmo-Smith, W.A.M., (in prep.), An evaluation of the performance of autonomous digital holographic image processing for characterising suspended particles, Intended for *Journal of Atmospheric & Oceanographic Technology*.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- 1 **Buscombe, D.**, Austin, M.J., and Masselink, G. (2007) Field observations of step dynamics on a macrotidal gravel beach. In Kraus, N., and Rosati, J., (Eds) *Proceedings of Coastal Sediments 2007 (Volume 1)*, ASCE, USA (oral).
- 2 **Buscombe, D.**, and Masselink, G. (2007) The relationship between sediment properties and sedimentation patterns on a macrotidal gravel beach over a semi lunar tidal cycle. *Eos Transactions American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, Abstract H53L-02 (oral).
- 3 **Buscombe, D.**, Masselink, G., and Rubin, D.M. (2008) Granular Properties from Digital Images of Sediment: Implications for Coastal Sediment Transport Modelling. *International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE)*, Hamburg, 2008 (oral).
- 4 Ruiz de Alegria, A., Masselink, G., Kingston, K., Williams, J., and **Buscombe, D.** (2008) Storm Impacts on a Gravel Beach Using the ARGUS video system. *International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE)*, Hamburg, 2008 (oral).
- 5 Austin, M.J., Masselink, G., Turner, I., **Buscombe, D.**, and Williams, J. (2008) Groundwater seepage between a gravel barrier beach and a freshwater lagoon. *International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE)*, Hamburg, 2008 (oral).
- 6 **Buscombe, D.**, Ruiz de Alegria, A., and Masselink, G. (2008). The relative importance of cross- and along-shore sediment transport in planform and profile adjustments of a gravel barrier beach: Slapton, Devon, UK. *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, Dec 2008 (poster).
- 7 Williams, J.J., Masselink, G., **Buscombe, D.**, and 7 others (2009). BARDEX (Barrier Dynamics Experiment): taking the beach into the laboratory. Abstract submitted for oral presentation at the *10th International Coastal Symposium (ICS)*, Lisbon, Portugal 2009 (oral).
- 8 **Buscombe, D.** Lacy, J.R., and Rubin, D.M. (2010) Fractional resuspension and sediment flux on a wave-dominated, non-cohesive, inner continental shelf. *Ocean Sciences 2010*, Portland (poster)
- 9 Rubin, D.M., **Buscombe, D.**, Lacy, J.R., Chezar, H., Hatcher, G., and Wyland, R. (2010) Seafloor sediment observatory on a cable and a shoestring. *Ocean Sciences 2010*, Portland (oral)
- 10 **Buscombe, D.**, and Conley, D.C. (2010) Modeling sand resuspension and stratification in turbulent nearshore flows: sensitivity to grain size distribution. *Ocean Sciences 2010*, Portland (oral)
- 11 Lacy, J.R., **Buscombe, D.**, and Rubin, D.M. (2010) Tsunami-enhanced sediment resuspension on the inner shelf in northern Monterey Bay, California. *Ocean Sciences 2010*, Portland (oral)
- 12 Conley, D.C., and **Buscombe, D.** (2010) Effects of Grain Size Distributions on Fluid-Sediment Feedback. *European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2010*, Vienna (oral)
- 13 **Buscombe, D.**, Rubin, D. M., and Warrick, J. A. (2010) An automated and 'universal' method for measuring mean grain size from a digital image of sediment. *9th Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference*, Las Vegas June 2010 (oral).
- 14 Rubin, D.M., Chezar, H., **Buscombe, D.**, Warrick, J.A., Barnard, P.L., Lacy, J.R., Hatcher, G., Wyland, R., Storlazzi, C., Conaway, C.H., Topping, D.J., Melis, T.S., and Grams, P.E. (2010) New technology for in-situ grain-size analysis from digital images of sediment, and resulting insights regarding sediment transport. *9th Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference*, Las Vegas June 2010 (oral).
- 15 **Buscombe, D.**, Rubin, D.M., and Lacy, J.R. (2010) Hourly Measurements of Grain-Size from the Inner Continental Shelf Seabed Using a Fully-Automated, Hydraulically-Controlled Underwater Video Microscope. *Particles in Europe*

- 2010, Villefranche-Sur-Mer, France. (oral)
- 16 Williams, J.J., Masselink, G., **Buscombe, D.**, and 10 others (2010) BARDEX (Barrier Dynamics Experiments): a laboratory study of gravel barrier response to waves and tides. *Proceedings of Hydralab III Joint User Meeting*, Hannover, p. 4 (oral)
  - 17 **Buscombe, D.**, and Conley, D.C. (2011) Formula for Motion Threshold per Grain Size for Graded Sediments in Steady Flows. *European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2011*, Vienna (poster).
  - 18 **Buscombe, D.**, and Rubin, D.M. (2011) How do you tell how big something is without direct measurement? Estimating grain size using an images spectrum. *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, Dec 2011 (oral).
  - 19 Conley, D.C., **Buscombe, D.**, and Nimmo-Smith, A. (2012) New understandings of sediment suspension in the nearshore from cross-comparisons of diverse sensors. *Ocean Sciences 2012*, Salt Lake City (poster).
  - 20 **Buscombe, D.**, Conley, D.C., and Rubin, D.M. (2012, accepted) Co-variation of intertidal morphology, bedforms and grain size on a macrotidal sand beach: Praa Sands, UK. *Ocean Sciences 2012*, Salt Lake City (oral).
  - 21 Puleo, J.A., Conley, D.C., Masselink, G., Russell, P., Turner, I.L., Blenkinsopp, C., **Buscombe, D.**, Lanckriet, T., McCall, R., and Poate, T. (2012) Comprehensive study of swash-zone hydrodynamics and sediment transport. *International Conference on Coastal Engineering*, Santander, July 2012 (oral).
  - 22 **Buscombe, D.**, and Conley, D.C. (2012) Schmidt number of sand suspensions under oscillating-grid turbulence. *International Conference on Coastal Engineering*, Santander, July 2012 (oral).
  - 23 Conley, D.C., **Buscombe, D.**, and Nimmo-Smith, A. (2012) Use of digital holographic cameras to examine the measurement and understanding of sediment suspension in the nearshore. *International Conference on Coastal Engineering*, Santander, July 2012 (oral).
  - 24 Nimmo-Smith, A., **Buscombe, D.**, and Conley, D.C. (2012) Use of digital holographic cameras to examine the measurement and understanding of sediment suspension in the nearshore. *Particles in Europe*, Barcelona, October 2012 (oral).
  - 25 Kaplinski, M.A., Hazel, J.E., Grams, P.E., **Buscombe, D.**, Hadley, D., and Kohl, K. (2013) Constructing a morphologic sediment budget, with uncertainties, for a 50-km segment of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, Dec 2013 (poster).
  - 26 Grams, P.E., **Buscombe, D.**, Hazel, J.E., Kaplinski, M.A., and Topping, D.J. (2013) Reconciliation of Flux-based and Morphologic-based Sediment Budgets. *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, Dec 2013 (oral).
  - 27 **Buscombe, D.**, Grams, P.E., Kaplinski, M.A. (2013) Acoustic Scattering by an Heterogeneous River Bed: Relationship to Bathymetry and Implications for Sediment Classification using Multibeam Echosounder Data. *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, Dec 2013 (oral).
  - 28 Davies, E.J., **Buscombe, D.**, Graham, G., Nimmo Smith, W.A.M. (2013) Evaluating Unsupervised Methods to Size and Classify Suspended Particles Using Digital Holography *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, Dec 2013 (poster).

#### REPORTS

- 1 **Buscombe, D.**, and Scott, T.M. (2008) *Coastal Geomorphology of North Cornwall: St Ives to Trevoze Head*. Internal report for Wave Hub Impacts on Seabed and Shoreline Processes, University of Plymouth. 170pp.
- 2 **Buscombe, D.**, Williams, J. J., and Masselink, G. (2008) *BARDEX (Barrier Dynamics Experiment): experimental procedure, technical information and data report*. Technical report for the European Union Hydralab III, 219pp.

#### SOFTWARE

- 1 **Digital Grain Size**. Software for automated analyses of grain size from images of sediment. Source code currently available in Matlab and Python. Webpage <http://dbuscombe-usgs.github.com>
- 2 **PyHum**. Software for reading, processing and analysis of Humminbird sidescan data. Source code available in Python. Webpage <http://dbuscombe-usgs.github.com>
- 3 **Benthic Analysis Tool**. Software for the semi-automation of species identification and measurement in deep-sea ROV/drop frame images. Source code available in Matlab.
- 4 **Sand Simulation Toolbox**. Software for generating 3D discrete particle models consisting of realistic particles (with a size- and shape-distribution) with user-defined properties. Source code available in Matlab. Webpage <http://dbuscombe-usgs.github.com>
- 5 **MATSCAT**. Software for analysis of multiple-frequency acoustic backscatter for suspended sediment concentration and particle size. Source code available in Matlab.
- 6 Generic software for serial data acquisition and real-time display. Source code available in Python.
- 7 Software for interfacing with machine-vision ethernet video cameras. Source code available in C.

#### INVITED TALKS

- 1 *Slapton Research Seminar, Field Studies Council, Slapton Ley*, 4th December 2004. Talk entitled 'A tale of two storms'.
- 2 *Slapton Research Seminar, Field Studies Council, Slapton Ley*, 18th November 2006. Talk entitled 'A view from the beach'
- 3 *Centre for Coastal Dynamics and Engineering (C-CoDE)*, University of Plymouth, 6th December 2006. Talk entitled 'Field observations of morphological change and sediment dynamics from the

nearshore of a gravel beach'

- 4 *Slapton Research Seminar, Field Studies Council, Slapton Ley*, 3rd November 2007. Talk entitled 'A year in the life of Slapton Sands - but was it a typical year?' with Tom Deacon (SLFC).
- 5 *Lancaster University Environmental Imaging Network*, 20th May 2008. Talk entitled 'Optical sensing of gravel sediment transport and characteristics: recent advances and future challenges'.
- 6 *Coastal and Marine Geology, United States Geological Survey, Santa Cruz*, 28th January 2009. Talk entitled 'Morphodynamics and sediment dynamics of a macrotidal gravel beach'.
- 7 *Centre for Coastal Science and Engineering, University of Plymouth*, 17th February 2009. Talk entitled 'Turbulence, Sediment Stratification and Altered Resuspension under Waves'.
- 8 *Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, Flagstaff, Arizona*, 27th February 2012. Talk entitled 'Nearshore Sediment Transport Through the Looking Glass'.
- 9 *British Geological Survey, Marine Geosciences Division, Edinburgh*, 13th July 2012. Talk entitled 'Digital Grain Size'.
- 10 *Multibeam in Rivers Summit, Utah State University, Logan, Utah*, February 2014. Talk entitled 'Bed Sediment Classification Using High-Frequency Acoustic Backscatter'.