

## TECTONIC STUDIES GROUP MEETINGS AND EVENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

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[tectonicstudiesgroup.org/tsg-guidelines](http://tectonicstudiesgroup.org/tsg-guidelines)

### V1. October 2018 – Casey W. Nixon

#### Introduction

The Tectonic Studies Group (TSG) is a specialist group, affiliated to the Geological Society of London, for the discussion of research in structural geology and tectonics. As a learned society the TSG, through its committee and organisers, has a duty in the public interest to provide a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all participants and attendees of our meetings, workshops, and events regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, or career level.

This policy applies to all participants in TSG related activities, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, staff, service providers, representatives to outside bodies, and others are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct applies in all TSG activities, including ancillary events, social gatherings and field excursions.

#### Social Behaviour and Communication

We value your participation, and want to make your experience as constructive and professionally stimulating as possible. To uphold this encouraging and constructive setting the TSG expects its community and participants to uphold the following principles:

- Participants are expected to behave in a professional manner - harassment and/or sexist, racist, or exclusionary comments or jokes are not appropriate and will not be tolerated.
- Harassment includes sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, sexual attention or innuendo, deliberate intimidation, stalking, and photography or recording of an individual without consent. It also includes offensive comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race or religion.
- Participants asked to stop any harassing behaviour are expected to comply immediately.
- All communication, online or in person, should be appropriate for a professional audience, and be considerate of people from different cultural backgrounds. Sexual language and imagery is not appropriate at any time.
- Be aware of the public nature of interactions on social media and be considerate of others when using such platforms, respecting how others may wish to use them (i.e. personal or professional).
- Contribute to discussions in meetings with a constructive and positive approach, critiquing ideas rather than individuals.

- Be respectful and inclusive of others during discussions, be willing to hear out the ideas of others and be mindful of talking over others. Do not insult, put down or attempt to undermine others.

### **Scientific Data and Acknowledgment Practices**

The lack of formality of TSG meetings provides a suitable environment for presenting and testing new ideas and research in progress. To continue such an open environment and platform all presenters and attendees are reminded that they have a responsibility with regards to the presentation and viewing of scientific data and ideas. TSG expects participants to adhere to the following practices:

- Participants should not record or take photography of another individual's presentation without their explicit permission.
- Participants should be collaborative and transparent when viewing and discussing new ideas and ongoing research of others.
- Presentation of data and scientific ideas from peers should be clearly acknowledged and referenced during presentations.
- Presenters should discuss authorship of abstracts with peers and have permission from co-authors prior to submission.
- Presenters are encouraged to acknowledge all contributors to their presented research.
- It should be clearly indicated during or on a presentation if one is presenting on behalf of another peer or author.
- Presenters should be aware of any disclosure and confidentiality agreements associated with their data, results and ideas. Remember to seek permission from rightful data owners/collaborators prior to abstract submission and presentation.

### **Rock Collection and Sampling Ethics**

TSG recognises that members of its community collect data and samples from geological outcrops in the field. Outcrops and sites may have a specific scientific/educational value, be geological type localities, have a significant photographic value, be located on private land or in a protected area of local/national/international interest (e.g. national parks). As geoscientists we have a responsibility to lead by example and promote geoconservation and should follow ethical policies with regards to rock collection and sampling. TSG encourages its community to follow the provided guidelines when participating in field work or attending a TSG organised field excursions:

- One should always seek and ask permission from the correct authorities prior to rock collection or sampling, particularly if located on private land, protected areas or national parks.
- Limit your use of hammers and chisels on in situ outcrops when possible. It is usually not necessary in most circumstances and is strongly discouraged in protected sites.

- Collection of rocks and samples should be conducted in a way that limits damage to the outcrop and preserves its aesthetic qualities.
- Collection and sample sites should be fully assessed based on the scientific importance of the site, frequency of visits, and its location.

More details on ethical rock sampling can be found in the following articles:

<https://scottishgeodiversityforum.org/charter/ethical-rock-collection/>

<http://52.172.159.94/index.php/epi/article/viewFile/57425/44802>

[https://www.nature.com/articles/ngeo2572?WT.feed\\_name=subjects\\_palaeomagnetism](https://www.nature.com/articles/ngeo2572?WT.feed_name=subjects_palaeomagnetism)

### **Breach of the Code of Conduct**

If an incident of prohibited conduct occurs either within or outside the premises of an event or during a conference, then the aggrieved person or witness to the prohibited conduct is encouraged to report it promptly to a member of the TSG committee.

Once the committee member is notified they will discuss the details first with the individual filing the complaint, then any witnesses who have been identified, and then the alleged offender before determining an appropriate course of action. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent that it does not compromise the rights of others.

For any questions about this policy, please contact:

Dr. Casey Nixon – Ethics and Communications Officer – [casey.nixon@uib.no](mailto:casey.nixon@uib.no)