

**From:**

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## December 2021 KC NEWS



**Karst  
Commission**

### Wishes to KC members

The end of the year 2021 is approaching, and the traditional end-of-year holidays as well. IAH Karst Commission co-chairs are wishing Merry Christmas to those who celebrate, and Happy New Year 2022 to those who register the calendar year change within few days! And lots of health and happiness to everybody!!!



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## **Change in IAH Karst Commission LinkedIn group**

Since 2013, Catherine Coxon (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland) has been moderating the Karst Commission LinkedIn group, which she created. Daniel Bittner (Technical University of Munich, Germany) has volunteered to take over moderating the group from Catherine. The Karst Commission LinkedIn group has 140 members and is open to members of the Commission and to other karst hydrogeology researchers and practitioners. If you are already a LinkedIn member, follow the link to the group and request to join. If you are not already a LinkedIn member, instructions on joining LinkedIn can be found at <https://www.linkedin.com/signup>

Many thanks, Catherine, for your long-lasting efforts!

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## **IAH Karst Commission webpage**

IAH Karst Commission webpage, <https://karst.iah.org> has been maintained since its inception by Aidan Foley (MottMacDonald, US). This has been a huge commitment and a great service to the Karst Commission. Aidan is handing over his

responsibilities to Ben Tobin, who will gradually take over the duties in KC webpage editing and content, with Aidan's support in the transition.

Thank you, Aidan, for all your hard work maintaining the site! Maintaining the site and providing members with up-to-date information is a huge task and only as valuable as we make it. We are excited to hear other KC members ideas and may need additional help. Please consider whether you or other members of our community can help.

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## **The International Year of Caves and Karst / the International Year of Groundwater**

Because of COVID, the International Year of Caves and Karst has been extended through 2022. In the meantime, we are approaching the International Year of Groundwater as UN-Water announces a major focus on groundwater for World Water Day in 2022. Every year, the World Water Day (22nd March) highlights a specific aspect of freshwater, with a theme proposed by UN-Water members and partners two to three years in advance. According to an announcement by UN-Water at its 30th meeting in Rome, Italy in 2019, the theme for World Water Day in 2022 will be "Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible". This is considered to be an important step in gaining the necessary attention for the role of global groundwater resources.

In this way, IAH Karst Commission members should already twice celebrate their favourite work topics in 2022!!!

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## **Dye Tracing Call for Proposal(s)**

TRAQUA, a spin-off from the University of Namur (Belgium; [www.traqua.be/en](http://www.traqua.be/en)), is sponsoring dye tracing projects related to caving activities by supplying STREAM®fieldfluorometers for high-resolution monitoring of fluorescent dyes. The

STREAM®fluorometer is an innovative, ultraportable (1,25kg, 23x6 cm), and fully submersible (no cables, 1000 m depth rating) field fluorometer allowing to trace fluorescent dyes in challenging karst environments (difficult to access, flooded). Any non-profit association, group or federation active in the field of caving may apply for use of a STREAM®fluorometer. Applications can be made by speleology associations worldwide and throughout the year using the project call form (available in English and French). You can request form and additional information via [contact@traqua.be](mailto:contact@traqua.be)

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## Upcoming KC Events

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### EUROKARST 2022 Malaga



The next annual IAH Karst Commission meeting is planned as part of EUROKARST Conference on 22–25 June 2022 in Malaga, Spain. The traditional conference series European Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs circulating biannually between Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Besançon (France), and Málaga (Spain) is worth of attendance. 50th KC anniversary celebration, young karst researchers' prizes, award for Honorary Members, karstic surroundings – these are not the only hotspots of the venue, making Malaga worth of visiting! Visit Malaga EUROKARST 2022, or visit the website <http://www.eurokarst.org> to see the opportunities.



## **Man and Karst 2022 - Custonaci, Sicily, Italy**

After succesful event in Ragusa (2019), as a part of the International Year of the Caves and Karst, the International Scientific Conference "Man and Karst" is organized in Sicily from September 12 to 17, 2022 in the fascinating location of the Monti di Capo San Vito, in the Custonaci Municipality (Province of Trapani). The conference intends to give a contribution to the knowledge, enhancement and safeguard of the karst landscape and caves with its ecosystem and historical-anthropological resources as a whole, as an instrument and optimal function of scientific research, not as often for its own sake or for the sake of a few users, but rather, at the service and for the benefit of the whole community.

See more on [www.cirs-ragusa.org](http://www.cirs-ragusa.org)

or contact Dr. Rosario Ruggieri PhD: [info@cirs-ragusa.org](mailto:info@cirs-ragusa.org)



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The next (N12) **Visual KARSYS** online course by Swiss ISSKA/SISKA, designed for understanding and modelling aquifers in 3D for geologists and hydrogeologists (engineers, academic, students) working in complex hydrogeological environments such as karst will take place on 12-13 January 2022. See <https://www.visualkarsys.com/courses> or contact Arnaud Malard ([info@visualkarsys.com](mailto:info@visualkarsys.com)).

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## New IAH Karst Commission Members

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### Zargham Mohammadi

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We would like to introduce the new member, but not really new to the IAH Karst Commission – Prof. Zargham Mohammadi, KC associated member since March this year. As his application came just in the period of the change of KC chairs, his introduction to the Karst Commission members unfortunately stayed unnoticed for a while, although Prof. Mohammadi is really an experienced karst hydrogeologist with

long list of successful projects.

Zargham Mohammadi's PhD degree is already in Karst Hydrogeology, under the supervision of Prof. Ezzat Raeisi, from Shiraz University, Iran. Later he spent 2 years (2017-2019) as visiting professor at University of Waterloo, Canada. He is dealing with mathematical modelling, laboratory and field experiments to understand groundwater flow behaviour and contaminant transport in karst aquifers. Later he focused on investigations of groundwater flow and solute transport in karst water resources through laboratory scale models (LSMs), as capabilities of such models have been extensively improved by new developments in experimental methods and measurement devices. He likes to focus on newly introduced technologies such as 3D printing, computed tomography scanning, X-rays, nuclear magnetic resonance, novel geophysical techniques, and use of nanomaterials to build up experiments models. He also applied dye tracing test and numerical modelling using CFPv2 for karst conduit characterisation, and evaluated leakage paths from the reservoir of several large dams in Iran. His research findings have attracted considerable international attention, receiving many citations over the past 14 years – while being a faculty member of the Department of Earth Sciences at Shiraz University, Iran. We are glad to welcome such an experienced researcher to the Karst Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists.



**Daniel Bittner**

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IAH Karst Commission welcomes Dr. Daniel Bittner, a young karst researcher from Germany. Daniel Bittner is working as a research hydrologist at the Erftverband and holds a honorary post-doc position in the group of Prof. Andreas Hartmann at the Technical University of Dresden. In his research, he is focusing on modelling flow and transport in karst systems and studies the impacts of land use changes on karst hydrological processes. In this context, he investigates the various sources of uncertainties that can arise in the process of hydrological modelling. Dr. Bittner has published various research articles in his field of research and is engaged in different research networks, e.g. the critical zone research network. Actually, Daniel is going to take over the moderating of the KC LinkedIn group from Catherine Coxon.



## **Shishir Kumar Sarker**

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The last in the list for this KC New issue is Shishir Kumar Sarker, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, the University of Kentucky. Let him speak about himself by his own words:

I am Shishir Sarker, originally from Bangladesh. I earned my B.S. in Geography and Environment in 2013 and my M.S. in Physical Geography in 2014 at the University



of Dhaka, Bangladesh. In 2016, I came to the United States to pursue my M.S. in Environmental Studies at Florida International University (FIU). In my M.S. thesis, I evaluated the long-term changes of total phosphorus concentration in surface water and soil in the Everglades Protection Area, Florida. After graduating in 2018, I worked as a research technician in the ecosystem ecology lab at the FIU Institute of Environment. Currently, I am pursuing my Ph.D. degree in Geological Sciences at the University of Kentucky, where my research focuses on the susceptibility of karst springs to climate change, land use/landcover change, and contamination. I am also investigating the transport of microbial pathogens in a karst Basin in Kentucky. My current research involves statistical, remote sensing, and machine learning techniques. I am excited to be a part of the karst commission, which will help me stay updated on the latest karst research and connect with the commission members globally.



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**As usually, all the newcomers will be recognized as associated member of the Karst Commission for two years, before becoming a full member afterwards.**

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