

This conference opened up some new fields for me as most sessions were far outside my usual practice. This allowed me to learn many new things, some of which are related to my own PhD project. An example is, how the meteorological equipment works that is used to collect the data I use every day. Other new subjects are less related, but nonetheless interesting, for example wind energy, which had a large part in the conference. And although the application and results are new and unfamiliar to me, many of the methods are recognisable.

But most notably different from my training (in physics) was the communication of climate research to the public. Although this is perhaps not a surprising subject – when one is talking about the politically sensitive climate debate – it would not hurt to consider and discuss communication of science in other fields as well.

One of the best presentations was the Silver Medal Award Lecture by Peter Lynch. His style and humour reminded me very much of lectures I used to have from one of my professors. Somehow he managed to give the impression that considering 4D tensors is easy, which is an accomplishment by itself.

I do not know if this clearness in presenting comes natural to him, perhaps by experience or maybe a very good preparation. Unfortunately I got the feeling that not everyone paid a great deal of attention to how to convey their message and even, what message to convey. I think poor preparation results in poor confidence of the presenter and poor attention of the audience. Unfortunately this type of presentations is encountered every conference. So maybe scientists also need to discuss the communication among themselves.

If all talks are well prepared and thought-through I think conferences can be even more interesting. Fortunately already many of such presentations were already given, allowing me to learn more about the work of a largely different community than my usual surroundings.