

AGTA 22 – The Active Geographer

Workshop Session 4a _ **Focus on Fieldwork Skills** _ 11.00am – 11.55am

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Workshop Description

Fieldwork is the epitome of our role as teachers to enable students to look at the world "through the eyes of a geographer". It is through the skills, tools and techniques students are exposed to during fieldwork that this is achieved. What exactly are these skills we try to develop in students and what makes them geographic? Participants will have the opportunity to consider and share ideas on the role of fieldwork in students wider learning and in developing their geographic thinking. They will examine a range of identifiable geographic fieldwork skills and clarify the distinction between skills, techniques, and tools.

The aim of the workshop is to:

Examine our current understanding of,
Raise questions about,
Challenge our thinking about,
Encourage a clearer understanding of,
FIELDWORK SKILLS

Geographers have always had a love affair with Fieldwork, and Geography teachers have a collective understanding and consensus of what fieldwork is and its role within their geography teaching. They note that fieldwork helps make sense of and reinforces what students learn in the classroom through its practical application of theory, inquiry based learning and experiential learning. It involves students in active data collection in the field and where the data collected is brought back to the classroom for further processing, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.

“Fieldwork cannot be taken as a complimentary part of geographic learning, but it should be taken as an integral component.” Kalyani (2012, p304)

This workshop explores in detail the content and thinking detailed in:

S. Cranby, **Fieldwork Skills**, Chapter 5, pp142-162 in, **Teaching Secondary Geography**, Cambridge University Press, M. McNerny et al, 2022