

Review of manuscript

**“Towards family-friendly conferences in the geosciences: results from a first survey”**

by Elena Päßgen, Lisa Schielicke, and Leonie Esters

submitted to Geoscience Communication<sup>1</sup> (Preprint egusphere-2025-1200)

## General comments

1. The study is a relevant contribution to advancing the inclusiveness of parents in academia and increasing the prospects for a successful academic career, especially for mothers, by raising awareness for the additional obstacles parenting scientists face to participating in networking events like conferences. The authors provide survey statistics to support their qualitative observations, which is particularly useful since there is limited statistical data on parents in academia, especially within the geosciences and in Europe.
2. The title suggests a strong link to geosciences, but this is not evident in the manuscript.
3. The manuscript should be improved by making statements more precise, clarifying the scope of cited prior publications, and more thoroughly and quantitatively presenting the analysed survey statistics. At the same time repetitions of key statements should be avoided by reordering the text in some places, e.g. the introduction, and many vague statements need to be expanded and substantiated.

## Specific comments

Please find detailed comments directly within the preprint pdf document<sup>2</sup> in addition to the comments below. The comments concerning content are highlighted in **yellow**.

### Introduction

37-50: The statistics presented here could include numbers from the National Report on Early Career Researchers 2025<sup>3</sup> for Germany, and include more precise statistics for geosciences from the mentioned source for the U.S. (NCSES, table 8.7), including numbers on parents with children under 18, where available. Specifically, a distinction between scientists at universities and research facilities and employees in the private sector could be included to support the argument of conflict between academic career and family planning.

Consider to include some kind of review of geospecific conferences, larger and smaller events, e.g. EGU, Goldschmidt... where websites are still accessible, with regard to currently implemented family-friendly options., incl. hybrid participation.

### Results

144-157: The presented aspects are not presented in order of importance and the flow of argumentation is hard to follow and incomplete.

176-181: Be more specific in terms of the conference setting in describing the lack of awareness and need thereof and elaborate how an increased awareness of the challenge would play out.

229-232: Repetition of introduction aspects and some more references, should be placed there.

### Discussion

Generally, the quantitative results of the survey should be discussed more in detail; are the results surprising etc., indicative of a specific hypothesis, confirming other observations incl. references.

250: Elaborate as to how the survey results show the urgency, e.g. by highlighting aspects using the statistics you presented. Also, your survey is tailored to family support for conferences, which is only part of the academic life. Depending on the disciplines your survey participants come from it would be indicated to narrow “academia” to the field of geosciences to actually link to your title.

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1 <https://egusphere.copernicus.org/preprints/2025/egusphere-2025-1200/>

2 Päßgen\_etal\_egusphere-2025-1200\_comments.pdf

3 [https://www.bmbf.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/2025/2025\\_buwik.html](https://www.bmbf.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/2025/2025_buwik.html)

259-262: Please avoid repetitions from the introduction. Instead refer to your results to discuss them in context.

## **Appendix**

Suggestion: A specific example for a conference dedicated to providing family-friendly conditions (e.g. EGU) could be addressed and discussed in terms of the derived guidelines.

Suggestion, with respect to “Survey during registration”: Before the conference and before registration, e.g. together with abstract submission, requirements for family support could be queried to then tailor the measures to the needs of parenting attendees and communicate these before parents decide to register for attending in person.

During the conference: scheduling of sessions in accordance with childcare should be mentioned.  
Transparent communication about the available childcare spots and how they are allocated is missing.

## **Language and technicalities**

Please find detailed comments directly within the preprint pdf document. In **orange** are language-related comments (however, I am no native speaker either, please take the comments as suggestions to check the wording).

Consider replacing the term “crucial” with a variety of other words.

Consider replacing the term “offering” with “offer” which has a slightly different, in the context of the manuscript more appropriate meaning.