

The Rector of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg
announces the sad and shocking news that



Lorena Cristina ABAD CRESPO

tragically passed away on 02.05.2025 at the age of 31.

It is with great dismay and deep sadness that we bid farewell to our colleague and friend Lorena, who passed away far too early and completely unexpectedly in a tragic cycling accident after attending a conference. It is difficult to put into words what a great loss this is for all of us.

Lorena was not only a brilliant young scientist, but also an extraordinary person. Born in Ecuador, she studied environmental engineering at the University of Cuenca. Her enthusiasm for environmental processes and analysing them became apparent early on - a passion that led her to geoinformatics. During her time in Ecuador, she worked on interdisciplinary research projects, first as an intern and then as a staff member.

An Erasmus Mundus scholarship enabled her to study for a Master's degree in Geospatial Technologies, which took her to Lisbon, Castellón and Münster. There she deepened her knowledge of GIScience, remote sensing, machine learning, geostatistics and project management. Cycling in particular became her personal passion - a topic to which she also dedicated her Master's thesis.

After completing her Master's degree, Lorena came to the University of Salzburg, where she worked as a project member and subsequently as a doctoral student in the Risk, Hazard & Climate Lab at the Department of Geoinformatics - Z_GIS under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Hölbling. She contributed with great energy and enthusiasm to numerous research projects and played a decisive role in shaping our working group.

Lorena was the kind of colleague you could only wish for: highly motivated, competent, creative and full of joy. She left a lasting impression with her warm and positive manner - on colleagues, students and project partners alike. Her attitude towards life and science was characterised by commitment, determination and an infectious enthusiasm. In her own words:

„I am convinced that my determination would allow me to complete my doctoral studies within the required time, not only with high quality research but also with a broad engagement within the university life through teaching opportunities.“

Lorena was not only an outstanding young scientist - she was a person who inspired. A friend who enriched all our lives with her cheerfulness and positive energy. In her six years at Z_GIS, she left a mark that will forever remain.

We will remember Lorena fondly - for her laughter, her passion, her warmth and her tireless efforts to make the world a better place.

Our condolences go out to her partner, her family, her friends and everyone who was lucky enough to know her.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Fügenschuh
Rector

Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Thomas Blaschke
Dpt. of Geoinformatics