

Geosci. Commun. Discuss., author comment AC2  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-2021-39-AC2>, 2021  
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## Reply on RC1

Richard Westaway

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Author comment on "GC Insights: Rainbow colour maps remain widely used in the geosciences" by Richard M. Westaway, Geosci. Commun. Discuss.,  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-2021-39-AC2>, 2021

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I thank Dr Crameri for his supportive comments.

Line 77: I agree that the fact that Crameri et al. (2020) is one of the most downloaded papers from that year is a useful proxy to indicate that there is increased awareness of the importance of colour maps, and I will add this detail to the manuscript accordingly.

Lines 47-79: Similarly, I welcome the suggestion that the increase in users of the Scientific colour maps package is a useful indication that more alternative colour maps are available (and, more to the point, that they are being used), and will use this to support point (iii) on line 78.

Line 84: I thank Dr Crameri for bringing the Moreland (2016) paper to my attention. I believe this is a useful reference to use to suggest that "inertia" might help explain continued use of rainbow colour maps. However I propose that this is more effectively done in the Introduction (lines 25-26) as a potential reason why rainbow colour maps remain frequently used despite their known flaws. I would favour restricting discussion on line 84 and onwards to guidance (or lack thereof) associated with the publishing process.