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Report of the Commission Activities 2019-2020

IGU Commission on
Mountain Studies
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The Commission of Mountain Studies (CMS) was approved for creation in 2019, after a meeting of mountain geographers during the Word Conference on Mountains in Innsbruck, Austria 2019, who wanted to activate the Commission of Mountain Responses to Climate Change that ceased to operate.

**Goal:** To bring together the IGU community working in mountain areas to promote mountain research, disseminate and exchange of knowledge and experience between researchers from different countries and scientific schools in the field of mountain geography research. Priority pillars are the strengthening of the role of geography as cross-cutting transdisciplinary research and the scholarly exchange of knowledge between different regions of the world.

Together with partners from in- and outside the scientific community, and with different levels of academic standing, the IGU_CMS aims at:

- Closely interacting with interdisciplinary foci, developing geographic tools, and promoting its use in transdisciplinary research;
- Promoting a more balanced study of the world's mountain socioecological systems;
- Informing other members about their work via networking;
- Establishing scholarly exchanges to allow for active recruitment of more geographers into the discipline of mountain geography;
- Contributing to sharing wisdom and transfer of knowledge among mountain scholars of different academic backgrounds and methodological affiliations;
- Enhancing opportunities for global engagement in active scientific networks of North-North, North-South, and South-South cooperation.
- Advising public and private groups on the advances of Montology as a way to integrate the geographic sciences with the humanities and the arts.
- Provide opportunities for young researchers and career training options for more young faculty and seasoned colleagues.

For the first period (2020-2024) this double orientation on interdisciplinary research and transfer of knowledge/wisdom sharing will be of even greater importance, as montology, the transdisciplinary science of mountain studies grows and establishes with new peer-reviewed publications, international fellowships, advanced degree offerings, scientific conferences and public events to highlight mountain themes.

In the field of interdisciplinary research:
- Cooperation of the natural, social and human sciences in the field of mountain studies, GMBA, GLORIA, IPBES; SATOYAMA
- Mountainscape transformation and global land cover project, PAGES;
- Mountain governance and environmentality, MRI, FAO, Mountain Partners;
- Mountain socioecological production systems and poverty alleviation, UNU, IGES, Aichi targets, UN-SDG.
In the field of the knowledge transfer/wisdom sharing:
- Research in cooperation with the regional networks (Andes, Himalayas, Atlas, Caucasus, Alps, Appalachians, Sierras, Afromontane, etc) and coordination with geographic societies elsewhere (Home of Geography, AAG, LAG, CAG, etc.)
- Participation in and organization of International conferences, thematic workshops, virtual coffees, webminars, etc...

Note: The Commission of Mountain Studies is newly constituted, therefore, we offer ten prospective activities for membership engagement:

(1) Launching of the Commission of Mountain Studies during the IGC 2021 in İstanbul “Geography: Bridging the Continents”.
(2) Organizing an international symposium on Mountain Studies and Satoyama Landscapes, during the 34th IGU Congress
(3) Select manuscripts from the Symposium to be submitted for a special issue of the Journal of Mountain Sciences.
(4) Website development within the IGU portal and maintaining a presence in cyberspace as a research coordinating network.
(5) Producing a biannual newsletter featuring achievements in mountain geography and networking with established mountain research groups.
(6) Compile a bibliographic data-bank as a teaching resource for Mountain Geography and Mountain Studies at large, a-la Oxford-Bibliography
(7) Publish an edited volume (with Routledge) that could be used as an undergraduate textbook for Mountain Studies.
(8) Organize an International State of the Art Conference on Mountain Studies as a preparatory venue for the 35th IGU Congress.
(9) Organize a training workshop for capacity building for young career scholars, teachers of geography and other mountain stakeholders.
(10) Catalyze the preparation of grant proposals for mountain donors (e.g., Belmont Forum) to catalyze the Commission membership in international research.
1.1. Past actions undertaken during the period 2000-2020:

Interest for mountain themes have been present in the IGU during several decades. The IGU Commission on Mountain Studies (IGU_CMS) inherits the traditions of the mountain commissions of the past decades, starting with the Commission on High-Attitude Geoecology (1968-1976). Since then, we have noted a clear trend towards the interdisciplinarity of mountain research. In this regard, in the 1990s, the commission was re-named Mountain Geoecology and Sustainable Development. A recent development in the 2010s re-named it to the Commission of Mountain Responses to Climate Change.

At present, mountain geography needs to study complex relationships in socio-ecological systems, and to cover various aspects of the relationship between man and nature in the mountains at the local, regional and global levels. Strengthening interdisciplinary approaches to the study of mountains is very important to respond to current challenges – landscape transformation, climate change, regenerative development, etc. However, the use of interdisciplinary approaches is very uneven when studying mountain systems in the world: some mountain systems are studied in more detail and comprehensively, others are weak or one-sided, or by a different methodology. By having the overarching theme of transdisciplinary Mountain Research and Innovation, we suggest that our IGU_CMS will create a long-lasting effort to recruit and engage mountain geographers the world over, helping bridge the North-South divide and the generational chiasm among mountain researchers and practitioners.

1.2. Proposed actions to be undertaken during the period 2020-2024 Committee:

- Developing a working website to activate the network and increase visibility of the organization by the number of mountain geographers applying membership at CMS

- Developing an edited book series on Montology, with the contract with Springer Nature/Switzerland for the production of four impending volumes.

- Organize an international symposium on Mountain Studies for the 34th ICG in Istanbul, Turkey. Launching of the edited book series on Montology

- Organize an international symposium on Mountain Studies for the IGU-Paris conference in Paris, France. 2022. Launching of the first volume of the series Montology

- Organize an international symposium on Mountain Studies for the IGU-Ecuador conference in Quito, 2023. Launching the second volume of the series Montology

- Catalyze the creation of regional organizations working as networks to promote mountain geography themes. For instance, we will facilitate and stimulate the
creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Mountain Research and Innovation Network (LACMONT) in 2020. We also helped with the organization of LACMONT first international meeting, in Brazil, May 2021.

- We are contemplating activate mountain research networks for prospective research proposals to work on ecological restoration. Our target colleagues are listed in The Mountain Research and Development (MRI), the FAO Mountain Alliance, the UNESCO World Heritage Center, the International Terraced Landscapes Alliance (ITLA), the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP) and the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Mountain Geography Specialty Group (MGSG).

The Commission of Mountain Studies promote mountain transdisciplinary studies, disseminate and exchange of knowledge and experience between researchers from different countries and scientific schools in the field of mountain geography research and outreach. Priority pillars are the strengthening of the role of geography as cross-cutting transdisciplinary montology and the scholarly exchange of knowledge between different regions of the world.

1. Closely interacting with interdisciplinary foci, developing geographic tools and promoting its use in transdisciplinary research;
2. Promoting a more balanced study of the world's mountain socio-ecological systems;
3. Informing other members about their work via networking and incubating research initiatives;
4. Establishing scholarly exchanges to allow for active recruitment of more geographers into the discipline of mountain geography;
5. Contributing to sharing wisdom and transfer of knowledge among mountain scholars of different academic backgrounds and methodological affiliations;
6. Enhancing opportunities for global engagement in active scientific networks of North-North, North-South, and South-South cooperation.
7. Advising public and private groups on the advances of Montology as a way to integrate the geographic sciences with the humanities and the arts.
8. Provide opportunities for inclusion of diverse young researchers and offer career training options for faculty and seasoned mountain researchers.
2. Communication and dissemination of research outcomes

2.1. Publications

A list of the publications of some of the CMS members on mountain issues is reported hereby:


Pablo-Pablo M.A., Franco-Ramos O., Alcántara-Ayala I. (2020) Análisis de flujos de escombros desde un enfoque dendrocronológico en Ixtacamaxitlán, Sierra Norte de Puebla, México (Debris flows analysis based on dendrochronological approach at Ixtacamaxitlán, Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico), Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Geológicas, 37, 2, 109-120. DOI: 10.22201/cgeo.20072902e.2020.2.1556


Polderman, A., A. Haller, D. Viesi, X. Tabin, S. Sala, A. Giorgi, L. Darmayan, J. Rager,


Nakileza, B. I co-authored a paper on Modeling the glaciers on the Rwenzori Mountain <https://doi.org/10.1130/2020.2548(09). and another on Topographic influence of landslide characteristics and implications for Risk Management in Mt. Elgon <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40677-020-00160-0>. WE also participated in the International Year of Mountains Online interactions with UN Mountain Partnership and The University community from Western Colorado University. I am currently involved in drafting the Mountain Research Strategy in Uganda.


Rojas, N., D.A. Cotrina, E. Barboza, M. Barrena, F.O. *Sarmiento*, D.A. Sotomayor, M.


Gunya A. Opportunities, and risks of the Chinese initiative «New Silk Road» for Russia's development / AN Gunya, AB Efimov // Cultural heritage of Russia. 2019. P. 3-8


Bonaparte EB, **Ibarra JT**, Cockle KL. Conserving nest trees used by cavity-nesting birds from endangered primary Atlantic forest to open farmland: Increased relevance of excavated cavities in large dead trees on farms. Forest Ecology and Management. 2020 Nov 1;475:118440.


Cheddadi R. How the Asian subtropical area became evergreen since the Last Glacial Maximum. Past Global Changes Magazine. 2020 Apr;28(1).


Cheddadi R. Past plant diversity changes and future conservation issues. PAST PLANT DIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION. 2020 Apr;3.


Bottazzi P, Boillat S, Marfurt F, Seck SM. Climate change adaptation through
agroecology in Senegal: Enhanced farmworkers’ autonomy or new forms of vertical labour control?. In Climate Change in the Global Workplace 2021 May 3 (pp. 32-48). Routledge.


Sawada M, Ueno K. Heavy winter precipitation events with extratropical cyclone diagnosed by GPM products and trajectory analysis. Copernicus Meetings; 2021 Mar 3.


