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 Forum of Young Geographers for Research and Sustainable Development in the Oriental Region
 Center for Human, Social Studies and Research, Oujda (CERHSO)
 The Moroccan Association of Geomorphology

Organize

**An International Conference:
 The Dynamics of the Environment and Natural Risks in Mediterranean areas**

Closure of the PPR project "Hydroclimatic and geomorphological risks in north-eastern Morocco: Typology, Cartography and Management"
 Funded under the Priority Areas of Scientific Research and Technological Development

In tribute to Professor Abderrahmane EL HARRADJI



Morocco, Oujda on **June 4th and 5th, 2021**
 GPS coordinates: 34°40' N, 1°55' W

First circular

Call for papers
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Présentation

Despite the fact that Mediterranean areas are diversified, they are as well united in several aspects, particularly the fragility of ecosystems. In these settings, environmental conditions are largely inherited. However, some landscapes and sites don't seem to have undergone much change, while others are undergoing profound changes.

In “natural” areas, conservation seems to be the rule, although in adaptation, unlike anthropized areas which undergo more or less nuanced degradation. Thus, the analysis of the factors of observable changes reveals a finding that calls into question human activities, without however excluding the role of natural factors.

Environmental changes, mainly driven by the vicissitudes of climatic conditions that have appeared more recently, are superimposed and combined with those initiated for several millennia, in their entirety, to generate phenomena increasingly amplified by actions and feedbacks. Admittedly, the aridification of the climate, which has continued since at least the 5th millennium BC, had an effect of modification of ecosystems, but without common measure with the forms of their more recent degradation, which are more marked, both in landscapes than in special or unusual events.

We often speak of extreme events, risks and so-called "natural" disasters, to qualify potentially dangerous phenomena for which human societies are generally poorly prepared. Given the multitude of types of risk, it should be noted that the time dimension varies from one type to another. It goes without saying that the action and the effects of certain risks take place very quickly (storms/tidal waves, floods, land movements, earthquakes, volcanoes, etc.), while others take their time (degradation of land/desertification, deforestation, rise in sea level, droughts, etc.). The great debate opened around these questions engages discussions on several levels.

First of all, we must mention the controversies aroused by the rise in visibility, even the frequency and intensity of these phenomena, sometimes explained by the natural evolution of the dynamics of the environment, sometimes interpreted as the effect of an increase of anthropogenic or even “media” origin. This problem persists, especially since the debate is far from over, which motivates the various circles concerned, namely researchers, decision-makers, national and international organizations, as well as civil societies, the media ...

On another level, the stakes are very high. It is widely believed that the damage caused by disasters is increasing, without knowing whether the responsibility is attributable to nature or to man. The boundaries between these two antagonistic actors for natural risks are sometimes difficult to define, which fuels major controversies. This is how politics interferes, not to solve "geopolitical" problems, but to create many more.

Hydroclimatic risks are not limited to floods, submersions, morphoclimatic processes, but they also extend to the threat to crop production and to the stability of biodiversity, through droughts, excessive humidity and extreme temperatures. Thus, agro-sylvo-pastoral systems are more or less affected, depending on the extent and persistence of the phenomena in question.

The coastline, which is a worldwide phenomenon of the modern era, blurs the classic fear of the sea by its residents who feared the risks. The development of this process goes against a global level of the oceans which has been rising steadily since the last glacial episode (18 ka). This is an inevitable vulnerability of the spaces invested and the goods that have been established there. In addition, an increase in this rise is expected with a forecasted warming, or even already observed, according to some reports which are nevertheless controversial by scientists, if only in the estimated values.

Trends and comprehensiveness/regionalism, as well as the reversibility/irreversibility of observed or expected changes, call for confrontation, by means of struggle or adaptation. To do this, scientists have placed themselves for thirty years, not in front of decision-makers, but well behind them, under the pretext of emergencies declared by the incalculable importance of the stakes. Here again, alarmism and realism contradict each other, while obscuring hypotheses that have not yet been validated.

Goals

Bring together experts and researchers to contribute to the debate on issues related to the dynamics of the environment and natural risks in the Mediterranean areas. A topical and urgent subject, hydroclimatic and geomorphological risks constitute a component of a PPR project (Priority Research Project, funded by the CNRST) led by 8 research professors from the Geography Department (FLHS, UMP, Oujda, in partnership with other Moroccan (FLHS, Sais-Fès) and foreign colleagues (UMR CITERES, François Rabelais University, Tours, France; El consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, Almeria, Spain), in the North-East of Morocco. This conference is an opportunity for the confrontation of the works of different researchers, on this theme, carried out through different geographical contexts.

Themes

- 1-Variability of natural risks: are there any confirmed trends?**
- 2-Anthropogenic actions and evolution of environmental dynamics**
- 3-Coastal risks: amplified coastline and / or acceleration of sea level rise?**
- 4-Desertification and climate, can we predict?**

On behalf of the organizing committee, we are very pleased to invite you to participate in the International Symposium on **Environmental Dynamics and Natural Risks in Mediterranean Areas** to be held on June 4th and 5th, 2021 in Oujda, Morocco.

Organization Committee

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Registration

Complete the registration form.

Presentation of abstracts

- The summary is half a page. The extended summary should not exceed 6 pages. It must be written in "Times 12" type.
- The margins are 2.5 cm on each side.
- The line spacing is simple.
- The title must be centered, in capital letters and in bold.
- The names (in capital letters) and first names (in lowercase) of the authors must appear immediately below the title, followed by their affiliation and their email address (in Times 10 character).
- The bibliography will be placed at the end of the manuscript and in alphabetical order.
- The titles of figures and photos must be entered in the Word file below the figures.
- The titles of the tables must be entered in the Word file above the tables.

Exhibition stand

During the conference, stands will be made available to exhibitors. For all reservations, contact the conference coordinators.

Languages (*simultaneous translation not provided*)

- English
- Arabic
- French
- Spanish

Posters

