



PAPER BOUNDARIES

Challenges, identities, policies
for the changing mountains

**Mountain Network
Congress**

November 24-26, 2025
IULM University, Milan



24.11

2:00 p.m. Participants registration

2:30 p.m. Institutional greetings

Valentina Garavaglia, Rector, IULM University, Milan
Monica Morazzoni, Geographer and Delegate for Sport, IULM University, Milan
Davide Pettenella, President, Rete Montagna

3:00 p.m. 1st session

Changes in ecosystems and their components

The responses of mountains in the era of climate warming and abandonment in the face of increasing urbanization at the national and global level are diverse but show the same trends. Mountains are everywhere the first sentinels of change: their ecosystems and cultural landscapes respond quickly to pressure factors and to the impacts of natural and anthropogenic disturbances, which seem to be increasing in both frequency and magnitude. This session seeks to explore the main geomorphological and ecological components of mountains and the primary elements that regulate biogeochemical cycles and the functioning of mountain territorial systems.

Chair

Marco Marchetti, Sapienza University, Rome

Key-note speaker

Giorgio Vacchiano, University of Milan

Mountains shedding their skin: climatic, ecological and social transitions at high altitudes

Speakers

Guglielmina Adele Diolaiuti, University of Milan

Antonella Senese, University of Milan

Climate change and impacts on glacial landscapes and ecosystems of European and Asian mountains

Lea Hartl, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Glacier change in the Alps from 1850 to 2100: towards deglaciation?

Marco Ottaviano, University of Molise

The mountain landscape keeps changing

Giulia Marchetti, IISPR, Rome

Understanding and managing river systems in the changing mountains

5:00 p.m. Coffee Break

5:30 p.m. Rete Montagna Assembly

9:00 a.m. 2nd session**Vertical migrations and new forms of *restanza* in the Italian metromountain: crossings, settlements, common resources, and practices of appropriation**

This session aims to explore and discuss the new forms of human mobility towards (and across) the highlands, and the parallel phenomenon of 'actively remaining' (*restanza*), in Italian metromountain contexts. Special attention is given to access to territorial resources and local commons, to negotiation or conflict among different categories of mountain inhabitants, to dynamics of exclusion, and to the degree of porosity of borders (physical, cultural, and administrative) in fragile contexts, crossed by flows of internal and international mobility.

Chair

Andrea Membretti, University of Turin, CPS

Key-note speaker

Pier Paolo Viazzo, University of Turin

Changing Alpine demography: from emigration to immigration, from migration to mobility

Silvia Lanteri, Politecnico, Turin

Spaces for a new habitability of mountain territories

Speakers

Silvy Boccaletti, University of Pisa

Plural spatialities: practices and forms of inhabiting the Garfagnana (Tuscany)

Chiara Davino, Alma Mater Studiorum University, Bologna

Internal borders, migrant subjectivities and territorial marginality. A critical reading of integration

Maria Molinari, University of Turin

Punci Lanka, a small Sri Lanka in the Apennines. Re-populations in the Parma mountains

Annalisa Spalazzi, Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila

Contested territorializations: collective properties and territorial policies in defining the Apennine mountains

11:30 a.m. Coffee Break**12:00 a.m. 3rd session****New economies for a productive mountain**

Mountains have always been at the center of a dense network of relations both with the plains and inter-valley, and of trade routes that have crossed them, also fostering an exchange of the products of the different economies that have characterized them. Not only agro-forestry-pastoral economies, but also products linked to water, extractive resources, craftsmanship, and more recently tourism and winter sports. The aim of this reflection is to explore new professions and new ways of working that can continue to make the mountain "productive": from remote work to digital nomadism; from green professions to creative ones; from inclusive hospitality to the development of innovative services. Reinterpreting the connections of the past in order to glimpse those of today and tomorrow.

Chair

Mauro Pascolini, University of Udine

Key-note speaker

Philipp Corradini, EURAC Research, Bolzano

Mountain tourism between destination competitiveness, sustainability and residents' quality of life

Alberto Bramanti, Bocconi University, Milan

Regenerating the Alps: governance, supply chains and value for sustainable development

Speakers

Viviana Ferrario, IUAV University, Venice

Mountain agriculture in the Eastern Alps between old narratives and new realities

Giacomo Bonan, University of Turin

Industrialization and forest transition in the Alps between the 19th and 20th centuries

Marco Paolucci, University of L'Aquila

Turning Point: Insights on the Apennines through DICEAA Research

13:30 p.m. Light Lunch**14:30 p.m. 4th session****Mountains, borders and cross-border dynamics. Policy perspectives between local conflicts and shared strategies**

Mountain areas are at the center of profound transformations, both material and symbolic, that redefine their territorial development scenarios. Investment choices linked to the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan and mega-events, the redefinition of the new Mountain Law, the transnational challenges of rural development policies, and the need to identify and enhance local heritages - also in light of climate change - represent important challenges in redefining policy approaches to complex territories. This session intends to investigate governance mechanisms, the management of local conflicts, and co-design among institutional actors at different scales, communities, and private stockholders. It therefore proposes a reflection on tools, practices and imaginaries capable of responding sustainably to the challenges of redefining mountain territories, both 'fragile' and potentially attractive.

Chair

Monica Morazzoni, IULM University, Milan

Key-note speaker

Mauro Varotto, University of Padua

Unbounded mountains: overcoming the altimetric dictatorship in the definition of mountain areas

Francesco Pagliacci, University of Padua

Towards a quantitative assessment of the National Strategy for Inner Areas

Speakers

Anna Giorgi, UNIMONT, Edolo

White paper on the mountains: challenges and opportunities

Lina Calandra, University of L'Aquila

Protected areas and local communities: socio-territorial field research for the management of environmental conflicts

Giovanni Baiocchetti, IULM University, Milan

Catastrophic natural events in mountain territories and border issues between emergency and administrative regions

4:00 p.m. Coffee Break**4:30 p.m. Round Table****Changing borders: models of effective and shared governance****Chair**

Davide Pettenella, University of Padua

Speaker

Marco Bussone, Unione Nazionale Comuni, Comunità Enti Montani

Lorenzo Ciccarese, Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)

Alenka Smerkolj, Alpine Convention

Roberta De Zanna, City Councillor, Cortina d'Ampezzo



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EXCURSION TO VAL SERIANA

7:45 a.m. MILAN

Meeting point at Largo Tazio Nuvolari, near the Romolo M2 metro stop

8:00 a.m.

Departure for Val Seriana

10:00 a.m. GORNO

Arrival at the Ecomuseum of Mines

Optional activities:

- Visit to the Mining Museum [cost: €5.00 per person – to be paid on site]
- Visit to the mining site [cost: €8.00 per person – to be paid on site]

The mining site visit includes a walking path to reach the mine entrance (inside temperature is a constant 10°C / 50°F). Hiking boots and a waterproof jacket are required.

IN CASE OF HEAVY RAIN, ONLY THE MUSEUM WILL BE ACCESSIBLE, INCLUDING EXHIBITION ROOMS, WORKSHOPS, AND VIDEO ROOM.

12:30 p.m.

Meeting at the entrance of the Mining Museum and departure for Bratto – Castione della Presolana

1:00 p.m. BRATTO - CASTIONE DELLA PRESOLANA

Buffet lunch at Hotel Milano Alpen Resort & Spa [to be paid on site]

2:00-2:30 p.m.

Guided walk with local actors in Castione della Presolana and its hamlets (in case of heavy rain, the event will take place in the Sala dei Pini at Hotel Milano Alpen Resort & Spa)

4:00 p.m.

Departure from Castione della Presolana

6:00–6:30 p.m. MILAN

Arrival at Milano Centrale railway station (Times are approximate and may vary depending on traffic conditions).



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Scientific Committee

Giovanni Baiocchetti, IULM University, Milan
Ester Cason, Fondazione G. Angelini Foundation,
Centro Studi sulla Montagna
Viviana Ferrario, IUAV University, Venice
Andrea Membretti, University of Turin
Monica Morazzoni, IULM University, Milan

Andrea Omizzolo, EURAC Research, Bolzano
Sebastiano Parmegiani, Società Alpina Friulana
Mauro Pascolini, University of Udine
Davide Pettenella, University of Padua
Roland Psenner, EURAC Research, Bolzano
Mauro Varotto, University of Padua

Organizing Committee

Andrea Brambilla, IULM University, Milan
Matteo Di Napoli, eCampus University

Eros Roncen, IULM University, Milan
Francesco Scotti, Politecnico, Milan

Conference valid for teacher training: participants who request it will receive a certificate of attendance issued by the Italian Association of Geography Teachers (AIIG), an institution accredited by the Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM).