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2nd Global Mountain Sustainability Forum

Call for Abstracts

3-4 October 2022
Online conference



Homo Montanus: Sustainable human-mountain relations in a changing world

Scientists and students from all disciplines **are invited to submit applications to present their research at the 2nd Global Mountain Sustainability Forum (3-4 October 2022).**

The presentations should address topics dealing with sustainable relationships between humans and mountains and their implications for sustainability transformations more broadly.

Applicants are expected to **submit an abstract of no more than 350 words**. It should include the preliminary title, the research question(s), the theoretical and methodological approach, and, where applicable, the data used. Interdisciplinary topics are particularly welcome.

Abstracts must be submitted by **Sunday, 29 May 2022**, and should be assigned to one of the four thematic sessions listed below. If accepted, participants will be notified by the organisers and invited to register for the conference by 30 June 2022.

Participants will then be asked to prepare a short presentation of their research (10 minutes) that will form the basis for the subsequent discussion (5 minutes). Further details regarding presentation modalities will be communicated by the organisers.

Questions to be addressed include but are not restricted to:

- What characterises the relationships between humans and mountains in different parts of the world and how have they evolved?
- How can the resilience of mountain communities be fostered and what role do technology and (social) innovation play?
- Which strategies and policies can help to tackle the social and environmental challenges inhabitants of mountain regions are faced with today?
- Who is responsible for initiating and shaping sustainable governance in mountain regions? What role does leadership play? What political and social dynamics come into play between highlands and lowlands?
- What are lessons to be learned from mountains and mountain communities when it comes to a sustainable reorganisation of contemporary societies?

Major thematic sessions are:

- 1. Managing environmental challenges in mountain areas**
 - Climate-related risks, related vulnerabilities and climate action
 - Challenges of natural resource management and land-use (also between highlands and lowlands)
 - Biodiversity and human-wildlife interaction
 - Reconciling trade-offs between social, ecological and economic needs

- 2. Resilient communities & community resilience**
 - Resilience-building and adaptation strategies in mountain regions
 - Local knowledge, cultural heritage and intergenerational responsibility
 - Social innovation *within* and *across* mountain communities
 - Aging at altitude: Solidarity and public health in mountain communities
 - Digitalisation and hyper-connectedness vs. digital detox and slow lifestyles: a mountain perspective

- 3. Mountain leadership**
 - Mountain guides and lessons for leadership
 - Mountain areas and their inhabitants as pioneers of change
 - Mountain tourism and destination leadership
 - Governance issues at the intersection of highlands and lowlands

- 4. Changing values and mountain narratives**
 - The history and future of human-mountain relations
 - The dynamics of social norms and gender roles in mountain regions
 - Aesthetics, perception and experience of mountain areas
 - Reflecting wilderness and authenticity in the 21st century
 - Ethics and values beyond anthropocentrism

**All the information on the conference
can be found on the website:**

<https://gms-forum.eurac.edu>