From the event to the long term: geoarchaeological and geohistorical practices and methods

Mots-clefs
Diachrony, Geohistory, Geoarchaeology, Longue durée

Appel à communication

If the main object of geography is space, time, insofar as it is both one of the constructed dimensions of societies and an essential factor in the construction of trajectories over the long term, also appears to be fully geographical. The aim of this session is therefore to analyse how this temporal dimension is taken into account by geographers working in the fields of geoarchaeology and geohistory.

From Antiquity to the modern period, the time-space binoma is mainly embodied in the desire to write a geography of the past, which results in a very event-based reading of geographical time. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the diachronic reading was used, above all, to identify factors of evolution and dynamics, making it possible to explain some current geographical features. Finally, the renewal of geography in the 1970s (in particular Time Geography, geohistory and geoarchaeology) allowed for a broad integration of time - present or past - in the geographical study of societies. In particular, the landscape approach has seen a renewal of the understanding of time: we are moving from a 'sedimentary' conception leading without interruption to the current state, to the consideration of a palimpsest, in which the landscape system is based on the interaction between the different heritages and impacts of societies (among others: sedimentary cascades, climate change, pedogenesis, anthropisation of environments, heritages of ancient practices and pressures, risks and vulnerabilities, mutations of socio-ecological systems, etc.). Such a conception of time implies looking at the reconstruction of processes over the long term from archives that record mainly brief and exceptional events that may not be representative of all the dynamics and processes.

Based on this observation, this session aims to question, through case studies and/or methodological considerations, more particularly in the fields of geoarchaeology and geohistory, the modalities of geographical study of diachronic socio-environmental interactions. We would like to welcome proposals on various temporal scales (from the Quaternary to the decade). Discussions on the methodological and practical approaches implemented in the framework of geoarchaeological (sedimentary archives, dating, biomarkers) and/or geohistorical (iconographic or textual archives) approaches, as well as those questioning disciplinary limits, biases, contexts of reproducibility and means of apprehending hiatus will be particularly welcome.

Thematic contributions are also expected, particularly on the effects of agricultural expansion and/or abandonment, erosion processes (wind, water, etc.), changes in land use, the exploitation of natural resources, or the effects of anthropisation and the mobility of societies on their environment.

The language of communication for the session is English.