

My work, within the BlueMount project, aims at developing a conceptual framework of mountain socio-ecological systems.

Mountain regions are facing pressing challenges, from climate change with its stronger impact at higher altitudes, to increased tourism as is the case in the Alps. Such issues have both ecological consequences and social ones, thus requiring an interdisciplinary research effort ; moreover, it is necessary to develop close collaborations between scientists and managers, politicians and other relevant stakeholders, so as to make sure that the research effort is directed in ways that may be translated into actual, and efficient, management changes. Scientific interdisciplinarity and interprofessional collaboration both require a capacity to understand others' perspectives and constructively share different types of knowledge, different priorities, different values : this in turns requires some basic shared understanding of the topic at hand and some shared language to discuss without perpetual misunderstanding.

Thus, my work aims at supporting dialogue by developing a model of mountain socio-ecological systems that may be used as a basis for discussion among diverse scientists and other stakeholders. To do so, we explore representations of mountain systems for a variety of professionals, both from the individual's angle (personal representation, grounded in each person's profession but also their broader personal life experience) and from the organization's angle (institutional, formal representation). We plan on combining these personal and institutional representations in a model that synthesizes their commonalities and indicates points of ambiguity on which stakeholders have to make their view explicit to ensure collective understanding. We hope that the model will thus provide a framework to start interdisciplinary and interprofessional discussion, while also helping to bring attention to elements of mountain socio-ecological systems which may be overlooked, thus supporting a more holistic approach.