

**“Geoecology and desertification: from physical to human factors”**

***International Symposium in memory of Prof. Juan Puigdefabregas***

**Almeria, 20-22 February 2019**

Scope

Human populations, like any other species, persist and thrive in natural landscapes. In contrast with most species, however, changes made by humans in ecosystems can be detected in a wide range of spatial and temporal scales. Such changes result from two components. First, stress between ecosystem self-organization and the simplification associated with the human exploitation of natural resources. Second, shifts of the scale at which bio-physical factors, ultimate drivers of ecological functions, perform their controls. But relationships between humans and landscape dynamics are not unidirectional, and relevant feedbacks caused the former to have incorporated, individual and culturally, opportunities and constraints posed by the latter. Those adaptations enable human persistence within a far from equilibrium system where land degradation must be precisely regulated.

Prof. Juan Puigdefabregas dedicated his scientific life to generate, lead and inspire research on relationships between humans and their natural landscapes, focusing his attention on a wide array of combination of the components mentioned above: overmature landscapes in Tierra del Fuego that were only rejuvenated by natural catastrophes; alpine landscapes in the Pyrenees finely tuned to exploitation and physical drivers; and dryland landscapes in the Mediterranean showing clear symptoms of abuse and land degradation. This symposium is homage to his scientific legacy.

Tentative programme

Contributions are requested dealing with some core topics, such as:

- Relationships between physical factors (climatic, hydrologic, and geomorphic) and natural ecosystems, including organism performance
- Transitions between ecosystem maturity and exploitation, including effects of abandonment
- Spatial / temporal scales of ecosystem response to identified drivers of Global Change
- Feedbacks between natural landscapes and human emotions and culture

Drylands are largely controlled by physical factors and their interactions with organisms, are particularly vulnerable to human intervention, and their specific issues are addressed by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. For these reasons they make an ideal benchmark for this symposium's aims and will be, with appropriate exceptions, the main focus of the discussions that will take place there.

The symposium is intended to identify and explore ground-breaking aspects derived from the core topics described above and their interactions, rather than to present state-of-the-art thematic contributions to individual disciplines. Contributions may be both conventional scientific studies and unfinished works or conjectures with a supporting basis.

A series of brief oral presentations will spark and guide discussions held during the two days of the workshop. Such oral presentations will convene and centre discussions on the core topics described above. Excepting them, all the remaining contributions will be considered as posters. The event schedule will be planned to maximize time for organized and random discussions, rather than for listening sequential presentations. All sessions will be plenary.

A field trip will be made on the third day to discuss and interpret problem-oriented evidences associated with the scope of the symposium.

Forthcoming announces

Further announcements will follow in short time. Please fill the next form below if you would like to receive further updates on this event.

Full name	
E-mail	
Do you anticipate submitting a poster contribution? (yes, no, not yet)	
Do you anticipate submitting an idea for skeleton oral presentation? (yes, no, not yet)	
If yes to any of the above questions, please provide with a tentative title or topic	
Do you anticipate attending to the field trip? (yes, no, not yet)	

Please, address any question on this event or this website <http://ecodesert.info/> to [info@ecodesert.info](mailto:info@ecodesert.info)