

International conference
Palaeo-Hydrology: Ancient disasters, modern applications
PHADMA

9.-14.6.2025

Department of Geography, Bonn University, Germany

A rapidly warming climate has led to an intensification of the hydrological system, notably with an increase in extreme hydroclimatic events, such as floods and droughts. The field of palaeohydrology can greatly strengthen attribution studies and further our understanding of the potential future of hydroclimatic extremes. The main goals of the conference are to increase our knowledge of the global spatial and temporal distribution of past hydrological extremes, to improve the quality of modern flood event attribution, and to stimulate the transfer of knowledge. The meeting is organized by the two groups of Global Continental Palaeohydrology GLOCOPH and Fluvial Archives Group FLAG.

The conference consists of oral and poster presentations both in the lecture hall and in the field. The field presentations are integrated part of the conference and will complete with the new format of a reflection on the visited locations by the participants. The participants are invited to contribute to the field presentation by presenting own findings along the route (cf. below).

Photo (Photo by XY)

Session topics:

- Quaternary and pre-historic floods and droughts (including e.g. Pleistocene outburst floods, sea-level changes, ...)
- Sedimentary and geomorphological flood and drought indicators
- Fluvial geoarchaeology - combining archaeology, history and geoscience
- Historic floods (hydrological perspectives)
- Historic droughts (hydrological perspectives)
- Atmospheric and other triggers of floods and droughts
- From disasters to catastrophes - damage and consequence of historic events
- Methods and techniques - experiences, perspective and discussion
- Information systems and data-bases - application and access to knowledge on historic events

Contact:

For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the local organiser by sending an email to phadma-conference@uni-bonn.de

Programm

Preliminary program:

9.6.: arrival / registration, keynote, ice-breaker

10.6.: oral / poster presentations, keynote, conference dinner

11.6.: oral / poster presentations, keynote

12./13./14.6.: field presentations (end at both Frankfurt and Bonn)

Field presentations:

1st day:

Historic floods in Cologne, floods in western Germany in July 2021 including River Ahr in historical context with damaged Steinbach-Reservoir, River Moselle (night at e.g. Cochem)

2nd day:

Historic corrections along Upper Rhine valley by Tulla in 19th century, Cities founded in the floodplain of River Main (e.g. Würzburg, Wertheim),)

3rd day:

Continuation in area like day before (cf. day 2).

For all participants of the field presentations there will be a session to exchange impressions and ideas evolving from the observations during the field presentations according to a concept “Evidence, significance and further meaning (to me)”. Exchange among participants of individual inspiration for additional respectively alternative interpretation of content of locations visited during the field presentation for own individual scientific work. Exchange with colleagues including a potential formation of new working groups what are the individual ideas and inspiration based on the visited locations, presented and used information sources and applied approaches for analysis and interpretation.

Costs / Registration

The deadline for registration is For logical reasons, the capacity to join the field presentations is limited. Places will be reserved on a first registered - first reserved basis.

Costs:

The conference is financially supported by German Research Foundation DFG and the Department of Geography of Bonn University.

Registration:

A registration form is available [here](#) soon.

Contact**Contact:**

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Travel / Accommodation**Traveling to Bonn:**

Text Text

The location

Accommodation:

Accommodation will be organized by the participants themselves. A list of hotels located in walking distance to the lecture hall will be provided later [here](#).