

NETWORKS, MARKETS & PEOPLE - NMP2024

THEMATIC SESSIONS - TS

TS-44

BETWEEN THE ALPS AND THE APENNINES: THE MOUNTAIN IN MOTION. CULTURAL, IDENTITARY, AND ECONOMIC CONNECTIONS IN ITALY

Keywords: Mountains; Landscape; Heritage; Identity; Movement.

Italian mountains, understood as the “empirical manifestation of territorial verticality,” highlight their dual role: on one hand, they serve as a privileged medium for exploring, through diachronic analyses, complex relationships between natural and human factors; on the other hand, they act as a means to inspire future relationships between local communities settled there and temporary visitors. Intertwined with the sense of belonging and the value of places in various Italian communities, mountains have influenced and continue to influence environmental perception, contributing to the formation of cultural and identity fabrics. The loss of distinctive elements in the mountain landscape leads to a decrease in the sense of belonging and the disappearance of cultural references. Therefore, it is crucial to direct human actions towards a full awareness of the value of mountains as heritage and a common good, recognizing the possible consequences of its general deprivation. In the context of infrastructural challenges and the impacts of industrialization on the economic development of mountains, there is a need to overcome the past where the gap with the plains and stronger areas relegated them to the margins. Today, mountains are no longer perceived as backward territories but as precious environments to be preserved and enhanced, assuming a significant role in terms of geography, socio-economic factors, territorial and settlement cohesion for Italy. After a period of reduced scientific interest in mountains, there is now a renewed interest positioning them as a “new centrality.” This perspective implies new ways of living and experiencing life in the mountains, with innovative forms of design at various scales and levels. Considering the influence of human activities on the spatial organization of the Italian mountain landscape, the session aims to explore the connections between different types of mountain landscapes, focusing on new ways of inhabiting the mountains and the cultural, belonging, and economic aspects associated with them. In other words, the goal is to understand, through a comparison that considers theoretical proposals, empirical research, and case studies, how Italian mountains can be reinterpreted as central rather than marginalized spaces, identifying opportunities arising from a renewed idea of living in the mountains. Contributions can specifically, but not exclusively, focus on potential new mountain economies and new ways of inhabiting these spaces, guiding the regeneration of a territory rich in environmental, cultural, social, and economic merits.

CHAIRS

Mauro Pascolini - University of Udine, Italy.

Full Professor of Geography at the University of Udine, he mainly focuses on landscape, mountainous and marginal territories, local development, and territorial enhancement. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of Dolomiti Unesco and has served as the president of Rete Montagna. He is the national coordinator of PRIN MIND (Mountains inside the mountain), a project that brings together seven universities from the Alps and the Apennines with the aim of studying and analyzing the environmental-economic and socio-cultural dynamics of the Italian mountains.

Pierluigi Magistri - Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy.

Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, specializes in Processes of new territorialization resulting from immigration dynamics, with specific consideration of the Italian geographical space and the components of cultural-religious matrix. He also focuses on territorialization processes resulting from emigration dynamics, specifically examining the Italian geographical space, especially in inner and mountainous areas. He researches the territorial organization of the Abruzzi geographical space, investigated from both current and geo-historical perspectives.