



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 18 - 20 April 2024

RESILIENT TERRITORIES: NEW COMPLEXITIES AND EMERGENT CHALLENGES

If we define geography as the study of “the ways in which space is involved in the operation and outcome of social and biophysical processes” (Gregory *et al.* 2009; p. 288), then it is necessary to emphasise the role that space plays in an ongoing reshaping of the **resilience** concept. In order to carry out such analysis, it is possible to rely on another notion, already widely treated and defined, which is that of **territorialisation**. In particular, considering the territory as a space on which human action is exercised, territorialisation must be considered as a lasting, complex and progressive process, a mutual interaction between the physical environment and human action. Similarly, processes attributable to the promotion of resilient practices in a community context incorporate and reshape forms of territorialisation. Consequently, it is possible to identify a multiplicity of so-to-speak territorialising acts in resilient strategies, namely, the ensemble of those signs that humans imprint on space, marking it as their construction. Community resilience represents a complex set of strategies implemented and redefined over time that occur at different temporal and spatial scales. It could be described as a seamless socio-environmental becoming that produces its effects on space and people according to vastly different trajectories, depending on the context and actors involved. Community resilience mirrors the implications of a set local context in social, political, and environmental terms. Consequently, in light of the increased unpredictability of risky events related to climate change, this mirroring process is potentially undermined, and the impacts in terms of territorialization change are even more relevant. Community resilience may be observed and explained through territorialisation processes, as it involves reciprocal processes of interaction between the physical environment and human acts. The Conference aims at exploring: a) territorialization processes and community resilience in the frame of climate related socio-political phenomena, such as migrations and conflicts; b) the relationship between heritage, tourism and resilience in peripheral areas; c) the role and opportunities for the resilience of territories offered by the new technologies.

The Conference will be held at the Department of Political and International Sciences (DiSPI) of the University of Genoa.

SESSION 1: Territorialization and community resilience in the frame of climate related socio-political phenomena: migration and conflict

The potential correlation between migration, conflict, and climate change has been widely explored. Nevertheless, it seems complex and somewhat unrealistic to think that it is possible to unambiguously define a broad causal relationship between these phenomena. Especially in light of the variability of circumstances and the highly context-related nature. Geographical, political, cultural, demographic, social, and economic variables play a decisive role that is often difficult to predict and assess. Several studies ascertained that the emergence of conflict and/or displacement, in most cases, is determined by environmental factors in a secondary, complementary, or even residual way to other factors. These aspects require the researcher to adopt a mixed approach, a strongly context-specific, place-based, and co-produced one. Resilience and territorialization thinking may represent efficient means for understanding how to deal with these new complexities and emergent challenges through a holistic geographic approach.

This session invites theoretical and empirical contributions examining the concept of resilience and, in particular community resilience, in the frame of its relations with local territorialization processes considering new complexities and emergent challenges, in particular:

- environmental risk and climate change;
- migration and displacement;
- social conflict and political instability.

The session is organised in two different thematic panels: the first one will host theoretical and methodological suggestions about the conceptualisation and operationalisation of the resilience concept in geographical studies at a macro level; the second one is dedicated to case studies which are able to connect resilience and territorialization reflections at the local level considering those new complexities and emergent challenges presented above.

SESSION 2: Heritage, tourism and resilience in peripheral areas: between risks and opportunities

In recent years, most of geographical research focused on the field of inner and peripheral areas – including coastal and insular ones. Despite an often urban-centric view which has emphasised their isolation, vulnerabilities and underdevelopment, these areas are often rich in sustainable resources, including heritage, agriculture and tourism. This new awareness on the potential of such resources for peripheral areas has opened up a debate on the risks and opportunities of the *heritagization* of territorial assets, which is strictly connected with resilience. In this sense, examples of good and bad practices may contribute significantly to the advancement of theoretical and applied analysis.

This session invites theoretical and empirical contributions that examine the ways in which local practices in peripheral areas relate to the concept of resilience, with a focus on:

- *heritagization*;
- tourism;
- agricultural and/or pastoral activities;
- urban renewal.

The session is organised in two thematic panels: the first one will host theoretical and methodological suggestions about the link between tourism, *heritagization*, agricultural activities and resilience in geographical studies at the local level; the second one is dedicated to case studies showing how local practices become engines of resilience.

SESSION 3: New technologies, perspectives, and methodologies for the resilience of territories

Geotechnology – along with bio and nano technologies – has been recognized by the scientific community as one of the three major new technologies that will shape the development of science, technology, and society in the years to come.

The achievement of territorial resilience can only come through advances in technology and application of new perspectives and methodologies in spatial assessments.

Embracing an integrated geographic approach, rooted in interdisciplinary connections, offers unique vantage points for uncovering spatial challenges and formulating resilient responses.

Geographical methodologies can provide us with the conceptual, interpretive, and methodological tools which are required to delve into the core of problems and foster inclusive planning processes. Instead of crafting plans “for” the population, we strive to collaboratively formulate solutions “with” the community inhabiting the area, placing their needs and insights at the forefront.

Research, technological development, ever-increasing computational capabilities, and free access to vast amounts of constantly updated data are revolutionising geo-information. The ability to collect, store and analyse more and more data contributes to the development of effective tools to answer many urgent questions in the social and environmental domains. These innovations open up new scenarios in the study of the resilience of territories.

Communities worldwide are facing several global and local threats, including the impacts of climate change, – such as more frequent and intense extreme events –, population growth and its consequences in terms of resource exploitation.

This session invites theoretical and empirical contributions examining methodologies, technologies, and interdisciplinary perspectives applied to the study of the resilience of territories. In particular:

- participatory methodologies for engaging communities in the resilience-building process;
- application of geospatial data management technologies, including but not limited to GIS and remote sensing;
- technologies for disaster risk assessment and reduction.

The session is organised into two thematic panels: the first will host theoretical, methodological suggestions and case studies concerning public geography, citizen sciences, and participatory GIS; the second is devoted to case studies showing advances in technologies for resilient territories, focusing on risk assessment and reduction related to floods, landslides, forest fires, drought, earthquakes, and pollution.

NOT EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF REFERENCES:

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CONFERENCE timelines:

- 2023 - November 30: deadline for the submission of abstracts, following the following form, max 3000 characters.
- 2023 - December 15: response by the Scientific Committee.
- 2024 - March 15: deadline for the submission of papers.
- 2024 - April 18, 19 and 20: conference days and field trip.

Organising committee

Gabriele Casano; Marco Facciolo; Eleonora Panizza; Pietro Piana; Enrico Priarone; Sara Bonfanti

Scientific committee

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ABSTRACT

Overwrite this text– Abstract body in Calibri, size 8, justified and single line spacing. Maximum of 3000 characters including spaces (accounting that should be made from the title to the keywords).

Keywords: (3 to 5 words).

References: (up to 10 references).

Session: (Place one of the three sessions that you want to submit the abstract).

Panel: (Place one of the two panels of each session for which you prefer to be considered).

Guidelines:

- ✓ In the abstracts **bibliographical references are allowed**, since the abstracts include a section for references so that the complete references can be indicated;
- ✓ The first time you use acronyms (capital letters and no dots between letters) you must add its full description (meaning);
- ✓ Words that are not in the language of the article should be placed in *italic*.

The abstracts must have paragraphs, not be an entire "block" of text, to make it easier to read. As an example, we can indicate that, generically, the paragraphs could correspond to:

1. An introduction, explaining the relevance of the study and its objectives;
2. A description / location of the area under study;
3. The methodology used (types and sources of data);
4. Presentation / discussion of the results obtained;

The information about the authors have four lines: the first is for the Name and the last for the email. The two central ones are for the Affiliation (2nd line) and Entity of Belonging and Country (3rd line). In the **Affiliation / Entity of Belonging** it is allowed the indication of Positions, such as Director, Coordinator, President, or of titles as Prof. Doctor, Colonel, Eng., Or students attending Master, Doctorate, etc.

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Deadline for abstracts submission: **30 November 2023.**

The Scientific Committee will evaluate each abstract and announce the final decision by 15 December 2023. Accepted contributions will be published in the "*Observatory on Migratory and Religious Phenomena*" collection.