



CIPSH International Academy on Chinese Culture and Global Humanities 2026

International Seminar:

“Geoethics and Global Ethics in a Time of Polycrisis: Comparative Perspectives on Human–Earth Relations”

Second Circular



Assisi (Italy), 16–18 November 2026

With the patronage of:



**ISTITUTO NAZIONALE
DI GEOFISICA E VULCANOLOGIA**

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- Torbjörn Lodén, CIPSH Referent for Global Ethics

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- International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)
- International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH)
- CIPSH Chair on Geoethics, Italy
- Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology), Italy
- Geosciences Center of the University of Coimbra, Portugal
- IUGS Commission on Geoethics, Italy

RATIONALE

Contemporary global challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation, natural hazards, resource exploitation, and increasingly pervasive technological interventions in the Earth system, are no longer isolated phenomena but interconnected and mutually reinforcing processes. Together, they form what is increasingly described as a polycrisis: a condition in which multiple crises interact across scales and domains, amplifying their impacts and generating complex ethical, social, and governance dilemmas. These dynamics raise profound ethical questions that transcend disciplinary, cultural, and geopolitical boundaries. Addressing them requires ethical frameworks capable of integrating scientific knowledge with social responsibility, respect for cultural diversity, and a long-term vision of planetary stewardship.

Geoethics¹ offers a conceptual and practical foundation for responding to these needs and for articulating a form of global ethics suited to a globalized world. It promotes critical reflection on the principles and values that should guide human behaviours and decision-

¹ Geoethics (<https://www.geoethics.org>) is a field of theoretical and applied ethics focused on studies related to human-Earth system nexus. It is defined as the research and reflection on principles and values which underpin appropriate behaviours and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system. Geoethics deals with ways of creating a global ethics framework for guiding individual and social human behaviours, while considering human relational domains, plurality of human needs and visions, planetary boundaries and geo-ecological tipping points.

making wherever human activities interact with the Earth system. Geoethics emphasizes responsibility and care for both present and future generations, while acknowledging the complexity of human–Earth relationships.

Within this perspective, a crucial role is played by comparative geoethics, which examines and contrasts human ethical values, behaviours, and responsibilities toward the Earth system across diverse cultural, social, and geographical contexts. It fosters structured dialogue among scholars from different backgrounds and supports the critical evaluation of the various approaches to human–Earth relationships. In particular, Chinese cultural traditions, including Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist ethical and cosmological thought, offer profound insights into the interconnectedness of humans and nature, the importance of harmony between human activity and the natural world, and the cultivation of virtue, responsibility, and care across generations. By engaging with these traditions alongside Western and other global ethical systems, comparative geoethics fosters mutual understanding, ethical pluralism, and the identification of shared principles that can support collective action at the global level.

Against this background, the proposed international seminar aims to explore global ethics grounded in geoethics, with particular emphasis on comparative geoethics as a means of bridging cultural traditions, knowledge systems, and ethical visions from the West and East, with special attention to Chinese philosophical and cultural contributions, as well as from the Global North and Global South. The seminar seeks to provide an interdisciplinary and intercultural space for reflection, dialogue, and cooperation on ethical responses to the polycrisis and to the evolving challenges of the Earth system in an interconnected and rapidly changing world.

OBJECTIVES

The seminar aims to:

- Explore geoethics as a conceptual and practical foundation for global ethics in the context of Earth system governance, including perspectives inspired by Chinese philosophical traditions that emphasize harmony between humans and nature, moral cultivation, and long-term responsibility.
- Promote comparative geoethics by examining how different cultural, philosophical, and societal traditions conceptualize human–Earth relationships, with particular attention to Chinese cultural, ethical, and cosmological frameworks alongside other global traditions.

- Foster interdisciplinary dialogue between geosciences, humanities, social sciences, philosophy, and ethics.
- Encourage ethical reflection on the social roles and responsibilities of scientists, scholars, educators, policymakers, and institutions in a challenging and changing time.
- Contribute to the development of inclusive ethical frameworks that respect cultural diversity while addressing global planetary challenges, integrating values and approaches emerging from Chinese traditions with those from other regions of the world.
- Build an engaged, interdisciplinary community to tackle the global polycrisis collaboratively, fostering dialogue and cooperation across cultures, regions, and knowledge traditions, with special attention to East–West and Global North–South exchanges.

THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

The seminar will address, among others, the following themes:

- Geoethics and Global Ethics in Earth System Governance: Examining geoethics as a conceptual and practical foundation for guiding ethical decision-making in the management and governance of the Earth system.
- Comparative Geoethics and Cross-Cultural Perspectives: Exploring diverse cultural, philosophical, and societal approaches to human–Earth relationships, fostering dialogue and mutual understanding across ethical traditions. Special emphasis will be placed on Chinese cultural and ethical perspectives, including Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist thought, alongside other global traditions, to illuminate shared principles and culturally specific approaches to environmental and societal challenges.
- Interdisciplinary Integration and Knowledge Collaboration: Promoting collaboration between geosciences, humanities, social sciences, philosophy, and ethics to address complex global challenges holistically.
- Ethics of Responsibility and the Role of Knowledge Actors: Encouraging reflection on the social responsibilities of scientists, scholars, educators, policymakers, and institutions in addressing global risks and ethical dilemmas.
- Inclusive Ethical Frameworks and Community Building for the Global Polycrisis: Developing inclusive, culturally sensitive ethical frameworks and fostering engaged interdisciplinary communities capable of collaboratively addressing interconnected global crises.

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE

The seminar is conceived as an international and cross-disciplinary event, combining:

- Keynote lectures by leading scholars and experts (30 minutes each).
- Short contributed presentations (10-15 minutes each).
- Structured discussions in thematic groups, designed to foster intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange, concluding with a final wrap-up.

The format will encourage active participation, dialogue, and critical reflection among participants from diverse disciplinary and cultural backgrounds.

SPEAKERS (to be confirmed) – provisional list

Name (alphabetical order)	Affiliation/Institution	Country	Disciplinary Background
Francesc Bellaubi	Silene Association, Spain / University Iberoamericana Puebla, Mexico	Spain	Environmental Geology, Religious studies
Hernán Bobadilla	Politecnico di Milano	Chile	Philosophy of Science, Geology
J. Baird Callicott	University of North Texas	USA	Environmental Philosophy
Mauricio Collao Quevedo	York University	Canada	Sociology, Philosophy
Göran Collste	Linköping University	Sweden	Ethics
Daniele Conversi	Universitat Politècnica de València - UPV, Spain	Spain/Italy	Social sciences, History
Vincent Cronin	International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)	USA	Geosciences
Giuseppe Di Capua	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) / International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)	Italy	Geosciences, Geoethics
Toni Eerola	Geological Survey of Finland	Finland	Social geology
Robert Frodeman	-	USA	Philosophy (PhD), Geology (MS- Paleoclimatology)
Stephen Gardiner	University of Washington, Seattle; University of St Andrews	USA	Philosophy
Mrinalini Kochupillai	Hanken School of Economics	Finland/India	Law, Ethics, Eastern (Indian) philosophy

Name (alphabetical order)	Affiliation/Institution	Country	Disciplinary Background
Torbjörn Lodén	Stockholm University	Sweden	Sinology
Thierry Ngosso	University of Maroua & Catholic University of Central Africa, Cameroon & University of St. Gallen, Switzerland	Cameroun	Philosophy
Rachel R.Y. Oh	National University of Singapore	Singapore	Ecology, Public Health, Social Sciences
Luiz Oosterbeek	Polytechnic University of Tomar / International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH)	Portugal	Archaeology and Landscape Management
Mathias Simeon Oppermann	Global Ethic Foundation	Germany	Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Democracy Education
Gerassimos Papadopoulos	Hellenic Mediterranean University	Greece	Geosciences
Silvia Peppoloni	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) / International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)	Italy	Geosciences, Geoethics
Anne Poelina	Nulungu Research Institute University of Notre Dame	Australia	Multidisciplinary
Fuh-Yuan Shih	National Taiwan University	Taiwan	Medical ethics
Harold Sjursen	New York University	USA	Philosophy (Ethics)
Kok-Chor Tan	University of Pennsylvania	USA	Philosophy
Aida Terblanche-Greeff (Botha)	North-West University	South Africa	African Philosophy, Cultural Studies
Julia Adeney Thomas	University of Notre Dame	USA	History of Japan and the Anthropocene
Ioanna Triantafyllou	Hellenic Mediterranean University	Greece	Geosciences
Andreas Günter Weis	Shandong University / Advanced Institute for Confucian Studies	Germany	History (Medieval to Modern), focussing on Sino-German intellectual history and philosophy

ABSTRACT

Speakers should provide a title, an abstract in English not exceeding 250 words, 5 keywords, and up to 3 significant references. The abstract should clearly outline the objectives and main outcomes of the contribution. The template for abstract submission is available at the end of this circular.

The abstract should be submitted to giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it no later than 10 July 2026.

Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee to ensure their relevance and alignment with the seminar's thematic focus.

LANGUAGE

The working language of the seminar is English.

REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION

No registration fee is required. Participation in the seminar is by invitation only, with a limited number of in-person participants to ensure high-quality interactions and effective group discussions. Additional participants will have the opportunity to attend the seminar virtually.

To express your interest in participating and, if applicable, contributing with a presentation, please fill in the form at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSel3Yie8rbfW99bbpzGs1c6eA0d1LSKiBbHVDXz6C3otHSfLg/viewform>

Registration forms will be accepted until 30 June 2026.

HOSPITALITY

The organization will provide coffee breaks and a light lunch on all three days of the seminar.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Information regarding financial support opportunities and eligibility criteria will be provided with the third circular, which will be issued by 10 July 2026.

LOCATION

Assisi, Umbria Region, Italy.



Assisi is a historic town in central Italy renowned for its cultural heritage, spiritual legacy, and enduring message of peace and universal fraternity. Closely associated with Saint Francis of Assisi, whose teachings emphasized respect for nature, humility, and responsibility toward all living beings, Assisi embodies ethical values that resonate deeply with the principles of geoethics and global ethics. Its harmonious relationship between human settlements and the surrounding landscape, combined with a long tradition of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, makes Assisi an ideal setting for reflective discussion, ethical inquiry, and international exchange on the human–Earth relationship.

Read more about Assisi's history:

<https://www.exploring-umbria.com/en/assisi/history-of-assisi/>

VENUE

Palazzo dei Priori, Conciliazione Hall, Piazza del Comune n. 10, Assisi, Italy



Read more about the Conciliazione Hall and Palazzo dei Priori:

- <https://assisipaxmundi.org/paxmundi/en/conciliazione-hall/>

- <https://www.visit-assisi.it/en/monuments/medieval-buildings/palazzo-dei-priori/>

ACCOMMODATION

Assisi offers a wide range of accommodation options, including hotels, guesthouses, monasteries, and bed & breakfasts, suitable for different budgets and preferences. Participants are encouraged to book their accommodation well in advance, as early reservations increase the likelihood of securing the best rates and availability. Accommodation in Assisi can be easily booked through the main international online booking platforms.

Since the seminar venue will be located at the Town Hall (Palazzo Comunale), in Piazza del Comune, the main square of the historic city centre, participants are advised to look for accommodation within the city centre. This will allow easy access to the venue on foot and provide the opportunity to fully experience the unique cultural and historical atmosphere of Assisi.

City of Assisi Official Tourist Information Website: <https://www.visit-assisi.it/en/>

HOW TO REACH ASSISI

By air

The nearest airport is Perugia “San Francesco d’Assisi” International Airport, located approximately 15 km from Assisi, with national and international connections. Alternative airports include Rome Fiumicino Airport, Rome Ciampino Airport, Florence Airport, and Bologna Airport, all connected to Assisi by train and bus services.

By train

Assisi railway station is located on the Florence–Rome railway line and is served by regional and intercity trains. Regular train connections are available from major Italian cities, including Rome, Florence, Milan, and Bologna. From the Assisi railway station, the historic city center can be reached by local bus, taxi, or private transfer in approximately 10–15 minutes.

By bus

Assisi can be reached through several national and regional bus services connecting the city with major Italian destinations, including Rome, Florence, Milan, and Perugia. Participants may consult the following websites for schedules, routes, and ticket reservations:

- FlixBus: <https://www.flixbus.co.uk/>
- Busitalia (regional and local transport services): <https://busitaliashop.it/en>

Local bus services connect the Assisi railway station, parking areas, and nearby cities with the historic center.

By car

Assisi is well connected to the Italian motorway network. From the north or south, participants may take the A1 Motorway and exit at Valdichiana or Orte, then continue towards Perugia–Assisi via the E45 highway. Parking facilities are available outside the historic city center, which has restricted traffic access.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

This will include a **social dinner** and a **guided visit to the Basilica of Saint Francis**, offering participants the opportunity to admire the renowned frescoes of Giotto (1267-1337) and experience one of the world's most significant cultural and artistic sites.



TOURISTIC INFORMATION

Some of the most remarkable and evocative sites and attractions in Assisi and the surrounding area, all well worth a visit:

In Assisi

You may explore the app *“Assisi – Le Pietre Parlano”* (*Assisi – The Stones Speak*), where accessible original content narrates the beauty of the 14 UNESCO sites of Assisi:



Google Play



Apple Store



Near Assisi (easy day trips)

- **Spello** (15 km from Assisi): One of Italy's prettiest hill towns, famous for flower displays and Roman gates.
- **Perugia** (25 km): Umbrian capital with medieval streets, art museums, chocolate shops, and vibrant atmosphere.
- **Bevagna** (30 km): Charming medieval village known for traditional crafts and Roman mosaics.
- **Montefalco** (35 km): Famous for Sagrantino wine and panoramic vineyard landscapes.
- **Spoletto** (45 km): One of Umbria's most historic and elegant towns, famous for the impressive Duomo di Spoleto with frescoes by Filippo Lippi (1406-1469); the monumental Ponte delle Torri, a medieval aqueduct bridge dating from the 13th-14th centuries; the Rocca Albornoziana fortress (1359-1370); the beautiful Roman and medieval architecture throughout the old town.
- **Gubbio** (45 km): A timeless medieval town, with its picturesque stone-built historic center, associated with Saint Francis and the "Wolf of Gubbio" legend.



WEBSITE

<https://www.geoethics.org/cipsh-academy-2026>

SECRETARIAT

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International Association for Promoting Geoethics

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Title

Author¹, Author², ...

¹ Affiliation, Country, email

² Affiliation

³ ...

⁴ ...

Abstract (max 250 words)

The abstract should clearly outline the objectives and main outcomes of the contribution.

Keywords: Keyword 1, Keyword 2, Keyword 3, Keyword 4, Keyword 5

References (max 3)

Examples:

Book

Passmore J.A. (1974). Man’s Responsibility for Nature: Ecological Problems and Western Traditions. Duckworth, London.

Wyss M. and Peppoloni S., eds. (2014). Geoethics, Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences. Elsevier, Amsterdam. <https://doi.org/10.1016/C2013-0-09988-4>

Article in journal

Lenton T.M., Rockström J., Gaffney O., Rahmstorf S., Richardson K. et al. (2019). Climate tipping points — too risky to bet against. *Nature*, 575, 592-595. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03595-0>

Peppoloni S. and Di Capua G. (2012). Geoethics and geological culture: awareness, responsibility and challenges. *Annals of Geophysics*, 55(3), 335-341. <https://doi.org/10.4401/ag-6099>

Book chapter

Peppoloni S., Bilham N., and Di Capua G. (2019). Contemporary Geoethics within Geosciences. In: Bohle, M. (Ed.), *Exploring Geoethics: Ethical Implications, Societal Contexts, and Professional Obligations of the Geosciences*. Palgrave Pivot, Cham, pp. 25-70. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-12010-8_2