XIXe siècle
Merline Christile Tezembong-Songou (Université de Dschang)
L'ordonnance coloniale no 2599 du 17 juillet 1950 et réglementation de la pratique du pâturage forestier dans les monts Bamboutos (Cameroun)
Maurizio Raselli (Université de Fribourg)
Encontourers at High Altitude. The SSAF and its Relationship with the Himalayan Local Environment
Aishwarya Bhattacharyya (York University, Toronto)
& Abdul Matin (Jadavpur University, Kolkata)
A Case for Vernacular Environmentalism in the Eastern Lesser Himalayas: Co-Producing a Pluriversal Pedagogy from the Foothills
Jovial Koua Oba (Université Maren Ngouabi, Brazzaville)
La gouvernance environnementale rurale en République du Congo: cas du mont Nabemba dans la forêt équatoriale (the paper will be presented online)

11.30 Lunch

13.00–13.30 AIHA-AISA-IGHA-MZZA Assembly

13.30–15.30 **Panel IV.**
The many aspects of mountain conservation
Moderator: **Nelly Valsangiacomo** (Université de Lausanne)

Lucia Leoni (Université de Fribourg)
Mountain Film Festivals as a space for environmental debate: the cases of Les diablerets and Banff (1964–2002)
Noé Varrin (Université de Lausanne)
Quand le bruit fait loi: La mise en place d'une commission de protection de la nature au sein du Club Alpin Suisse (1963–1975)
Philippe Vonnard (Université de Fribourg & Université de Lausanne)
Cleaning-up the Alps. De la mise en place de poubelles dans les cabanes du Club alpin à la création de Summit Foundation. Aperçu historique de la gestion des déchets dans les montagnes suisses (années 1960-années 2000)
Arthur Malé (Université de Rennes)
« Les alpinistes du monde entier prennent la défense de la montagne ». La politique de Mountain Wilderness analysée au prisme de son fondateur-garant : Haroun Tazieff (années 1990).

15.30–16.00 Conclusions and highlights of the conference
Laurent Tissot (Université de Neuchâtel) & **Sabine Pitteloud** (UniDistance/FernUni)

Abstract

Università della Svizzera italiana

Organised by
Association Internationale pour l'Histoire des Alpes
Associazione Internazionale per la Storia delle Alpi
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and
Université de Fribourg

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The Environment at the Summit

Actors and representations of nature conservation in mountain areas: a global perspective (late 18th–early 21st century)



2–4 September 2026

Accademia di architettura Mendrisio

Università della Svizzera italiana

UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

AIHA / AISA / IGHA / MZZA

The Environment at the Summit
Actors and representations of nature conservation in mountain areas: a global perspective (late 18th–early 21st century)

Environmental degradation is a threat that permeates into the beautiful mountain regions of the world, the Himalayas and the European Alps. Similar processes can be observed in the Andes and in Northern Africa. In the Alps, despite a wide range of measures taken during the last century to cope with the destructive forces of water, the Alps face new signs of environmental degradation.

With this statement from 1989, the Himalayan Adventure Trust (renamed the Himalayan Environment Trust in 1990), which brings together renowned mountaineers, highlighted the progressive degradation of mountain environments across the globe, not just in the Himalayas, drawing particular attention to the problems of soil and water pollution, deforestation and the widespread presence of waste. Drawing on scientific literature on environmental issues in mountain areas over recent decades, and in line with the research project «La mondialisation des Alpes, du paysage à l'environnement» (carried out from 2022 to 2026 by the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Fribourg, with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation), the conference 'The Environment at the Summit' will examine the gradual process by which the issue of environmental protection has taken hold in various mountain ranges worldwide, from the late 18th to the early 21st century (setting 2022 as the final threshold, corresponding to the International Year of Mountains). The aim is to encourage a decentralisation of perspectives in order to highlight the diversity of trajectories and also the possible circulation, both direct and indirect, of knowledge, materials, practices and individuals across the various mountain ranges. By taking mountaineering as a lens through which to interpret history – a relationship with the environment that has, moreover, received little attention in historical scholarship – we have sought to explore three areas of analysis: its actors (individually and collectively) and their concerns; its representations and how these define the issues at stake; and the obstacles they face in putting forward their ideas.



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Ski lift near the Vysoká hole peak, Czech Republic

Wednesday 2 September	**Palazzo Canavée Hall C 0.63 and Agorà Lio Galfetti**
16.30–17.30	AIHA- AISA-IGHA-MZZA Committee, Villa Argentina, 1st floor
18.00–20.00	**Claude Hauser, Philippe Vonnard, Lucia Leoni, Maurizio Raselli** (Palazzo Canavée, Hall C 0.63) Presentation of the SNSF project "Back to Kathmandu", followed by a screening and discussion (with **Egon Bernasconi**) of the film "the Future of Mountaineering"
20.00	Standing dinner

Thursday 3 September	**Auditorium, TAM**
9.00–9.30	**Luigi Lorenzetti & Claude Hauser** Opening of the conference
9.30–10.30	**Opening Keynote** **Simona Boscani Leoni** (Université de Lausanne) *Nature et environnement en montagne: une histoire de longue durée* Moderator: **Giulio Ongaro** (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca) Coffee Break
10.45–12.45	**Panel I.** **Between conservation and nature protection in the Alpine region** Moderator: **Luigi Lorenzetti** (Università della Svizzera italiana) **Audrey Azar** (Université de Lausanne) *Alphonse Favre (1815–1890) et la conservation des blocs erratiques au Salève* **Michael Wedekind** (Central Institute of Art History, Universität Munich) *Natur, Landschafts- und Kulturraumschutz im deutsch und italienischsprachigen Alpenraum (1880–1914)* **Antje Reppe** (Institut für Sächsische Geschichte und Volkskunde, Dresde) *Natur- und Umweltschutz beim Bergsteigen / durch die Bergsteigenden in Sachsen – Kernstück oder Konfliktfeld des Immateriellen Kulturerbes?* **Grégory Quin** (Université de Lausanne) *La fabrique des sommets nationaux. Les «élites» du Club Alpin Suisse entre découvertes territoriales, exploits sportifs et protection du paysage (années 1860–années 1930)*
12.45	Lunch
14.00–15.45	**Panel II.** **Develop or protect nature?** Moderator: **Claude Hauser** (Université de Fribourg) **Sebastian Kasper** (Deutschen Museum, München) *«Barbarei» im Namen des Fortschritts? Streit um alpine Wasserkraftprojekte* **Michał Kuryłowicz** (Université Jagellonne, Cracovie) *Entre exploration et protection de la nature. Les dilemmes de l'alpinisme souterrain polonais entre 1945 et 1989* **Jeroen Derkinderen Lombeyda** (Universidad Simon Bolivar, Quito) *D'une nature «productive» à la conservation de la nature: la production des paysages montagneux en Equateur (1940–1990)* **Fynn Holm** (Universität Tübingen), **Sherief Fitz** (Universität Tübingen) & **Thomas Jones** (Ritsumeikan APU, Japon) *The Mountain Day: Post-War Nature Protection in the Japanese Alps* Coffee Break
16.15–17.15	**Keynote no 2.** **Steve Hagimont** (SciencesPo, Toulouse), *La protection de la nature contre une écologie ordinaire rurale? Les Pyrénées, entre justice environnementale et ferments d'un «greenbacklash» au XXe siècle,* Moderator: **Caterina Franco** (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne)
17.20–18.00	Prix Bergier 2026 Award ceremony and presentation of the selected doctoral thesis
18.00–19.00	Visit to the Teatro dell'architettura Mendrisio
20.00	Dinner

Friday 4 September	**Auditorium, TAM**
9.15–9.30	**Philippe Vonnard** Opening of the second day
9.30–11.30	**Panel III.** **Nature conservation from a postcolonial perspective** Moderator: **Bernhard Schär** (UniDistance/FernUni) **Romain Cauliez** (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) *L'ascension de l'État colonial. Réalisations locales d'un projet global de «protection» des montagnes à la Réunion dans la deuxième moitié du*