

## Submitted Abstract

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<b>Title</b>	Feedback From A Field Study In Mountain Huts On The Professions In The Less-Developed Mountain Areas.
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## Abstract

The high mountains are an environment that is particularly exposed to climate and societal changes, especially through the tourist activity that it generates. Today, we can observe a real appeal for the mountain sports out of the resorts (ski touring in winter, or high mountain hiking in summer) (Bourdeau and Chappaz, 2015). This is how a repositioning takes place between the developed mountain areas (ski resorts) and the less-developed mountain areas. It is on the latter that the HutObsTour research programme focuses. Using the mountain hut as an observatory but also as a research object, it questions the dynamics in high mountain areas on the scale of the French Alps (the Ecrins and Mont-Blanc massifs) and the Swiss Alps (Valais).

Thus, as part of this programme, my thesis deal with the professions involved in the tourist accompaniment related with the mountain huts. My research specially focuses on the construction process of professional cultures in the high mountains. Starting from the hypothesis put forward by Jean-Pierre Bozonnet, based on the imaginary as "an essential key to understanding attitudes towards the mountains" (Bozonnet, 1992, p. 6), I would like to focus on the evolution of the mountain imaginary and its impact on the professional cultures of the less-developed mountain areas.

Having started my research a month ago, my project is still quite broad. Focused on the high mountain huts, I plan to carry out a first part of the fieldwork in June-July in order to get a closer look at the existing dynamics and the interactions between the different professions. Prior to this first phase of fieldwork, I would like to conduct exploratory interviews with professionals (mountain guides, mountain leaders and hut keepers) of the less-developed mountain areas. It will be a first approach to understand the internal logics of the professional culture of each of these professions. I therefore propose, within the framework of the International Mountain Conference, to give feedback on my first observations and materials collected, and my first working hypotheses on the issues of these professions in a context of transition.

Gilles Chappaz, Philippe Bourdeau, « Réchauffement, vers quelle mutation ? », Guides, La Revue, juill. 2015, p. 33#37.

Jean-Paul Bozonnet, Des monts et des mythes: l'imaginaire social de la montagne, Grenoble, Presses universitaires de Grenoble, 1992.