

Submitted Abstract

ID IMC22-FSAbstr- 180

First Author First Name Last Name	Jon Mathieu
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Jon Mathieu
Correspondence	jon.mathieu@bluewin.ch
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	
Organisations	University of Luzern, Switzerland
Country	Switzerland
Region	Western Europe
Title	Sacred Mountains: How Does Environmentalism Shape Pre/historical Scholarship?
Keywords	Mountain Cults, Environmentalism, Prehistory, History
Type	List Of Focus Session
Focus Session ID	63

Abstract

From Mount Kailash in Tibet to Uluru/Ayers Rock in Central Australia: around the globe, there are numerous mountains that have been assigned sacredness in the past and present. Religious worship takes place through belief and ritual. There was, and still is, a great diversity of mountain cults, but they all tell us something about attitudes toward nature. In several disciplines, the literature on this topic has multiplied in recent decades. Since the 1990s, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature IUCN and other global institutions have also integrated sacred mountains into their programs. They view them primarily as tools for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. Their large-scale projects and conferences have stimulated considerable pre/historical research. This paper examines some IUCN initiatives and asks about their background and outcomes. What assumptions did the protagonists start from? How have they evolved? Can "Sacred Natural Sites" be considered the first network of "Protected Areas", and how is pre/historical scholarship shaped and reinterpreted by such ecological objectives?