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Climate Change and Vegetation Evolution during the Holocene

Guest Editor:

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submissions:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Vegetation is a highly sensitive indicator of environmental, including climatic, change and so preserved subfossil plant remains are an important proxy for past environmental conditions. Analysis of assemblages of both plant macrofossils and microfossils such as pollen enables the reconstruction of past plant communities and also, therefore, of past environments.

As well as internal autogenic succession through seral stages, vegetation during the Holocene has also been influenced by various environmental factors including climate, pedology, hydrology and disturbance by fire or fauna. Of these factors, climate has been one of the most influential, at least in the first half of the Holocene before vegetation disturbance and transformation by human activity in recent millennia.

Contributions to this Special Issue will examine the role of climate in influencing vegetation patterns and development during the Holocene, at any spatial or temporal scale. Papers comparing and contrasting the role of climate with other factors, natural or otherwise, will be welcome, as will those comparing Holocene climate–vegetation relationships with those from earlier interglacial periods.



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Special Issue



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Editor-in-Chief

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We live in a Quaternary world, that is, a world shaped by the interplay of the different compartments of the earth system—lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere—during the last ~2.6 million years. It is not possible to understand the current world—and, hence, to anticipate its possible future developments—without knowing the Quaternary history of drivers, processes, and mechanisms that have generated it. Our own species is an evolutionary outcome of the Quaternary performance. Therefore, the journal *Quaternary* is born with the aim of being an integrative journal to encompass all aspects of Quaternary science focused on understanding the complex world in which we live and to provide a sound scientific basis to anticipate possible future trends and inform environmental policies.

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