

12<sup>th</sup> ESEH Conference  
**MOUNTAINS  
AND PLAINS**  
Past, present and future  
environmental and climatic  
entanglements



ESEH Konferenz Bern

## ***Militarised landscapes: mountains and plains on the eastern and south-western fronts of the First World War***

Due to industrial warfare, the First World War became a turning point in the conflict between man and the environment. Bomb destruction of soils, poisoning of waters and deforestation of virgin forests on a large scale made nature the first victim of war (T. Keller) and determined the emergence of specific anthropogenic (Kirges) landscapes. The high level of development of technologies created for the first time the possibility not only to completely destroy natural objects, but also to construct their technically designed analogues. This also gave rise to new branches of science - military geology and military hydrotechnics - which enabled a cold-blooded calculation of the potential of militarised nature and a forecast of the damage inflicted on it. Mountains and plains were evaluated as resources of a military strategy; their partial destruction and transformation were calculated on the basis of demographic, epidemiological and, in some cases, ecosystem consequences.

Chair and Comment: Kerstin von Lingen

Speaker 1: Prof. Dr. Gustavo Corni (University of Trento, Italy)

**Mountains at war: Transformations of the Alpine landscape in Trentino from 1866 to 1918**

Speaker 2: Dr. Francesco Frizzera, Museo Storico Italiano della Guerra (Italy),

**Tyrol 1861-1914. The impact of mountain fortifications on landscape, economic development and environment.**

Prof. Dr. Oxana Nagornaja (University of Tuebingen, Germany)

**Floodings and floodplain marshes in Galicia and Polessie in the strategy of Russian armies in the First World War (1914-1917).**