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Mountain Glaciers, Permafrost, and Snow

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Message from the Guest Editors

Mountain systems store water in glaciers, permafrost, and snowpacks, contributing meltwater to watershed runoff that goes on to supply ecosystems and communities. Nearly two billion people globally depend on these water towers. However, the cryosphere is in decline in many mountain systems, often at an ever-accelerating pace. Receding glaciers, thawing permafrost, and shorter snowfall seasons can result in hazards and risks, for example, global lake outburst floods (GLOFs), damage to technical infrastructure, water shortages, and forced human migrations. On the other hand, receding ice and shrinking snow cover have created new habitable landscapes for species and economic development, such as agriculture and mining. Understanding our water towers is crucial for environmental preparedness.

This Special Issue will present pioneering research on the changing cryosphere in mountains and its socio-ecological impacts. We welcome contributions considering the earth and space sciences as well as inter- and transdisciplinary studies.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Understanding the Earth's origin and its bio-geological evolution, the multiple implications of the geosciences (as a coherentset of interconnected disciplines), and the sociocultural and ethical interdisciplinary approaches, will be crucial for a better understanding of Nature, and also for undertaking scientificallybased political decisions.

We are committed to drive *Geosciences* to a position in which it is recognized for its high-quality, cutting-edge research and scientific influence, and strongly encourage and invite your participation and manuscripts.

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