



Quaternary Loess Deposits and Human Activities

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Message from the Guest Editor

Since prehistoric times, human activity has been identified through Aeolian dust deposits. There are close connections between human activities and the formation of these sediments with covers ranging in size from isolated small islands, through sequences of patches, to continuous covers with continental significance. Often these covers have facilitated migration as well as encouraging permanent or periodic settlement. The loesses are extremely valuable source rocks for very fertile soils that were extremely important not only for the first primitive farmers but also for subsequent more organised societies. Similarly, for the functioning of many societies, the gentle nature of loess plateau surfaces with their suitable water-climatic conditions has predisposed these areas to economic exploitation, while the slopes—prone to erosion—have made both migration and agricultural use or residence difficult. We are calling for relevant papers authored by a wide range of specialists in both Earth sciences and archaeology as well as broad groups of historical and biological sciences.





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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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