



Editorial

Publishing physical geography papers in *Geographica Helvetica*

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Since October 2012, a new editor team has been responsible for the journal *Geographica Helvetica*. *Geographica Helvetica* has a very long publishing tradition of Swiss geographical research starting in the year 1899 with the annual reports of the Geographic and Ethnological Society and developing over the following years slowly to the 1946 renamed journal *Geographica Helvetica*. The journal covers a very broad range of topics in geography. For many years the journal has been receiving quite a large amount of articles in human geography and only some papers in physical geography. Therefore, the journal is very well known and appreciated in human geography (see also article by Korf et al., 2013). In the case of physical geography, even if it seems to be less attractive for researchers than more specialized journals, *Geographica Helvetica* is filling a gap between highly ranked and specialized disciplinary journals and more public non-reviewed publications. The journal allows the publication of peer-reviewed articles in all official languages of Switzerland and in English. It covers topics that are within or related to geographical research in Switzerland. We strongly encourage supervisors of master and PhD studies or researchers especially within physical geography to publish research studies carried out in Switzerland. The journal also welcomes thematic issues in physical geography, as it is the case for example for geomorphological heritage (Reynard and Coratza, 2007), physical geography and environmental changes (Kuhn, 2008), Quaternary research (Maisch and Preusser, 2008) or cryosphere studies (Hoelzle and Delaloye, 2010).

The journal is widespread and open access, and should act as a link for people working with geographical topics within the teaching sector or even for non-academics interested in

geography. With Copernicus, a very professional publisher was found who is able to release articles in a very efficient and accessible way. The journal is currently supported by the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Geographic and Ethnological Society of Zurich (GEGZ) and the Swiss Association of Geography (ASG), three very faithful supporters of the journal facilitating the inexpensive publishing of papers, which also makes the journal attractive to students wishing to publish their master theses.

Therefore, we are glad that the issue presented here contains four articles focusing on topics within physical geography showing a broad diversity of interesting topics such as hydrology, geophysical investigations, glacier research and environmental sciences. The first paper written by Huss et al. shows the complex relations and influences of climate change on a small glacier situated between the Bernese and Valais Alps and some related processes such as the building and outburst of glacial lakes. The second paper by Weingartner et al. presents a nice overview of the project “CC-Hydro”, which gives an overview of the influence of climate change on hydropower production in Switzerland. The third paper, by Michna et al., shows a case study including topoclimatological information and their influence on alpine pastures in the Albula Pass area in eastern Switzerland. The last paper, written by Schneider et al., gives detailed information based on extensive geophysical soundings about a periglacial investigation site in the Upper Engadine. These four papers present in fact a good overview of various studies carried out by physical geographers in Switzerland (climatology, hydrology, glaciology, and geomorphology).

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