Session title: Crossing Time Scales: From Paleo Records to Present Day Change

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Keynote speaker: Bas van Geel, Mark Gessner

Session abstract

This session aims to address research at the interface of instrumental and proxy time series and should stimulate discussions among researchers from different disciplines trying to elaborate a process understanding of regional climate and landscape dynamics across observational and proxy timescales. Driving mechanisms of climate dynamics and landscape evolution operate on a variety of time scales from season to millennia. Instrumental measurements are only available for a limited time period and thus do not capture the full range of variability. On longer time scales, proxy data from geological and biological archives have proven rapid and high-amplitude climate changes and their terrestrial environmental impacts. This approach, however, has its limitation in the uncertainty of climate representations in those proxy data. It is a challenge for the scientific community to reduce the limitations inherent in both approaches by firmly merging proxy time series and instrumental measurements into a consistent record of climate dynamics and landscape evolution. This approach leads to an advanced assessment of ongoing climate change and environmental impacts based on a perspective beyond observational scales.