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Geoethics education: From theory to practice – a case study

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EGU 2020, presented at session EOS5.1 Geoethics: How and why should geosciences serve society?

Co-sponsored by IAPG, Convener: Silvia Peppoloni Co-conveners: Nic Bilham, Daniel DeMiguel, Eduardo Marone, Susanne Schneider-Voss

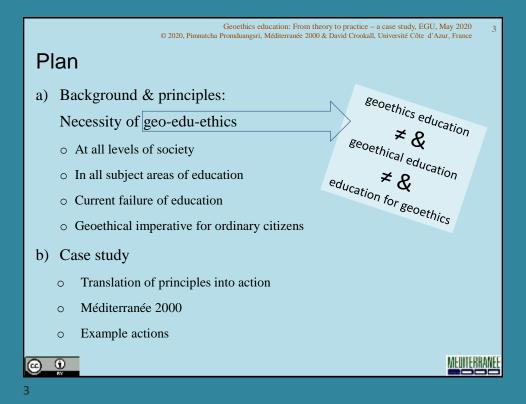
Abstract: https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2020/EGU2020-4075.html

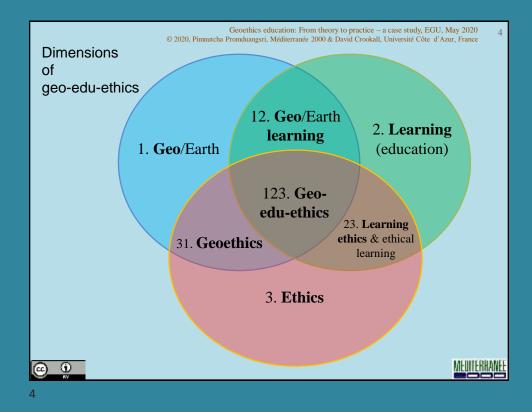




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Geoethics: A few elements

What is (in) geo-edu-ethics = learning geoethics, ethical learning about the Earth, ...

- o 'edu' (learning) is sandwiched between 'geo' and 'ethics'
- We need education to bring together geosciences and ethics

Definitions of geoethics, esp applicable for geo-edu-ethics

From IAPG

- Appropriate behaviours and practices wherever human activities interact with the Earth system
- o Ethical, social and cultural implications of geoscience knowledge
- Tool to influence the awareness of society regarding problems related to geo-resources and geo-environment

http://www.geoethics.org/definition

o From Wikipedia

 The branch of ethics which relates to the interaction of human activity with our physical world, and with the practice of the Earth sciences

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoethics





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Necessity of geo-edu-ethics

- Geo-edu-ethics is **not** included in school programs = Current failure of most educational systems & ministries
- o It must be at the heart of the learning society
 - o Primary, elementary, secondary & tertiary education
 - \circ Life-long & professional education & industry
 - o In all subject areas (geography, history, maths, physics, etc.)
- Geoethical imperative

The most powerful way to mitigate climate change is to make **geoethics** the **core** of **all learning** and education





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Geoethics throughout edu

From Climate Change and Simulation/Gaming: Learning for Survival

Published seven years ago, in 2013, in Simulation & Gaming

"... sustainability, climate change, and resilience must be included in one way or another in **every single course**, **at all levels**, primary to university, **across the world**"

"Sustainability, climate change, and resilience is so urgent and essential that it needs to take first place of all subjects ... all curricula should be built around climate change."

"Climate change and resilience courses can be used to teach language, mathematics, history, chemistry, medicine, economics, computer science, finance, management, and most other subjects"

David Crookall

DOI: 10.1177/1046878113497781





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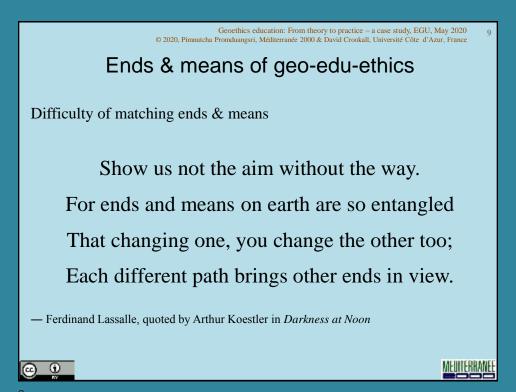
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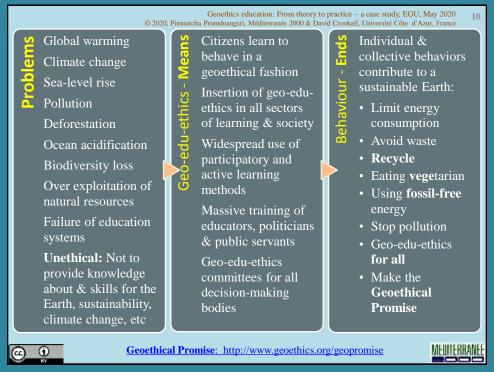
Why geo-edu-ethics?

- o The planet is in dire need of **ethical behaviour**, to **combat**:
 - Dangerous impact of human activities on life systems
 - CO2, CH4 and other GHG emissions → Global heating & CC
 - Pollution: Air, water and ground
 - Loss of biodiversity & species extinction
 - Resource depletion
 - Poverty, wealth gap, migration
 - **–** ...
- Most systems & ministries of education are failing their citizens
 - o despite action by some organizations (UNEP, UNESCO, IPCC, NGOs, activist groups, associations, ...)









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Méditerranée 2000, France – A case study

Med2k = Educational association for sustainability and ecology, Cannes, France

General missions

- o To create relationship between citizens and nature
- o To raise public awareness about the environment & environmental issues
- o To promote ethical behaviour on the part of citizens

Principles of geo-edu-ethics → translated into local actions

- Recycling, learning about raw materials, raising awareness about flooding & pollution, reducing one's carbon footprint and energy use, etc
- Schools, local governments, industry

Med2k is a member of the **IAPG**: Helps us to improve our activities





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Inf'Eau Mer → Geo-edu-ethical compaign

Inf'Eau = play on phrase 'info+eau' (water/info)

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Public awareness (geo-edu-ethical) campaign about:

- water pollution and
- the environment

Objectives:

- Educate general public about protecting the sea
- Develop tourism that is respectful of the environment
- Inform people about the ethical actions carried out by the municipality in favor of the environment
- Collect information on the perception of holidaymakers and residents regarding the environment





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Inf'Eau Mer → Geo-edu-ethical compaign

Means (methods)

Organize stands:

- o about the marine environment
- o on the beaches, in summer

With:

- Games
- Information booklets
- Exhibitions





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Les Ambassadeurs du Littoral → Geo-edu-ethics

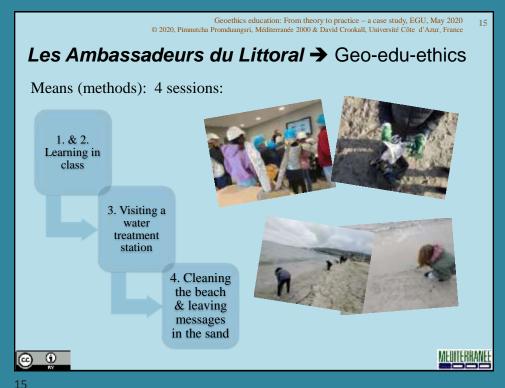
Les Ambassadeurs du Littoral = Coastal Ambassadors

- o Objectives (desired outcomes):
 - o Introduce children to:
 - o marine environment
 - o impact of human activities on marine biodiversity
 - For preservation of seas and oceans





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Scol'Air → Geo-edu-ethics

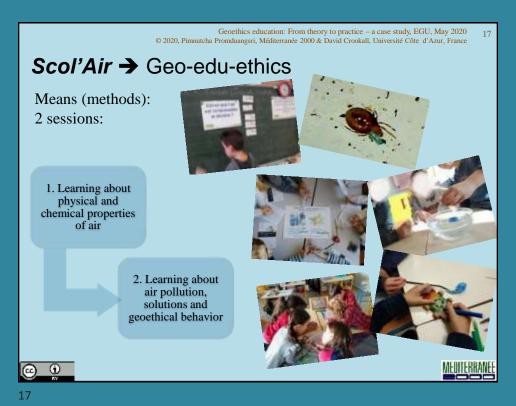
Scol'Air = play on phrase 'schoolarly' and 'air'

Objectives:

- o Educate children about environmental health
- o Teach about air, its properties and pollution
- Raise awareness of air pollution and discover geoethical actions to take
- Acquire a scientific approach
- o Reinforce group work, cooperation, learning by the senses



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Geo-edu-ethical thoughts by great thinkers

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. - Margaret **Mead**

The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction. Rachel **Carson**

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make. - Jane **Goodall**

One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken. - Leo **Tolstoy**

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. - George Bernard **Shaw**

Note that change can be another word for learning



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Conclusion

- o Geo-edu-ethics = Needed in every walk of life and across the globe
- A small local association can have a big impact Med2k
- o Geo-edu-ethics activities & compaigns for all citizens:
 - o Geothical behaviour
 - o Changing people's behaviour
 - Pushing for a sustainable world
 - Respecting the environment
 - Making wise decisions regarding the planet
 - o Keeping the Geoethical Promise
 - 0 ...



Geoethical Promise: http://www.geoethics.org/geopromise



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The *Geoethical Promise* http://www.geoethics.org/geopromise





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