Lecture Summary

Geoethics: from an ethics for geosciences to a global ethics for societies

What is geoethics? What are the roles and responsibilities of geoscientists at the science-society interface? Why do we need geoethics to face global anthropogenic changes?

Geoethics consists of research and reflection on the values which underpin appropriate behaviours and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system. Over the years the theoretical framework of geoethics progressively developed, articulated, and enriched, to the point that from a primarily professional ethics, it has expanded to include extra-professional responsibilities towards society and the environment, until it becomes definable as an ethics of responsibility of the human agent towards the Earth system. Geoethics is the bedrock of principles and values on which to ground strategies and practices to create new relational ways between humans and the Earth System, taking into account geoscientific knowledge. Geoethics is a proposal for navigating in times of global anthropogenic changes, a global ethics of responsibility for living in a more inclusive, respectful, and sustainable way on Earth.

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