

Special Issue

Changing Nature of Socio-Ecological Interactions in the Americas: From PalaeoAmerican Through to Present Day

Message from the Guest Editors

For their very short existence in geological history, as a species, humans have demonstrated an unparalleled capacity to impact the Earth's system at a global scale. The relationship between humans and the environment is complex and the velocity of change and variability of interactions through time are poorly understood. Despite the uncertainties, it is clear that modern humans colonised most of the globe outside the poles by the late Glacial-Holocene transition, thereby introducing a new forcing factor in the environment. Human impacts, however, were heterogeneous and influenced by a wide range of factors (cultural development of emerging societies, historical biogeography, climate change, human migration). In this SI, we will explore the signal of the European arrival in past American environments, from local to continental scales. We welcome contributions from a wide range of Quaternary disciplines, focused in any time scale including the determination of the environmental baselines prior to intensive human influence, the arrival of the first Europeans, and present-day socio-ecological dynamics resulting from the invasion.

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About the Journal

Message from the Editorial Board

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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