



INQUIMUS

Workshop Series

Integrating quantitative
and qualitative
assessment
methodologies for
multi-dimensional
phenomena

INQUIMUS

September 19–21, 2017

Bolzano | Italy

INQUIMUS into ACTION

How can scientific assessments
inform decisions for problem-
solving in practice?

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Integrating quantitative
and qualitative
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Scope of INQUIMUS Workshops

There is growing **demand by policy- and action-oriented users** for **operational and integrative assessments** of **complex, multi-dimensional phenomena** such as vulnerability and resilience. In recent years, **quantitative and qualitative assessment methods** as part of targeted efforts to **disaster risk reduction** and **climate change adaptation** have been pushed towards operational levels. Whilst the scientific progress regarding the development of theoretical frameworks and associated definitions has been remarkable, further attention needs to be given to **coherent assessment methods**. Therefore we need a **critical scientific discussion on assessment methodologies** that evaluates and benchmarks approaches and intervention options. Another key issue is the relevance of **spatial and temporal monitoring** in the context of social-ecological systems and complex and multi-dimensional phenomena and how it can effectively support decision making.

Against this background, the **Department of Geoinformatics - Z_GIS** at the University of Salzburg, Austria and the **European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano (Eurac Research)** initiated in 2014 a series of **INQUIMUS workshops** (lat. “we say”) - **Integrating quantitative and qualitative assessment methodologies for multi-dimensional phenomena**. The purpose of these highly interactive workshops is to **identify common achievements and methodological challenges**, which will enable us to identify insights and future ways ahead. Additionally, these workshops will provide the possibility to exchange with practitioners who are active in this field and interested in the application and operationalization of assessments.

- 2014** Spatial indicators and assessment of vulnerability and resilience (Salzburg | Austria)
- 2015** Challenges in Q² methodologies to acquire and integrate data for the assessment of risk, vulnerability and resilience (Bozen/Bolzano | Italy)
- 2016** Spatial and temporal dynamics of risk and vulnerability (Salzburg | Austria)

Scope of the 2017 workshop

The INQUIMUS workshop 2017 will elaborate on the extent to which combined **quantitative and qualitative assessment approaches** have been successful in their **support to decision making** and whether they have **contributed in practice to solving problems**. Against this background methods applied for (normative or subjective) assessments and ways how to validate the usefulness of scientific outputs will be scrutinised. These topics will be argued with stakeholders and users acting at various levels (local, national and international / European) and in different contexts. During the workshop, the following questions will lead our discussions:

- > **Under which circumstances do mixed methods result influence actions, decisions & policies?** Which issues are key for bringing these results into practice? Where are obstacles to do so and how can we foster the wider application of these methods and the uptake of their results by users?
- > How do **methods and responsibilities for the assessment step** of our studies look like? **How do we give meaning** to the numbers we produce with our models / indices / questionnaires for example in order to specify the relevance for a probability to experience a severe drought? How do scientific studies deal with the decisions of normative or subjective character?
- > What role does **validation** play in scientific studies in order to verify the usefulness of the selected approach and the produced results? How and by whom is success (or failure) monitored and assessed?
- > Is the way, **mixed methods results are communicated**, satisfactory? Are uncertainties and normative decisions on the way to these results represented appropriately?
- > How are the various uncertainties, which are linked with the results of our assessments, communicated and **how are these uncertainties considered in the process of decision making?**



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Format

The workshop is the fourth event of the INQUIMUS series, which started in 2014. As the previous workshops, INQUIMUS 2017 will be **moderated** in order to shape it as a **highly interactive event**. Conventional presentations will play a minor role. **Invited keynotes** will present selected issues of interest as well as stories of mixed method applications in practice, which will subsequently allow a **focused discussion on current achievements and challenges**. Specific case study descriptions are invited to be presented as **posters** during a short poster session at the beginning of the workshop. Experience has shown that the input provided by the posters is very fruitful for further discussions during the workshop.

INQUIMUS workshops are free of charge including lunches and coffee breaks. Unfortunately, the **INQUIMUS organisers have no budget to pay for journeys or accommodation, all related costs are to the expense of the participants.**

Scientific Committee - INQUIMUS

Stefan Schneiderbauer (Eurac Research)
Stefan Kienberger (Z_GIS, University of Salzburg)
Stefan Lang (Z_GIS, University of Salzburg)
Marc Zebisch (Eurac Research)

Extended Scientific Committee

Andrea Critto (University Ca' Foscari Venice, Italy)
Silvia Torresan (CMCC, University Ca' Foscari Venice, Italy)

Call for abstracts

Participation is mainly based on **invitation**. However, we would like to provide room for **additional participants to present their findings** and experience. We therefore invite anybody interested in joining us for this workshop to provide us with information about relevant research work, projects or studies. We are particularly interested in learning about the application of **qualitative and quantitative assessment approaches** (within the context of complex phenomena such as risk, vulnerability, resilience etc.) carried out with the intention to support **decision making and / or to contribute to problem solving in practice**. Please apply by submitting an **abstract** (max 400 words), which describes your work shortly and specifies what your results and experience can contribute to the guiding questions of the workshop, namely:

- >> Under **which circumstances** do mixed methods result **influence actions, decisions & policies**?
- >> How do we give **meaning to the numbers we produce with our models / indices / questionnaires**? How and **with who do we define thresholds and class borders** to divide acceptable from unacceptable situations?
- >> What **role does validation play** in our scientific studies to verify the usefulness of the selected approach and the produced results?
- >> How **can stakeholders be engaged effectively** in the different steps of the assessment, where are potential pitfalls?
- >> Is the way mixed methods **results are communicated** satisfactory?
- >> Are **uncertainties and normative decisions** taken to generate assessment results represented appropriately? In how far does the **uncertainty of methodology and of the results** play a role for decision making?

Please submit your abstract until **July 10, 2017** to: lucia.radici@eurac.edu
EXTENDED DEADLINE: August 4, 2017

Information about the acceptance of abstracts will be informed by mid of August.

Further info: www.inquimus.org

Draft Agenda

INQUIMUS 2017: INQUIMUS into ACTION - How can scientific assessments inform decisions for problem solving in practice?

Tuesday, September 19

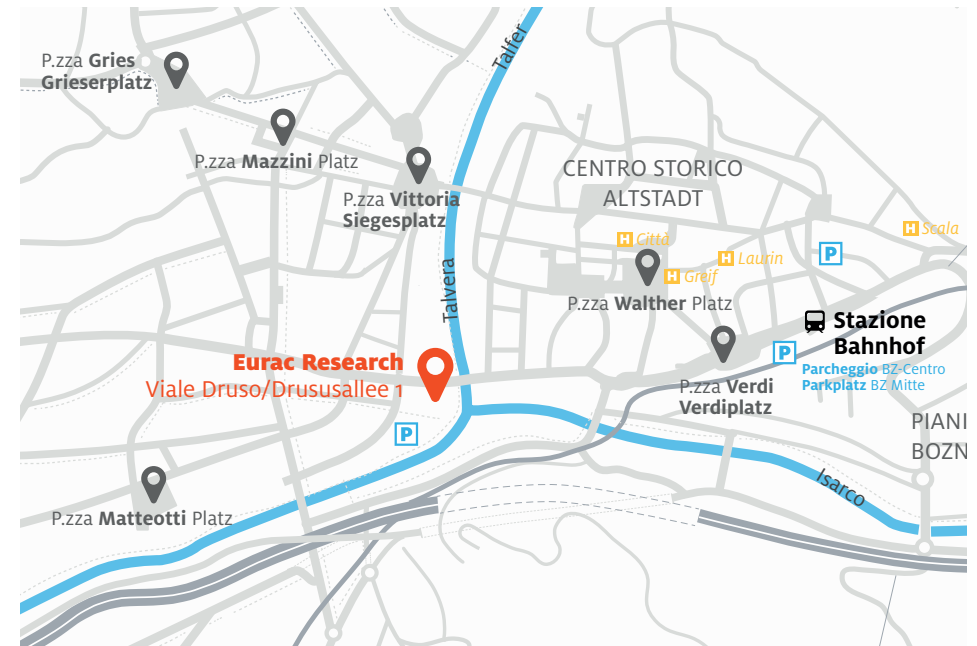
- 18.00-18.30 Welcome with finger food
- 18.30-20.00 Inspiring talk & discussion:
Roland Benedikter, European political scientist and sociologist and working in the field of time analysis.
Title: tbd.

Wednesday September 20

- morning Opening Circle
- SOTA (State-of-the-Art) talk:
Paul Henshaw, Global Earthquake Model (GEM) -
„OpenQuake: informing Disaster Risk Reduction Policy through open and collaborative Earthquake Risk Assessment“
- Poster Session
- afternoon SOTA (State-of-the-Art) talk:
Susanne Schwan / Till Below, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) - „Decision support through climate risk assessments? Experiences with the Sourcebook Vulnerability“
- Discussion / interactive working session
- evening Social dinner

Thursday, September 21

- morning SOTA (State-of-the-Art) talks:
Jim Kronhamn, „The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency - The Swedish process for national risk assessment.“
Orsola Lussignoli/André Walter, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, Germany (BBK) – Draft
Title: „Risk assesment and monitoring at national scale – examples of participative and indicator-based approaches applied in Germany“
- Discussion / interactive working session
- afternoon Synthesis – what do we take home from here?
- Wrap-up



How to get to Bolzano:
<http://www.bolzano-bozen.it/en/how-to-get-to.htm>

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Date

Tuesday, September 19 2017 (evening) until
Thursday, September 21 2017 (afternoon)

Location

Eurac Research
Institute for Earth Observation
Unit Climate & Disaster Risk
Bolzano / Italy
www.eurac.edu

Contact

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