

Water and geological risks in a warming climate

The Summer School focuses on three key areas:

1. **Climate modelling** for extreme meteo-hydrological and geo-hydrological hazard projections
2. **Simulation and projection** of extreme precipitation, floods, droughts and slope instabilities under a changing climate
3. **Adaptation strategies.**

This one-week program combines lectures with hands-on activities, offering participants a dynamic and immersive learning experience. With over 20 international attendees, the Summer School provides a unique opportunity to engage in diverse educational formats, including self-directed study, computer-based group work, and oral presentations.

The Summer School is jointly organized by the Department of Geosciences at the University of Padova, recipient of the MUR Excellence Project “Geosciences for Sustainable Development”, and by PE3-RETURN (multi-Risk sciEnce for resilienT commUnities undeR a changiNg climate), an extended partnership funded by Next Generation EU, the Italian PNRR, and the Ministry of University and Research.

The School is designed for young researchers—Ph.D. students, post-doctoral fellows, and early-career scientists—interested in exploring the impacts of climate change on hydrological (extreme precipitation, floods, droughts) and geological (slope instability, river morphodynamics) hazards and risks.

Dates: July 14 – July 19, 2025, Venue: Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti (IVSLA), Venice, Italy

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee is €200 and covers lectures, practical lab sessions, course materials, lunches, and coffee breaks. The fee does not include accommodation or dinners. Travel expenses for up to ten international students will be reimbursed by the School, up to a maximum of €1,000 per student.

Organisers: Marco Borga, Marco Marani, Nicola Surian (University of Padova, Italy)

Lecturers:

<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Title</i>
Ali	Global Intensification of Climate and Hydrologic Extremes: Insights from Observations and Climate Modeling.
Ballio	Handling (flood) risk under a changing climate
Brenna	Geomorphic hazards in a changing climate: River responses to extreme floods
Caporali	Future CPM-based projection of flood hazard in Italy
Catani	Machine learning methods for landslide data assimilation in numerical watershed models
Claps	Global warming impact and morphological control on floods in the alpine environment
Coppola	High resolution climate modelling for extreme precipitation and hazard projection
Dallan	Future changes in sub-daily precipitation return levels by convection permitting climate models
Della Seta	Preparatory and triggering factors of shallow landsliding in a changing climate
Marani	Extreme Precipitation Statistical Modelling
Marra	Modelling extreme precipitation using physical covariates
Montanari	Adaptation to long term droughts under global warming
Rulli	The amplifying effects of climate change on the environmental impacts of agriculture
Tramblay	Climate change impacts on hydrological extremes (floods and droughts)
Viglione	From climate shifts to flood changes: effects at different space-time scales

Program

Day	Morning		Afternoon		
	9-10:30	10:45-12.15	13:45-15:15	15.30-17.00	17:15-18.45
14 July	Coppola	Ali	Marani	Montanari	Working Group Ice Breaker
15 July	Marra	Tramblay	Dallan	Della Seta	WG
16 July	Viglione	Rulli	Claps	Brenna	WG
17 July	Caporali	Ballio	Catani	WG	WG
18 July	WG	WG	WG	WG	WG
19 July	WG presentations				

Working Groups

WG Marani: Extreme Precipitation Event Modelling

This WG will focus on analyzing rainfall observations from the 5-min to 1-hour scale. Estimation uncertainty from GEV analyses will be compared with that from non-asymptotic Metastatistical Extreme Value Distribution (MEVD) methods. A cross-validation approach will be adopted and applied to available data from different rainfall regimes, in Italy and elsewhere. Participants wanting to explore the application of MEVD methods to their own data, beyond rainfall observations, are welcomed to join. The activities will be tutored by Dr. Maria Francesca Caruso and by ing. Santa Andria.

WG Dallan-Marra: Assessing Future Changes in Sub-Daily Precipitation Return Levels using Convection Permitting Climate models

In this working group we will evaluate the projected changes in extreme sub-daily precipitation using convection-permitting (CP) climate model simulations. We will focus on a study area characterized by complex orography and use both traditional and non-asymptotic extreme value analysis methods.

Participants will learn how to estimate precipitation return levels for various durations (ranging from 1 to 24 hours) using different statistical techniques. They will learn how to quantify changes in these return levels and how to assess the statistical significance of the detected signals.

The activity will be carried out in Matlab. Participants are NOT expected to be expert Matlab users, as the Matlab scripts will be provided by the tutors, but they are expected to have a laptop with a working Matlab version pre-installed.

WG Tramblay-Borga: Trend detection in time series of extreme events

Methods used to detect trends in intense rainfall or flood series will be presented. Firstly, sampling methods based on annual maximums or threshold exceedances will be introduced, with the problem of threshold selection, and identification of independent episodes (declustering). Then, non-parametric methods (Mann-Kendall test) will be compared with parametric methods, based on the adjustment of distributions adapted to extremes (Generalized Extreme Value et Generalized Pareto Distribution) in a non-stationary context. The issue of the 'statistical significance' of the results will be discussed within the different approaches. All the methods will be implemented from open-source R packages.

WG Brenna-Surian: River Dynamics in Response to High-Magnitude Flood Events

This WG will focus on processes (e.g., intense sediment transport, channel widening) that may occur in rivers and streams during high-magnitude flood events. We will analyze a catchment that was affected by the Vaia Storm (October 2018), starting from computing stream power at sub-reach scale. The next step will be analyzing channel changes, comparing images (high resolution aerial photos) taken before and after the flood. The last part of the activity will deal with interpretation and discussion of results, exploring relationships between driving factors (e.g., stream power) and channel processes (e.g., occurrence of debris floods, different magnitude of channel widening).

The activity will be carried out using a GIS. Participants are expected to have a laptop with a GIS installed and basic knowledge about GIS (e.g., loading data, using and editing shapefiles).