



**Land under water – Mankind before the disaster  
'Human Perception of Singular Hydrological Events'**  
**21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016**  
**in**  
**Halle/Saale, Germany**

**Theme of the international scientific conference**

As a consequence of witnessing several extreme natural phenomena in recent years and the constantly increasing degree of vulnerability these disasters represent to our societies, an interdisciplinary debate of their significance for human life and planning is becoming necessary. For that reason the conference intends to introduce different scientific perspectives regarding these phenomena into discourse. Papers from the fields of natural sciences, humanities, cultural studies and theologies are intended to foster discussion on how to create awareness of such hazardous situations. These will have an enduring presence as an individual and shared experience, so that these events can be prevented, or at least their impact minimised or dealt with more successfully, by change of behaviour in general and by prevention of an advance in such singular events.

We cordially invite you to this conference.

Prof. Dr. Hans Moser  
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Prof. Dr. Harald Schwillus  
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## Program

Day 1 – March 21, 2016

<b>Introduction</b>	
09:30 – 10:00	Registration (coffee & tea)
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome and opening of the conference – Prof. Dr. Hans Moser, President of the CHR / Prof. Dr. Harald Schwillus, University Halle
10:30 – 12:00	Keynote on conference theme from a scientific point of view – What is a singular hydrological event? - Prof. Dr. Günter Blöschl, Technical University Vienna
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
<b>Session 1: Disaster and Media</b>	
13:00 – 13:45	The role of media during disaster. Argumentation and formation of aid programs of Germany after 1945 – Prof. Dr. Patrick Merziger, Universität Leipzig
13:45 – 14:30	(Scientific) Communication on risk- and disaster management of natural hazards: Issues on human perception within organizations and people – Dr. Andreas Schwarz, Technical University Ilmenau
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee- & teabreak
<b>Session 2: Climate and Discharge</b>	
15:00 – 15:45	Weather chronicler within the context of culture and everyday-life. A journey through the database 'Euro-Climhist' (Switzerland) 1501-1863 – Prof. Dr. Christian Pfister, University Bern
15:45 – 16:30	Extreme discharges of the Rhine and Elbe: probability and consequences – Dr. Jaap Kwadijk, Independent Research Institute Deltares, Delft
16:30 – 17:00	Closing words on day 1 by Prof. Dr. Hans Moser / Prof. Dr. Harald Schwillus
18:00	Conference Dinner in the Dorint Hotel

Day 2 – March 22, 2016

<b>Session 3: Religion and Disaster Management</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	Coffee-/teabreak
09:00 – 09:40	Worships as a contribution to cope with Natural Hazards – Some thoughts from a Liturgy-scientific perspective – Dipl.-Theol. Brigitte Benz, Universität Erfurt
09:40 – 10:20	Disasters and the possibilities of human influence in Islam literature from the Middle Ages: an overview – Prof. Dr. Anna Akasoy, Hunter College, New York
10:20 – 11:00	Where has God been, when he was not there? Disasters, children, aid programs – Prof. Dr. Hans Mendl, University Passau
11:00 – 11:30	The lions building ('Löwengebäude') of the University Halle. Some explanations on the conference location. – Dr. Ralf-Torsten Speler, President of the sponsors and friends of the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch
<b>Session 4: Natural Hazards and (Human) Perception</b>	
12:30 – 13:15	Risk perception in case of thunderstorms – Results of representative consultation in Berlin – Dr. Katja Schulze, Freie Universität Berlin
13:15 – 14:00	Natural hazards: Perception and opinion - Facts and developments – Andreas Hahn, Gesamtverband der Deutschen Versicherungswirtschaft e.V.
14:00 – 14:30	Coffee- & teabreak
<b>Session 5: Myths and Reality</b>	
14:30 – 15:15	From flood to tsunami. Mythic pictures and explanation of real disasters – a transcultural view – Prof. Dr. Monica Juneja, University Heidelberg
15:15 – 16:00	Floods as a risk and an experience – Dr. Christian Kuhlicke, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung Leipzig
16:00 – 17:00	Summary of sessions and closing – Prof. Dr. Hans Moser / Prof. Dr. Harald Schwillus

## **Language**

The conference languages are German and English. No translation is available.

## **Conference Venue**

The conference takes place in the so-called lions building 'Löwengebäude der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle' (address: Universitätsplatz 10, 06106 Halle) .

Link how to reach the lions building 'Löwengebäude':

<http://wcms.itz.uni-halle.de/download.php?down=39896&elem=2907668>

## **Registration and Conference Fee**

Please register for the conference 'Human Perception of Singular Hydrological Events' on the website of the CHR <http://www.chr-khr.org> or via E mail at the secretariat of the Institute for Catholic Theology and its Didactic of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (mail address: petra.olk.kaththeol.uni-halle.de) until **February 29, 2016**.

The registration fee amounts 10,- € and covers conference participation and drinks and snacks during the breaks.

For a fee of 50,- € you can attend the conference, the diner (Monday) and the lunches on both days.

The fee should be paid to bank account of the CHR IBAN: NL11 INGB 0005 7002 21, BIC: INGB NL 2A of 'Stichting CHR' Lelystad, The Netherlands before March 15, 2016.

(No fee must be paid by the invited speakers and by CHR members).

## **Hotels and Overnight-stay in Halle**

In the hotels Dorint 'Charlottenhof' and Dormero 'Rotes Ross', a contingent of rooms for conference participants is available. If we have received your online registration for the conference and you have indicated that you need a room, the CHR will send you the registration form for both the hotels.

Link on <How to reach the hotel Dorint 'Charlottenhof':

[https://www.google.de/maps/place/Dorint+Charlottenhof+Halle+\(Saale\)/@51.4798795,11.9787857,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x47a66344eb8e85e5:0x8e89e1bc48804757](https://www.google.de/maps/place/Dorint+Charlottenhof+Halle+(Saale)/@51.4798795,11.9787857,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x47a66344eb8e85e5:0x8e89e1bc48804757)

Link on <How to reach the hotel Dormero 'Rotes Ross':

<https://www.google.de/maps/place/DORMERO+Hotel+Rotes+Ross/@51.4794969,11.9755982,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x47a6634431fabeb9:0xb00ade8abc8f9711>

## **Conference Organization**

The conference is organized by the 'International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine basin' (CHR) in cooperation with the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) and the Climate and Water Department of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

*For questions concerning the program please contact:*

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*For questions concerning the organizational aspects:*

Please visit our website at <http://www.chr-khr.org> or contact the CHR secretariat directly by mail or phone [ute.menke@rws.nl](mailto:ute.menke@rws.nl) (+31651779945) and [eric.sprokkereef@rws.nl](mailto:eric.sprokkereef@rws.nl) (+31653649414).