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LARES ABRUZZO

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Floods, Droughts, and Human Societies in a Rapidly Changing World.

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ABSTRACT

Economic losses caused by droughts and floods are dramatically increasing in many regions of the world. In the Anthropocene, humans impact the frequency, magnitude and spatial distribution of hydrological extremes – deliberately or not. Meanwhile, humans also respond to droughts and floods, as shown by demographic, policy and institutional changes often associated with the occurrence of major floods or droughts. Recent progresses in the study of human-water systems have provided useful insights about the dynamics of risk resulting from the complex interactions between droughts, floods and human societies. Empirical research in this field has recently shown that traditional methods for quantitative risk assessment cannot capture the complex dynamics of risk generated by the interactions and feedbacks between hydrological, technical and social processes. It has been also shown that while risk reduction strategies built on these traditional methods often work in the short term, they might lead to unintended consequences in the long term. Besides empirical studies, a number of socio hydrological models have been recently proposed to conceptualize human-water interactions, explain the resulting dynamics of risk, and explore future trajectories in a changing climate. As such, these models help develop better policies and measures for water resources management and hydrological risk reduction.

BIOGRAFIA

Giuliano Di Baldassarre was born in L'Aquila (Italy) in 1978. After graduating summa cum laude at the University of Bologna (Italy), he took his PhD in Hydrology in 2006. Then, he developed his academic career across Europe by working as a Postdoc at the University of Bristol (UK) and, later, as a Senior Lecturer at UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft (The Netherlands). He joined Uppsala University (Sweden) in March 2014 as a Distinguished University Professor. He is also the Director of CNDS, Centre of Natural Hazards and Disaster Science, which brings together social, engineering and earth scientists from three Swedish universities to carry out interdisciplinary research in the field of disaster risk reduction, www.cnds.se. Giuliano has been the recipient of international awards and prestigious grants, including the Outstanding Young Scientists Award by the European Geosciences Union (EGU), the Early Career Award by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the Consolidator Grant by the European Research Council (ERC). Author of more than 100 papers (cited over 5,000 times) on peer-reviewed journals including multi-disciplinary ones such as Nature Sustainability, Science Advances, and Nature Geoscience. He is one of the leaders (and past chair) of Panta Rhei–Everything Flows, the research decade of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS). He also directs an interdisciplinary research team as the PI of the ERC project HydroSocialExtremes: Unravelling the mutual shaping of hydrological extremes and society, www.hydrosocialextremes.org.