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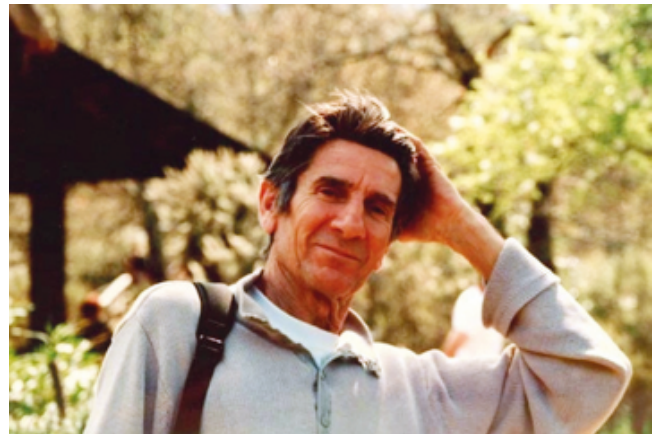
Hommage à Maurice Jorda (1938-2015)

Géomorphologue, enseignant-chercheur à l'Institut de Géographie de l'Université d'Aix-Marseille, Maurice Jorda eut le parcours d'un enfant de la République. Né en 1938, il fut élève à l'École Normale d'Aix en Provence, instituteur en 1961, professeur certifié en 1964, puis agrégé de géographie en 1965. Il intégra l'Institut de Géographie d'Aix-en-Provence en 1967 en tant qu'Assistant, devint Maître-Assistant en 1971, puis fut nommé Maître de Conférences en 1985. Il y exerça jusqu'à sa retraite en 2002.

Il fut un acteur majeur de l'école de géographie physique aixoise, spécialiste renommé de la géomorphologie alpine. Son champ de recherche fut celui de l'évolution des paléoenvironnements pléistocènes et holocènes dans les Alpes du Sud et la Provence. Ses thématiques de recherche ont évolué au fil de sa carrière, reflétant sa formation initiale en géologie puis ses collaborations avec de nombreux autres chercheurs, issus de la géographie, mais aussi de l'archéologie et de la paléoécologie. Ses travaux se sont ainsi articulés autour de plusieurs thèmes : la néotectonique sur le front subalpin de Digne, le Pléistocène des Alpes françaises méridionales, l'évolution morphoclimatique tardi- et postglaciaire des environnements alpins et nord-méditerranéens et la recherche des causalités – naturelles et anthropiques – responsables de l'évolution des milieux.

Maurice Jorda est l'auteur de très nombreuses publications scientifiques, ouvrages, articles et cartes géologiques, des travaux qui font encore référence et constituent le substrat incontournable des études actuelles sur les paléoenvironnements alpins et méditerranéens. Pédagogue d'exception, Maurice JORDA reste dans la mémoire des anciens étudiants comme l'un des meilleurs enseignants de l'Institut de Géographie d'Aix en Provence. Il a su susciter des vocations, former des chercheurs et des enseignants-chercheurs. Tous ses anciens étudiants, même s'ils n'ont pas poursuivi de carrière universitaire, se souviennent avec joie de son enthousiasme et de son énergie, de son plaisir à

transmettre, de la clarté de ses enseignements, de sa disponibilité et sa gentillesse... et de la difficulté à le suivre lorsqu'il escaladait les moraines au pas de course, son marteau de géologue à la main, lors des sorties de terrain !



Maurice Jorda (Photo: Christophe Jorda).

Une page de la géomorphologie de terrain se tourne avec la disparition de Maurice Jorda, un scientifique humaniste, à qui nous devons tous beaucoup et dont nous nous souvenons avec beaucoup d'émotion.

Cet hommage est publié dans la revue *Physio-Geo* : <https://physio-geo.revues.org/>

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Christophe Jorda, INRAP, France

Obituary for Giuliano Rodolfi
(29 September 1937 - 19 November 2015)

The untimely and sudden death of Giuliano Rodolfi on November 19, 2015 has robbed the community of Geomorphologists, Geologists, Soil Scientists, and Geoarcheologists of a distinguished scholar and outstanding researcher as well as a beloved teacher, colleague and friend.

Giuliano Rodolfi was born in San Piero, Florence, on the 29th of September 1937. After finishing his studies of geology at Florence University in 1966, he was a high school teacher from 1967-1974, when he developed his excellent didactic skills. In 1974 he was nominated as a researcher at the National Research Institute for Soil Studies and Conservation of the Ministry for Agriculture and Forests in Florence. There, he was responsible for the experimental site in Fagna (Scarperia, Florence) and part of the Pedogenesis, Soil classification and Soil Cartography Section. In 1979 he started teaching at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at Florence University; his courses and seminars covered mineralogy and geology, and, starting in 1981, Geomorphology of the Tropics and Subtropics. In 1988 he was appointed as Associate Professor for Lithology and Geomorphology of the Tropics and Subtropics at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Florence University. In the following years, he was also appointed lecturer for Physical Geography and Applied Geology at the Italian Institute for Military Geography (1993-2000), lecturer for Geomorphology at Pisa University (1994-1996), as well as lecturer for Geomorphology and Soil Preservation (1985-1994) and for Photointerpretation and Remote Sensing (1995-2013) both at the Overseas Agronomic Institute, Florence (1995-2013). In 1999 he was nominated Chair and Ordinary Professor for Physical Geography and Geomorphology. Giuliano Rodolfi retired in 2009.

As one of the leading Italian geomorphologists he published more than 150 national and international scientific publications on a broad variety of topics including soil and geomorphological cartography, soil conservation and land evaluation, as well as environmental impact studies of large infrastructures. The main focus of his work was dedicated to soil-landscape relations and processes. He authored and edited books and chapters in international journals, including *Environmental Geomorphology*, *Geomorphological Hazards* (ed. Elsevier, Amsterdam) and *Environmental Change and Geomorphic Hazards in Forests* (ed. CABI Publishing, Vienna). In addition, he was co-author of an Italian introductory textbook to soil science (*Il suolo – Pedologia nelle Scienze della Terra e nella Valutazione del Territorio*, ed. Nuova Italia Scientifica). He also worked as a reviewer for several scientific journals and was part of the advisory board of the French *Geomorphologie* and the Romanian *Analele Universitatii Spiru Haret Bucuresti* journals, as well as several Latin American journals.

Giuliano Rodolfi participated in numerous national and international projects. He was coordinator of three major national projects (PRIN) on soil erosion in the Mediterranean (2004-2009) and local coordinator of two large EU projects (1997-2001) titled “Integrated Water Resources Management System (IWRMS)” focusing on Southern Africa, and “Applied Remote Sensing and GIS Integration

for Model Parameterization (ARSGISIP)” concentrating on the Mediterranean and Central Europe.

Apart from his local and regional European research interests, Giuliano Rodolfi also conducted several scientific expeditions and excursions with geomorphological focus to Africa, South America, Australia and Asia. Especially in later years, he organized international collaborations with the National University of Santiago, Chile, and with the Ethiopian Institute for Water Resources in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

His international scientific activities never distracted him from his concerns about environmental issues in the region he lived in, the Mugello Valley, North of Florence. Hence, one of the last works he finished just last year was dedicated to the Mugello landscape: *Il Mugello e la Sieve – storia antica e moderna di un paesaggio che scompare* (Edizioni del Filo, 2014). It is an excellent example for the holistic approach and understanding of landscapes Giuliano taught us throughout his life.

For all his scholars it was a great pleasure and a true gift to have the chance to work with Giuliano Rodolfi, who was distinguished by his humility, patience and unflinching enthusiasm for his work. Giuliano Rodolfi is survived by his wife Fiorella and his two daughters, Liliana and Alessandra, as well as three grandchildren.

Michael Maerker, University of Florence, Italy



Giuliano Rodolfi (Photo: Michael Maerker).



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