

Preface

I am extremely pleased and proud to present this special volume, consisting of a collection of contributions on geoethics and social geosciences. It reflects the constant commitment of my colleagues at the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) in promoting the dissemination of a geoscientific culture in society, a more conscious management of natural risks, a broader application of the principles of socio-environmental sustainability, and an analysis of the ethical issues related to geosciences.

Over the past 25 years, INGV has played a leading role in promoting geoethics, investigating the ethical, social, and cultural aspects of geosciences, both theoretical and applied. In this context, the Journal of Geoethics and Social Geosciences was born, a diamond open access journal that aims to become a reference point for publications dedicated to crucial themes of our time, which involve us both as geoscientists and as intellectuals. In the first case, when our research and applications have a direct impact on society in its various facets — from the political world to the media, from the educational and university sectors to the institutional, reaching every individual citizen. In the second case, because engaging in critical reflection and the dissemination of knowledge in fields such as philosophy, literature, science, politics, and art allows us to expand the scope of our commitment to society.

The work you will find in the following pages is the result of both individual and collective effort, in which numerous professionals, researchers, and experts have participated. Each article, with its own approach and point of view, contributes to outlining a varied and stimulating picture of the ethical and social challenges that characterize our field of study. The themes addressed range from the definition of risk mitigation strategies, to the development of an ethics for data management, to the importance of tools for education and communication in geosciences, with particular attention to gender equality.

With this volume, the authors explore how geosciences can help promote a more inclusive, equitable, and accessible scientific culture for all, highlighting the importance of an interactive and participatory approach between scientists and citizens.

This approach is essential not only to improve the management and mitigation of natural risks but also to strengthen the social and environmental responsibility of scientists and the institutions involved. The collection of contributions and the ongoing update of geoethical practices provide an overview of current developments and future challenges in the field of geosciences.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the authors who have enriched this volume with their valuable reflections and research. A heartfelt thank you also goes to the many reviewers, whose meticulous and critical work has helped refine each contribution: their expertise and attention to detail have been crucial in ensuring the scientific and cultural quality of this volume. Moreover, special thanks go to all the collaborators who took care of the technical and editorial aspects of the volume, from design to layout: through their dedication, they made each text precise and coherent, and each image or illustration impactful.

Finally, I cannot forget the colleagues and friends who collaborated at every stage of this project, from the early moments of ideation to the final realization. Their passion, dedication, and spirit of collaboration have been the driving force behind this work. Without their support, this volume would not have been possible. Its realization demonstrates how loyal cooperation and professional commitment must always be two of the main guiding values of a scientific institution.

I conclude with the hope that this volume will continue to stimulate reflections, discussions, and, above all, concrete actions in the field of geoethics, so that the contribution of geosciences to a more responsible, sustainable, and equitable future is increasingly valued and recognized in both scientific and social spheres.

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