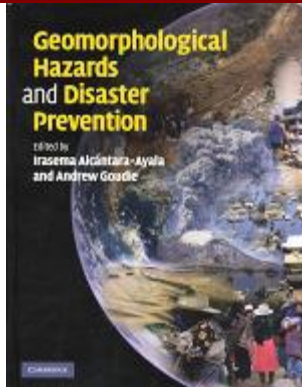


This special issue of Geomorphology includes 14 papers dealing with landslides selected from two conferences of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG): the Regional Conference "Landslides, floods and global environmental change in mountain regions" held in Brasov, Romania, in September 2008 and the Seventh International Conference - session "Hillslopes and Mass Movements" celebrated in Melbourne, Australia, in July 2009. The papers of this special issue provide insight into multiple aspects that may contribute to improve our capability to reduce landslide-related human and financial losses.

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Human activities, especially in the last two centuries, have had a huge impact on the environment and landscape through industrialisation and land-use change, leading to climate change, deforestation, desertification, land degradation, and air and water pollution. These impacts are strongly linked to the occurrence of geomorphological hazards, such as floods, landslides, snow avalanches, soil erosion, and others. This book, with chapters written by an international team of geomorphologists provides state-of-the-art knowledge about the contribution of geomorphology to the comprehension of hazards, links the work undertaken by geomorphologists to the framework of the likely impacts of climatic change and global environmental change, shows the significance of technology (remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems) for hazard and risk assessment and management, and demonstrates the role of geomorphology in vulnerability and risk analysis, disaster prevention and sustainability.

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Physical landscapes are one of the most fascinating facets of our Planet, which tell stories about the evolution of the surface of the Earth. This book provides an up-to-date information about the geomorphology of the selected 'classic' sites from around the world and shows the variety of geomorphological landscapes as moulded by different sets of processes acting over different timescales, from millions of years to days. The volume is written by nearly fifty geomorphologists from more than twenty countries who for many years have researched some of the unique sceneries on the planet. The thirty six chapters present each continent of the world. They describe landscapes of different origin, so that the reader can learn about the complexity of processes behind the sceneries.

