

## *Geoethik – für Gesellschaft und Geowissenschaften*

Martin Bohle, Dr. és sc.

ResearchGate D-4508-2014

- International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG), Board of Experts

- Ronin Research Scholar, @edgeryders; Member of EGU & AGU

Geosciences co-shape the human niche, that is, the planetary network of twinned natural and cultural landscapes. Bundled by global supply chains, humans restlessly alter the human niche through engineering, production and consumption. In turn, human agents face counter-intuitive system-behaviour, irreversible path-dependency and multi-facet values and interests. Geoethical thinking (Bohle et al., 2019) explores cultural substrates that would nurture the skills of agents and their operational circumstances when facing suchlike ‘wicked’ system-features.

Initially, geoethics was conceived by geoscientists for geoscientists [#], that is, for their professional functions in various societal contexts. Subsequently, as outlined in the Cape Town Statement on Geoethics [\*], geoethics evolved into an epistemic, moral hybrid for citizens interacting with the Earth system. Furthering geoethical thinking – that is, combining (given) geoethics with Kohlberg’s hierarchy of moral adequacy and Jonas’s imperative of responsibility – would result in shaping a ‘geoethical rationale’, namely, to act: *‘actor-centric, virtue-ethics focused, responsibility focused, knowledge-based, all-actor-inclusive, and universal-rights based’*. When formulated in this manner then geoethical thinking would support any human agent to navigate the human niche, for example, because, by operating at an intermediate normative level, it may frame how to handle diversity.

Bohle, M., Preiser, R., Di Capua, G., Peppoloni, S., & Marone, E. (2019). *Exploring Geoethics - Ethical Implications, Societal Contexts, and Professional Obligations of the Geosciences*. (M. Bohle, Ed.). Cham: Springer International Publishing. doi:10.1007/978-3-030-12010-8

[#] see: <http://www.geoethics.org/geoethics> “Geoethics consists of research and reflection on the values which underpin appropriate behaviours and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system. Geoethics deals with the ethical, social and cultural implications of geoscience education, research and practice, and with the social role and responsibility of geoscientists in conducting their activities.” [\*] <http://www.geoethics.org/ctsg>