

AlpWeek
Alps in transition



Demographic policies in the Alps: what can we learn from anthropology ?

Gabriele Orlandi

Idemec (Aix-Marseille University
French Center for Scientific Research)

- How development policies in the Alpine region are elaborated and implemented? How do they affect social life?
- How do public institutions relate to the ecological and socio-economic conditions that make mountain areas unique?
- Anthropology = paying attention to the social and cultural dimension of public policies, and exploring why they sometimes have different effects compared to the expected ones.

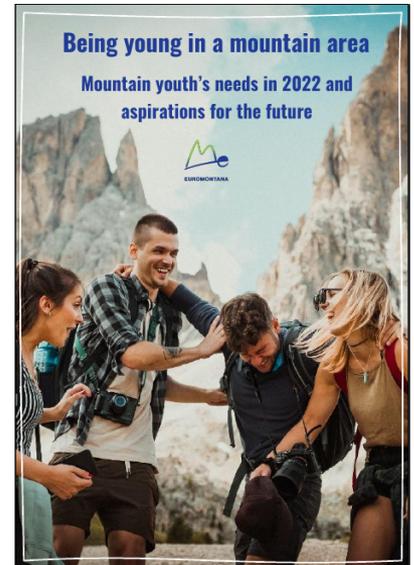
- In the Alps the concern of “development” is older than we usually think
- From the early 20th century, States have aimed – by improving living and working conditions – to counter depopulation and marginalisation in the Alps



(1957)

- *One solution doesn't fit all:* perceptions, fears, social structures and economic conditions influenced people's participation in these cooperative ventures
- Despite institutional action, depopulation in the Alpine region continued to worsen, particularly during *Les Trente Glorieuses*
- tourism *as* development?

- More recently, the Alpine region gained new attractiveness, providing a more healthy and natural living setting
- new inhabitants of non-EU origin slowed down the demographic decline in the Alps
- A challenging situation, particularly for younger generations (Euromontana 2022)



- Mobility, education, and housing services will be key-factors for demographic change in the Alps
- « ground level » approaches, as those of anthropologists, allow us to explore how some themes (such as quality of life and job opportunities appropriate to one's wishes) are locally understood.

→ By dialoguing with experts and technicians, anthropology can bring a significant contribution to the challenges the Alps are facing



TransAlp – Sustainable Transition and Applied Research in Alpine territories

- What are the conditions of ecological transition in the Alpine environment? How do mountain dwellers contribute to producing the goods and services needed to build a more just and sustainable society?
- Documenting through comparative fieldwork (CH, FR, and IT) new and innovative forms of local governance, and favouring links and collaborations in the Alpine region

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the background, rugged mountain peaks are partially covered in snow under a clear blue sky. The middle ground shows steep, rocky slopes with patches of green grass and small evergreen trees. A small village with stone buildings is nestled in a valley. A winding road and a stream are visible. The foreground shows a rocky, grassy slope.

Thank you for your attention !
gabriele.orlandi@etu.univ-amu.fr