

La soutenance de mémoire de Master en sciences sociales
- *pilier géographie* - de

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Living with a moving Mountain
A Case Study on Risk Perception in Brienz/Brinzauls (Switzerland)

aura lieu le

18 février 2021 à 17h00

Soutenance en ligne

<https://unine.webex.com/meet/etienne.piguet>

Directeur de mémoire : Etienne PIGUET

Experte : Valérie NOVEMBER

Résumé :

Brienz is a small village in the Canton of Graubünden in Switzerland, home of 80 permanent residents. It is situated in the area of 'Igl Rutsch', a permanent slide moving at one meter per year, and threatened by a rock fall. Measures are taken by the municipal authorities to decelerate Igl Rutsch while at the same time a relocation of the village of Brienz is prepared. This master thesis focusses on the question of how the permanent residents of Brienz experience and give meaning to the risk of Igl Rutsch, mainly based on qualitative interviews with 20 residents of Brienz.

Using the concept of risk perception, this thesis shows that Igl Rutsch has been known for many years without being perceived as a danger. Then a triggering event made clear that Igl Rutsch poses a real threat to Brienz. Presently, Igl Rutsch and its acceleration is experienced by all residents through changes in the (built) environment that can be understood as degradation of capital. The living with Igl Rutsch in future, is characterised by the uncertainty of an event happening and Brienz being relocated. Igl Rutsch led to a perceived division of the village, dividing those who moved to Brienz from those who have lived there for a long time. While the responsibility to treat the risk of Igl Rutsch is ascribed mainly to the municipal authorities, they are not fully trusted. Even though risk research shows how important an inclusion of the affected people is in order to achieve a successful risk management, the residents themselves are not involved in the planning of the municipality and indicate that their inputs are not taken into account. At the same time, they do not acknowledge their own experiences as a source of knowledge and therefore not as a basis for appropriate decisions.