



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: HYSOTIB - Global dynamics of hydro-sociality in river heritage landscapes of the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau

FUNDING PROGRAMME: H2020 Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions Individual Fellowship

CALL: H2020-MSCA-IF-2018-Global Fellowship – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

SCIENTIFIC FIELDS: Social Sciences and Humanities

HOST DEPARTMENT: DEC – Department of Economics

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Francesco Vallerani

FELLOW: Monia Chies

FINANCIAL DATA:

| Project total costs | Overall funding assigned to UNIVE |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| € 251.353,92 | € 251.353,92 |

ABSTRACT:

Global water challenges call urgently today for additional and deeper research by social scientists in order to achieve sustainability. By combining methods of geo-morphology and anthropology, HYSOTIB will provide an in-depth ethnographic study of one of the globe's key river heritage landscapes – the China's Qinghai Headwaters including the sources of the Yellow, Yangtze and Mekong rivers. The on-going transformation of the the Qinghai headwaters into a national park hinges on a profound socio-ecological paradox, where the locals (97% ethnic Tibetan) are considered by Chinese authorities as both drivers of environmental impact as well as central to local natural and cultural heritage preservation practices. HYSOTIB will disentangle the underlying dynamics of this phenomenon by investigating socio-cultural and environmental issues, thus bridging the still huge scientific gap between heritage- and water/river studies. The primary fieldwork will take place at the upper reaches of the Yangtze river in the Yushu Tibetan Prefecture (Qinghai Province). Selected case-study areas from the Three-River Source National Nature Reserve will be examined as hydro-social contexts of global encounters arising within defined ecological, ethnic and territorial boundaries. Thanks to the researcher's knowledge in Tibetan and Chinese language, and her previous fieldwork experience in Tibetan areas of China, HYSOTIB will provide a timely and improved understanding of the global context. Urgent environmental and anthropic risks, currently at the core of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Cooperation Agenda, will be addressed. The training in river science and heritage studies at the universities of Auckland (NZ) and Ca' Foscari in Venice (IT) will significantly cement the candidate's status as a leading geo-social scientist.

| Planned Start date | Planned End date |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 st January 2020 | 31 st December 2023 |

PARTNERSHIP:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Ca' Foscari University | Italia | Coordinatore |
| 2. University of Auckland | Nuova Zelanda | Partner |