



IPAI*S*AL

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Education and experience – a bit about me and salt

My passion for all thing salt started in 1996 when I worked as a coordinator for summer youth camps in the salinas of Imón in Guadalajara, Spain, where I met like-minded people, with whom I gradually started to work in favour of the local salt landscapes. We founded the Association of Friends of Inland Salinas, now the **Institute of Saltscapes and Salt Heritage (IPAI*S*AL)** in 2002, which I coordinate ever since. This NGO is devoted to the research, dissemination and sound use of the cultural, natural and human values of saltscapes and salt heritage, offering technical assistance and expertise in these areas, with **conservation, planning and management of salinas and saline wetlands**. We also offer publications (I am the **co-editor of *El Alfolí***, an interdisciplinary online popular science journal on salt-related topics, and author/editor of 8 salt-themed books) as well as training, exhibits and events.

We also participate in research projects, both at local as international level. Our research interests cover the sustainable local development around inland salinas and saline lakes, working in cooperation with the Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid and the Spanish Higher Research Council. In the last few years, we have been studying saltscapes of central and eastern Spain and saline lakes of the Central Ebro Basin in northeast Spain. Our projects involve **environmental quality, ecological restoration, biosaline agriculture, cultural heritage valuation and ecocultural tourism**. We have recently started collaborating with scholars from different universities around saline lakes of Chad and Turkey.

My training as a **MSc in Biology** at Leiden University in the Netherlands (1997) and as **postgraduate specialist in protected area management** at the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid, Spain (2003), helped with these tasks. I later obtained my **PhD on sustainability and local development of artisanal saltscapes** at the University of Barcelona in Spain (2017), wich received the **Best doctoral dissertation award** of my faculty. In addition, I have more than 20 years of experience as a consultant in environment, protected area management and local development in several countries in Europe, America and Africa.

I am also **adjunct professor at ICAI/Comillas Pontifical University** in Madrid specialised in environmental management and engineering and teach postgraduate courses on nature-based sustainable tourism at the **University Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid**. I am a **member of different scientific and conservation-oriented societies** devoted to the conservation of geological and industrial heritage (SEDPGYM, TICCIH, INCUNA) and the cultural values of wetlands and landscapes in general (Ramsar Culture Network, World Wetland Network, IALE-Europe).

Publications (selection)

- Cledera-Castro, M. D. M., Hueso-Kortekaas, K., Sanchez-Mata, C., Morales-Polo, C., Calzada-Funes, J., Delgado-Mellado, N., & Caro-Carretero, R. (2024). An exploratory study of fibre microplastics pollution in different process stages of salt production by solar evaporation in Spain. *Heliyon*, 10(11).
- Hueso-Kortekaas, K. (2019) *Salt in our veins. The patrimonialization processes of artisanal salt and saltscapes in Europe and their contribution to local development*. Parthenon Verlag, Germany, 349 pp.
- Hueso-Kortekaas, K. (2020) Artisanal saltscapes in Europe. From mining heritage to living cultural landscapes. *Identidades: territorio, cultura, patrimonio*, 8, 17 pp.
- Hueso-Kortekaas, K., & Carrasco-Vayá, J. F. (2024). The Patrimonialization of Traditional Salinas in Europe, a Successful Transformation from a Productive to a Services-Based Activity. *Land*, 13(6), 772.
- Hueso-Kortekaas, K., & Iranzo-García, E. (2022). Salinas and “Saltscapes” as a Geological Heritage with a Strong Potential for Tourism and Geoeducation. *Geosciences* 12 (3), 141-163.
- Iranzo-García, E., Hueso-Kortekaas, K., & Román-López, E. (2020). Inland Salinas in Spain: Classification, Characterisation, and Reflections on Unique Cultural Landscapes and Geoheritage. *Geoheritage*, 13 (1), 24.

Candidate's statement

I have always felt at home at the ISSLR ever since I joined it in 2008 (when I was pregnant with my first child!), even though I am not a tenure track scientist or do not fit in the most usual specialities of the Society, I have always felt the “**salinology spirit**” present, in the sense that the society is open to any salt-related discipline and to other sectors of society, such as industry, conservation or policy making.

Given my somewhat eclectic background, my training in the interface between nature, culture, and society as well as my expertise halfway science and practice, I hope to contribute by **giving voice to entities that are usually overlooked by traditional, hard science, such as conservation NGOs, international projects, and local heritage recovery initiatives**. I believe an open relation between conservation, policy and science would benefit all stakeholders involved, cross-fertilize their work and, above all, help achieve one of the main goals of our society, which is to **increase and spread the knowledge on saline lakes and their associated values worldwide**. Their voice has increasingly been heard in the past ICSSLR conferences and would be very pleased to continue contributing to this effort.

Also, given my geographical background, I would be very pleased to try to **stimulate the presence of Spanish-speaking scientists in the society**, who will certainly be able to contribute with their expertise and knowledge, built upon the extraordinary richness, abundance, and diversity of Iberian inland saline landscapes.

I thank you very much for your attention and hope to count on your support!



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