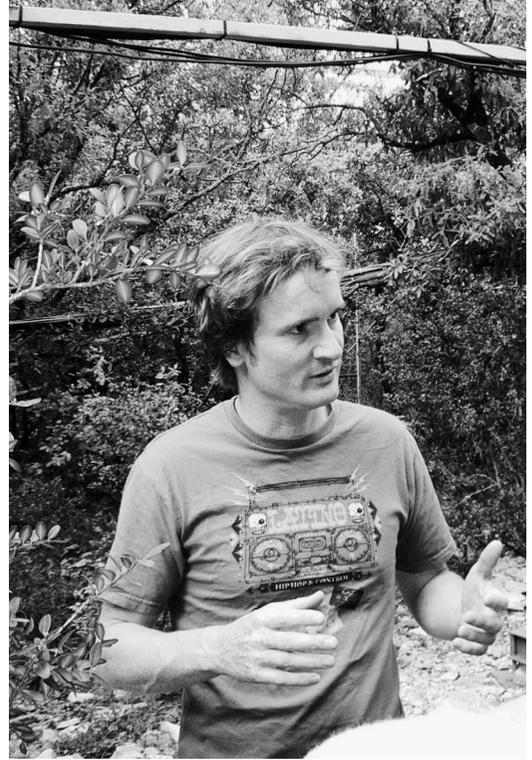


*In Memoriam*

LAURENT MISSON

1971–2010



(Photo credit: Joel Guiot)

Dr. Laurent Misson passed away on 10 March in the Alps when he was killed by an avalanche while skiing with friends. It is not possible to fully describe the void left behind with his death, but the modest narrative below is meant to introduce Laurent and convey at least some of his importance to the dendroecological community.

Laurent was an outstanding scientist in forest science and ecophysiology. He started his PhD thesis in forest science in the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, where he quickly realized the value of dendrochronology for understanding the functioning of the tree growth and

solving problems related to the thinning effects on tree growth. He developed novel methodologies that mixed standard dendrochronological techniques with ecophysiological approaches and brilliantly defended his thesis in 2000. Afterwards, he became interested in process modeling related to field measurements to understand tree growth, and he began developing these skills. Laurent did his first post-doc in Berkeley to learn more about ecophysiology, and he developed a tree-growth model during his postdoc in Marseille (2001–2002). This model (MAIDEN) is very efficient in simulating tree-ring series, thanks to a double

calibration using fine-scale ecophysiological data collected in forest stations and to extended tree-ring series collected in a large geographical domain. During his second post-doc in Berkeley (2002–2007), Laurent became an acknowledged expert in eddy covariance measurements as an active member of the global FLUXNET network of micrometeorological tower sites. Afterwards, he obtained his position in the French CNRS at the Centre for Evolutionary and Functional and Ecology (CEFE) in Montpellier (2007). There, he actively developed research on the effects of drought on Mediterranean forests (project

DROUGHT+) by conceiving innovative equipment to simulate severe drought at the Puechabon forest station. Laurent left behind a record of high-quality contributions to the study of the carbon cycle in trees and its response to climate change, immortalized forever in about 30 research articles, some of them being pioneer papers in tree-ring research.

Laurent was scientifically hyperactive, always imagining new projects, and now abruptly, everything has stopped! His life was too short, but he will remain in our thoughts for all time.

—Contributed by Joel Guiot