

*Phil Hughes gave a keynote lecture on Mediterranean glaciation at a recent meeting [September 13-22] in Xining, China. Three days of working sessions were held at the Qinghai Institute of Salt Lakes in Xining, followed by a five-day traverse of the Tibetan Plateau to Lhasa with visits to numerous field sites en route.*

This meeting was funded by the US National Science Foundation and the International Union for Quaternary Research and organised by [Glenn Thackray](#) and [Lewis Owen](#). This project aimed to assess global variability in the timing of Late Pleistocene mountain glacier fluctuations, and to initiate research to fill critical data gaps. Data from widespread locales indicate that the timing of mountain glacier maxima and subsidiary advances varied widely, and that such variability likely reflects important palaeoclimatic processes. Specific aims of the project included:

1. Assess the quality and quantity of chronologic data relating to mountain glacier fluctuations.
2. Determine if regional and hemispheric patterns of mountain glacier fluctuations exist.
3. Identify areas in which critical data gaps exist and initiate research to improve chronologies.
4. Evaluate the palaeoclimatic processes responsible for variability in mountain glacier fluctuations.



The field meeting in the Kunlun Shan mountains.



*The Tanggula Shan on the Qinghai-Tibet border.*



*On the Tibetan Plateau.*



*A fine-looking glacially-transported boulder on the Tibetan Plateau.*



*Dr. Phil Hughes with Dr. Jingdong Zhao of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou.*