



**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (INHIGEO)**

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**INHIGEO CIRCULAR 2025, Number 3
September 2025**

Dear INHIGEO members and friends,

this INHIGEO Quarterly Circular brings to you a brief report on the recent INHIGEO meeting in Dunedin, New Zealand, the minutes of our business meeting there including the promised information on our membership structure. We have also some preliminary information on our next Annual Symposium in Zimbabwe. We expect the first circular to be posted on the INHIGEO website in about a month. I will then send you all an e-mail with the link to make sure that nobody misses it.

There is also a new Early Career Research Profile and the third issue of our new series on history of geoscience archives. You are invited to contribute to both!

In the next INHIGEO Quarterly Circular to be issued in December 2025, we will send out our usual call for new INHIGEO membership nominations. Thus, you may already start thinking about this important issue.

With kind regards and best wishes to all of you

Martina Kölbl-Ebert
INHIGEO Secretary General

50th INHIGEO Annual Symposium 2025

The 50th INHIGEO Annual Symposium 2025 was recently held together with the 25th International Congress of History, Science & Technology (ICHST 2025 <https://www.ichst2025.org/>) on June 28th to July 5th in Dunedin (New Zealand). INHIGEO organized three Symposia,

- 033 *Indigenous peoples' knowledge and beliefs about the Earth: an open historiographical issue* (conveners Ezio Vaccari & Martina Kölbl-Ebert),
- 034 *The Geological Notebook: reflections in the field* (conveners: Kathleen Histon & Carol Bacon) and
- 050 *Geological Sciences and Empires: Connections forging the production of knowledge* (conveners: Silvia Figueirôa & Marianne Klemun; session in cooperation with DHST's Science and Empire Commission)

INHIGEO also had a mid-congress 2-hour walking tour of the Geology and Building Stones of the Otago University Campus led by Dr Nick Mortimer (GNS Science, Dunedin) and a 7-day post-congress geo-historical excursion on the geology of the North Island of New Zealand led by Dr Hamish Campbell (Earth Sciences New Zealand):



Photo caption: Mid-congress walking tour with Dr Nick Mortimer (GNS Science, Dunedin) describing geology of New Zealand and Building stone used in construction of campus (left) and explaining the building stones of the University of Otago Clock Tower (right).



Photo caption:
Group photo 7-day post-congress geo-historical excursion on the geology of the North Island of New Zealand led by Dr Hamish Campbell on left (Earth Sciences New Zealand).

Minutes of the INHIGEO Business Meeting

Dunedin (New Zealand), 4th of July 2025

1. Welcome and Opening

INHIGEO President Ezio Vaccari opened the Business Meeting and welcomed all members and guests present.

2. Regrets and apologies from those unable to attend

Apologies have been received from Lucero Morelos-Rodriguez and Chao Liu, who both have to attend a symposium as panelists. Apologies have also been sent by Mike Johnston. Apologies have been received also from Carol Bacon, who attended the symposium in Dunedin, but had to leave early because of urgent family matters.

3. Arrangement of the agenda

The agenda was included in the June INHIGEO Quarterly Circular sent to all members by e-mail on June 23rd, 2025.

1. Welcome
2. Regrets/apologies
3. Arrangement of the agenda (requests for modification)
4. Minutes of the previous meeting, Busan (2024) – discussion / matters arising
5. President's report – discussion / matters arising
6. Secretary-General's report – discussion / matters arising
7. Editor's report – discussion / matters arising
8. Publication and Outreach Coordinator's report – discussion / matters arising
9. Future meetings of the commission; INHIGEO Annual Symposium 2026 in Zimbabwe
10. Finalization of 2025 ballot
11. Any other business
12. Vote of thanks

There were no requests for modification.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the business meeting in Busan, 28 August 2024, have been published in the INHIGEO Quarterly Circular of September 2024.

5. President's Report

Dear INHIGEO Members, dear Guests,

In my report I would like to present you the major achievements and activities of our Commission since we met last time at the International Geological Congress (IGC) in Busan, South Korea, in August 2024. Of course, what I am going to tell you would have been not possible without the precious help, collaboration and constant assistance by our Secretary-General Martina Kölbl-Ebert and all the members of the Board.

Within the IGC in Busan INHIGEO organized five scientific sessions and one workshop on the following topics: "Geosites and georoutes in the history of geological sciences", "Anthropocene, History and the Geosciences: contributions to contemporary debates", "History of women in geology: trailblazers, leaders and those in the shadows", "History of geoscientific travels in Asia and beyond", "General contributions to the history of geological

sciences", "Hidden histories in the geological sciences". I am now delighted to inform you that the papers presented at the session on "History of women in geology" will be part of a volume which will be published in the Special Publications of the Geological Society of London and will be edited by Martina Kölbl-Ebert and Kathleen Histon. More papers on the history of women in geology will be published in a special issue of the IUGS journal Episodes.

At the IGC, INHIGEO also took part to the special event on the Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites, organized by the International Commission on Geoheritage. INHIGEO members presented six new sites selected for their importance in the history and the development of the geological sciences (Agno Valley and Mt. Vesuvius in Italy; Scheibenberg in Germany; Maruia Falls here in New Zealand; Cavansham Ferry and Llanstephan in Great Britain; Esmark and Tank Moraines in Norway). INHIGEO is presently involved in the selection process of 3 new geo-historical sites to propose for the Third 100 stage of this IUGS project, which will be finalized in 2026.

The INHIGEO fieldtrip to Northern Kyushu (Japan), organized by Michiko Yajima and other Japanese colleagues, took place on 1-4 September 2024, after the IGC in Busan, and included geohistorical sites such as Imaemon Kiln and Izumiyama Quarry, Gamadasu Dome, Mt. Unzen volcano and hot springs, as well as the Dinosaur Museum in Nagasaki. A wonderful excursion hosted as usual with great competence and kindness by our Japanese friends.

The 2024 "INHIGEO Early Career Award", for the best presentation at the annual symposium by a young scholar, was presented in Busan to Lucero Morelos-Rodriguez (Mexico) for her presentation Mexican Women in Paleontology and the Oil Industries at the 49th INHIGEO Symposium within the 37th IGC.

At the end of the IGC the IUGS Council approved the nomination of our new INHIGEO Board for 2024-2028 as follows: Ezio Vaccari (President), Martina Kölbl-Ebert (Secretary-General), Marianne Klemun (vice president Europe), Ernie Hamm (vice president North America), Lucero Morelos-Rodriguez (vice president Latin America), Sharad Master (vice president Africa), Carol Bacon (vice president Australasia / Oceania), Chengsheng Sun (vice president Asia), Kerry Magruder (editor), Kathleen Histon (Publications and Outreach coordinator), Maria Faccioli (webmaster).

In Busan our honorary member from the USA and former INHIGEO President 2012-16, Ken Taylor was announced as the recipient of the "INHIGEO Vladimir V. Tikhomirov History of Geology Award" for 2024 in recognition of his outstanding original contributions and achievements that mark a major advance and contribution to the history of the Earth Sciences. The award was later presented to Ken during an event hosted by his university to celebrate his achievement on 18 September 2024, at the History of Science Collections of the University of Oklahoma in Norman (USA). As part of this event, Kerry Magruder moderated the Tikhomirov Award Roundtable: A Fascination for Geology's Past - Three Historians Reflect on their Work between awardee Ken Taylor, Silvia Figueirôa and myself. A selection of rare books and maps from the collections related to Ken Taylor's scholarship in the history of geology were on display during the reception held in his honour on the occasion of the award presentation. It was really a wonderful day!

More important awards were assigned in 2024: our Secretary-General Martina Kölbl-Ebert was awarded the "Sue Tyler Friedman Medal" by the Geological Society of London for her contribution to the history of geology. And Silvia Figueirôa was the recipient of the 2024 "Mary C. Rabbitt History and Philosophy of Geology Award" of the Geological Society of America's History and Philosophy of Geology Division. Congratulations to both Martina and Silvia!

The INHIGEO Webinar Series continued, thanks to the organization by Maddalena Napolitani and Victor Monnin, to provide a dynamic free-access virtual forum for discussion, with contributions by early-career and young scholars. Two webinars were held in September and November, covered topics such as "Bridging the Gulf: Intersections of Geology, Biology and

Environmental Justice" (Kailani Acosta, USA) and "The Art of the Carboniferous Period in the times of decarbonization: a short introduction" (Marta and Pawel Tomczok, Poland). In 2025 two more webinars were organized: in January "Geology, Diplomacy and Exchange: focus in the Chinese context" by Jingfei Zhang and Lijuan Yang (China) and in April "Coming Out of the Shadows: Women and Geology at Oxford, 1813 – 1914" by Grace Exley (UK).

In December 2024 the new INHIGEO website was launched, thanks to the excellent work of new webmaster Maria Faccioli, with the help of former webmaster Johannes Mattes. Now we need the help of all of you for keeping the website more and more informative and updated.

In the first part of 2025 INHIGEO also sponsored the conference Epistemic Frontiers? Geoscientific Knowledge, Authority, and Politics of Participation in Arctic and African Exploration in Oslo (Norway) co-organized by our Austrian member Johannes Mattes in April, and the session on History of Forensic Geology at the conference of the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology, held in Rome (Italy) in May.

We also took part to the first meeting of the new IUGS Executive Council held in Paris in March, where our report was received positively, with no particular recommendation: and also our report to DHST Council was approved with positive comments. This year in fact we have organized here in Dunedin three symposia, instead of one, and with an important collaboration with the commission on Science and Empire, following the DHST recommendations which were sent to us after the ICHST in 2021. In general, our collaborations with other Commissions have been enlarged and consolidated.

Concerning our publications - which will be treated in the reports by our Editor and Publications and Outreach Coordinator - I would like to recall the informative Quarterly Circulars compiled by our Secretary-General with the help of the Board, and the Annual Record, which has passed from the expert care by John Diemer to the capable hands of new editor Kerry Magruder. Moreover, we have some conference proceedings in progress: among them, the publication of some papers from our Symposium in Armenia, is in its final stage. The volume, edited by Marianne Klemun and me, with the title History of Geology without borders: Armenia and beyond, will be published by Springer Nature and dedicated in memory of our former INHIGEO president Barry Cooper. Also, some papers for the proceedings of our conference in Poland have been submitted to Statszek Wolkowickz for a special issue of the Polish Geological Institute Special Publications and the editorial process is in progress.

We also have received from the publisher Springer Nature the proposal to open a new series on history of geological sciences: this offer has been approved by the Board with some conditions, and the proposal for this new INHIGEO series it is currently in preparation.

On the impressive Anniversary series and our contributions to the IUGS journal Episodes, as well as on other publications, more details will be given by our Publication and Outreach Coordinator, Kathleen Histon.

I would like to conclude with asking to all the members to contribute to the life and the future of the Commission with proposals and ideas. We are a community and we need to hear the voice of everybody. We need your help also for inviting new members to join us, in particular from non-represented or little represented countries and from new generations of young scholars, and not only geoscientists or historians. We need to grow and we need to grow well, being open to transdisciplinary interactions and becoming more useful to sciences and society.

6. Secretary General's report

2024 and 2025 was filled with preparations for the INHIGEO sessions at the ICHST in Dunedin, including finding someone, who would organize fieldtrips for the onsite participants.

INHIGEO has issued travel grants to keynote speakers in Busan, to several early career scholars and to a couple of INHIGEO members without funding to attend the conferences in Busan, in Oslo and here in Dunedin. Such money is provided both by the IUGS and the IUHPST's Division of History of Science and Technology. For this the INHIGEO Secretary general and the INHIGEO president provide annual reports and requests for financial support to both bodies.

The quarterly "INHIGEO Circular" continues with issues in late March, June, September and December of each year, prepared mostly by the Secretary-General and the Publications and Outreach Coordinator and sent out by e-mail. You are welcome to send in news items to be shared with the general INHIGEO membership. The Annual Record documents and compiles all INHIGEO activities thanks to our new editor Magruder and can be accessed via our homepage. It also contains the current membership directory. More about the Annual Record from Kerry in his report.

Membership Development

We have received the sad news that three INHIGEO members have died since the last business meeting. Please remember kindly: Florencio Aceñolaza (Argentina), Vidojko Jovic (Serbia) and Andrzej Grodzicki (Poland).

A major effort of recent months was the updating of the INHIGEO membership list. As you know, our statutes and bylaws require INHIGEO members to state every four years whether they want to continue their membership. This procedure was now again due. For the first time, we have also asked for some additional statistical data such as gender and age, but also for your areas of expertise, which will allow us to address you personally, should we need experts for specific topics.

I'd like to share some preliminary data that I have gleaned from your responses over the last months:

The first call for continuing your INHIGEO membership was issued in the INHIGEO Quarterly Circular in December 2024 with a deadline of 20 January 2025:

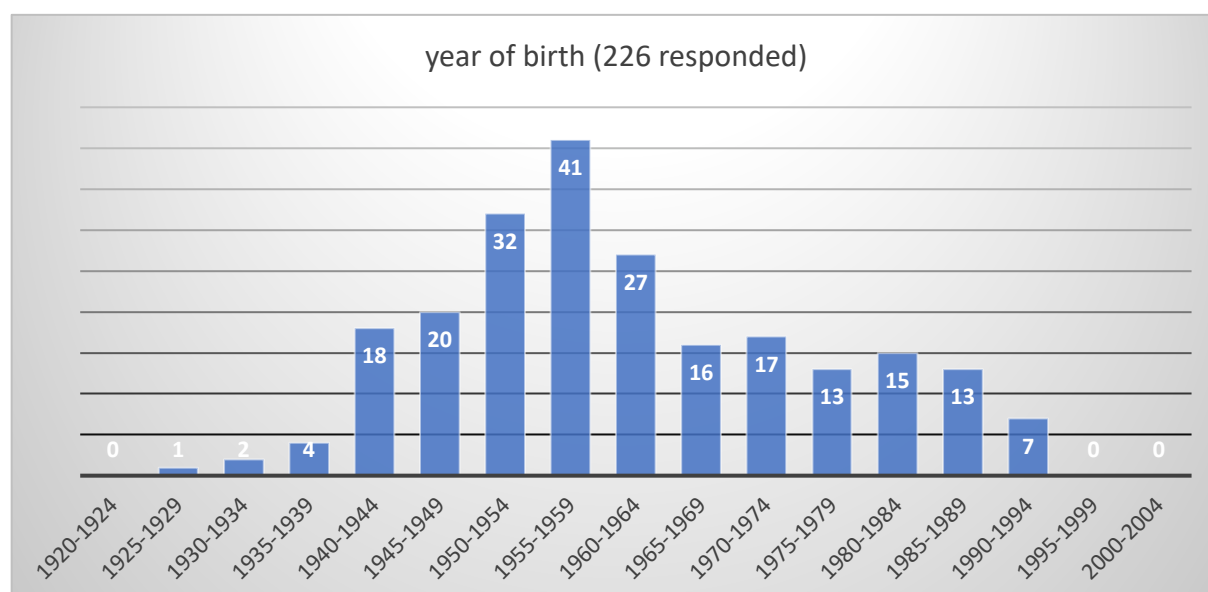
- only 15% of the INHIGEO members (46) responded, which makes me wonder, how many of us actually take a look into the Quarterly Circular
- an additional 33 % (105) responded after a 1st reminder was sent by e-mail on 30 January
- an additional 13% (40) responded after a 2nd reminder was sent by e-mail on 11 March
- the remaining stragglers, were divided up among the VPs and several other, strategically placed INHIGEO members, who would mostly be able to address the non-responding members in their native language. This took place mostly in April and led to the response of another 19% (59)
- Then there are about 1% (3), who have not responded, but are Honorary Senior Members, so they actually do not need to respond
- 1 % (4) turned out to be deceased; one of these was accidentally left in the mailing list, although we were informed of his death last year.
- 1 % (4) actively informing us that they would not want to continue their membership for various reasons, mostly old age or retirement.
- The rest were informed on 6 June that their INHIGEO membership was now terminated: This got us responses in various states of panic from some 2% (5) of our members that

wished to stay on, mostly claiming that they had had no previous communication on the issue.

- The remaining 15% have been deleted from the membership list. That is 47 people, twelve of whom we seem to have no valid e-mail address anymore.

That makes 258 members, who have successfully renewed their membership. That is 87 % Ordinary Members, 8% Associate Members and 5% Honorary Senior Members. 75% of INHIGEO members that have identified their gender are male, 25% female.

226 of those that responded gave us their year of birth. The oldest member was born in 1929, the youngest in 1994. The average age is 64. Only 2,7% of our members are 35 years old or younger, corresponding to our definition of early career scholars.



Most of the INHIGEO members, who are from the older end of the spectrum apparently have been INHIGEO members for many years, but there are still many newcomers, who embark on history of the geosciences near the end of their career as a geoscientist. Among younger INHIGEO members there is a higher percentage of people coming from history into history of the geoscience rather than from the geosciences.

The age spectrum is skewed somewhat to the older side, which means that it is highly likely that INHIGEO membership will continue to decline over the next one to two decades, as old members drop out. On the younger side of the spectrum, we seem to have reached some sort of plateau, which leads me to believe that if we continue to recruit new members the way as we do right now, we will stabilize at a sustainable membership of 130 to 150 members.

I have also tried to figure out, how busy our VPs are: only 5% of our members come from Africa, 17% fall under Asia, 5 % under Australia and Oceania, 49% of our members are Europeans, 9% are from Latin-America and 15% from North America. The three countries with the highest number of members are the USA (29 members); Italy (24); China (20).

Which – considering the number of inhabitants in these countries – puts Italy clearly in the lead; plus they are also very good at recruiting younger members.

Coming to the end of my report, I would like to wish each and every one of you peace, safety and good health! Thank you for your lively cooperation and for being part of our international INHIGEO family!

7. Editor's Report

Kerry Magruder informed the audience about the status of the *Annual Record*, no. 57, to cover activities for 2024. It is still not too late to submit member reports, which should be sent directly to Kerry Magruder (kvmagruder@gmail.com) within the month of August. A non-editable draft of some portions of the report will be available shortly for proofing, and corrections can be sent or gaps may be filled with last-minute information. Information about future conferences would be most welcome, including those to be held in 2025 and 2026.

INHIGEO President informed the members that there will no longer be funds from the IUGS to print a small number of hard copies of the *Annual Record*. Consequently, from now on the *Annual Record* will be published only in digital format on the INHIGEO website, with the possibility to download the pdf file.

8. Publication and Outreach Coordinator's Report

Publications

Papers for IUGS journal *Episodes*: Four articles and two book reviews have been published during 2024. In addition, a number of articles under History of Geology and INHIGEO book reviews are currently being processed within the editorial system planned for 2025 and collaboration is ongoing for papers for a Special issue Empowerment of women in geoscience towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) planned for 2026.

INHIGEO Symposia proceedings: The proceedings was published of the 47th INHIGEO Symposium held in Les Eyzies, France in 2022 – edited by Gaston Godard, Philippe Grandchamp and Pascal Richet as a set of 21 collected papers, 16 abstracts & preface comprising 277 pages in the journal *Travaux du Comité français d'Histoire de la Géologie*, 2023, 3ème série (tome 36 bis).

48th INHIGEO Symposium Poland: a collection of papers is planned for publication.

49th INHIGEO Symposium 2024 / IGC Busan (Korea): Two Special Issues arising from sessions held during the IGC are currently in progress: Session T38 S1 – *Anthropocene: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives* with Springer Nature; T40 S1 – *History of Women in Geology: Trailblazers, Leaders and Those in the Shadows* is planned as a Geological Society of London Special Publications volume.

INHIGEO sponsored Cross-disciplinary Symposia Special Issues: A set of six papers by Italian scholars in part arising from the INHIGEO sponsored session on History of Stratigraphy in Italy at the STRATI 2019 International Congress of Stratigraphy held in Milan (Italy) are published in *Earth Sciences History*, vol. 43, issue 1 (guest editor: Ezio Vaccari). They include studies on various aspects of the history of Italian geology including stratigraphy, travels and mining ranging from the 17th to 20th century.

A cross-disciplinary INHIGEO sponsored symposium was organized at the 6th International Paleontological Congress in Khon Kaen (Thailand) in November 2022. A collection of 6 papers were published as Part 1 of a Special Issue in *Earth Sciences History* (2024, 43: 2) and a second set are currently being processed by the Guest editors (K.Histon, T.Yamada and S.Turner) together with the editor John Diemer as Special Issue Part 2 of *Earth Sciences History*.

Another Special Issue of *Earth Sciences History* (guest editors: Maddalena Napolitani and Victor Monnin) will include papers from the INHIGEO sponsored one-day conference "Histories of Earth Sciences: Visual and Interdisciplinary Approaches amid an Environmental Crisis", held in Varese (Italy) in 2023.

Outreach

INHIGEO Anniversaries: Twelve Anniversaries in Geo-History were solicited and prepared in collaboration with the authors for 2024: these were posted monthly on the IUGS website and on the DHST social media, published in the monthly *IUGS E Bulletin* and are archived permanently on the INHIGEO website <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>

INHIGEO Quarterly Circular: Preparation of outreach items regarding the Anniversaries, Early Career Research Profiles, new publications from *Episodes*, Awards, various news items.

INHIGEO Website: Collaboration with Web Master (J. Mattes and M. Faccioli) for details regarding recent publications of INHIGEO, Anniversaries and other outreach activities.

IUGS Website: Collaboration for posting of the INHIGEO Anniversaries and INHIGEO news on the IUGS Homepage under news and for the E Bulletin.

DHST social media: Collaboration for outreach with the Division of History of Science and Technology of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST/DHST). Provision of INHIGEO news items and monthly Anniversaries for posting on their social media.

9. Future Meetings of the Commission

2026: The 51st INHIGEO Annual Symposium will take place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, and include a fieldtrip from South Africa to Zimbabwe.

The 52nd INHIGEO Annual Symposium in 2027 will take place in Vienna.

In 2028, the 53rd INHIGEO Annual Symposium will take place in conjunction with the next International Geological Congress in Calgary (Canada).

In 2029, the 54th INHIGEO Annual Symposium will join the next ICHST in Paris, France.

For 2030, INHIGEO has been invited by Khallaf El Ghalbi to Meknès in Morocco.

10. Finalization of 2023 ballot

Over the past months, the INHIGEO Board has reviewed the nominations for new INHIGEO members: 16 new members from 11 countries have successfully applied:

- Ten new Associate member: Ihor Bubniak (Ukraine), Amelia Constantino Ortiz (Mexico), Grace Exley (UK), Rachael Goba (Zimbabwe), Jaana Halla (Finland), Anthony Martin (Zimbabwe), Elina Lehtonen (Finland), Sangmyeoung Moon (South Korea), Miguel Munizago (Chile) and Brian Pratt (Canada)
- And 6 new Ordinary Members: Alessio Argentieri (Italy), Cynthia Burek (UK), Gönenç Göçmengil (Turkey), Luigi Ingaliso (Italy), Peter Lincoln (UK) and Irina Podgorny (Argentina).

The assembly issued a warm welcome to all of them!

As always, INHIGEO encourages proposals of new memberships, in particular from non-represented countries and from young researchers. So, if you know of any suitable candidates, please do not hesitate to submit nominations for the next ballot, which will take place in spring 2026.

As a result of this year's ballot, INHIGEO now has 273 members from 56 countries.

11. Any other business

The INHIGEO Early Career Award was conferred to Dr Sarah Qidwai (Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of York, UK) for her presentation on "Islam, Geology, and Colonialism in 19th-Century South Asia", within the INHIGEO sponsored Symposium 033 "Indigenous peoples' knowledge and beliefs about the Earth: an open historiographical issue".

Sharad Master (INHIGEO Vice-President Africa) informed the audience about the plans for next year's INHIGEO symposium and excursions in South Africa and Zimbabwe. A first circular with preliminary programme, call for papers and expression of interest is expected in October 2025 and will be sent out to all INHIGEO members.

12. Vote of thanks

INHIGEO President Ezio Vaccari thanked the ICHST Organizing Committee and in particular the convenors of the 2025 INHIGEO sessions, as well as the organizers of the fieldtrips in New Zealand: "On behalf of INHIGEO I would like to thank all the organizers of the 2025 INHIGEO symposia at the ICHST (in particular Martina, Marianne, Silvia, Kathleen and Carol): you all did a really wonderful job. And we deeply thank also our two colleagues from New Zealand, Nick Mortimer and Hamish Campbell, who have organized respectively the mid-conference fieldtrip and the post-conference excursion. Thank you for having contributed to an important INHIGEO tradition!".

Awards

The **INHIGEO Early Career Award** was conferred at the INHIGEO Business Meeting on 4th July 2025 by Professor Ezio Vaccari (INHIGEO President) to Dr Sarah Qidwai (University of York, UK) for her presentation *Islam, Geology, and Colonialism in 19th-Century South Asia* within the INHIGEO sponsored Symposium 033 *Indigenous peoples' knowledge and beliefs about the Earth: an open historiographical issue*.



Photo Caption: Sarah Qidwai being congratulated for her award by Ezio Vaccari (left) at the INHIGEO Business meeting and during her presentation (right) in Symposium 033 *Indigenous peoples' knowledge and beliefs about the Earth: an open historiographical issue*.

51st INHIGEO Annual Symposium in 2026

First half of September 2026 (dates to be confirmed), in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Pre-Conference Excursion, **Johannesburg, South Africa**, with visits to Gold Mining museums in Johannesburg at Gold Reef City, Cradle of Humankind (visit to Maropeng, Sterkfontein, and to Origins Centre, University of the Witwatersrand)

After the excursion, delegates fly from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (flight organized by the local hosts)

Main Meeting at **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe** at a good hotel with conference facilities

- Included in the visit: Sunset cruises up the Zambezi River
- Dinner in Boma on banks of Zambezi
- Visits to Victoria Falls
- At least three days of talks with the following topics:
 - History of pre- and post-colonial mining in Southern Africa
 - History of palaeoanthropology in Southern Africa
 - History of geological exploration in Central Africa
 - Open Theme on History of Geological Sciences
- Day trip to Livingstone Museum, Livingstone, Zambia (no additional visa required)
- Other activities: Game viewing safari; aerial flights over the Falls, etc.

Post-Conference Excursion flight to Bulawayo (Zimbabwe's second city). Stay at Game Lodge adjacent to Matobo National Park, an area of great scenic beauty with granite tors, Rhodes Grave, Bushman Rock Art

- Visits to Bulawayo Natural History Museum with displays on History, Geology and Mining, Natural History.
- Visit to Bulawayo Club
- Departure for Great Zimbabwe (by bus). Overnight at Great Zimbabwe and visit to Great Zimbabwe.

Departure to either Bulawayo or Harare.

The 1st circular of the conference will be posted on the INHIGEO website by late October. We will sent out the link by e-mail to make sure that you do not miss it.

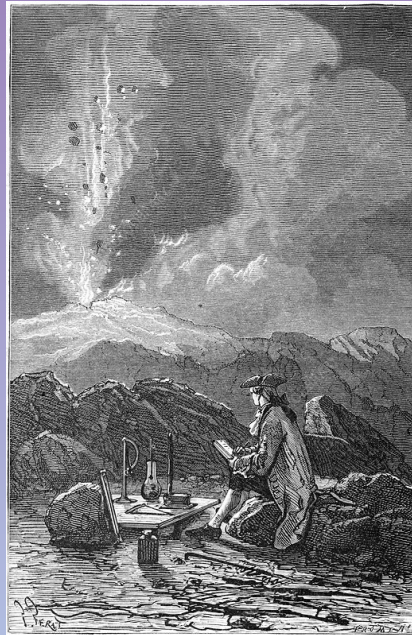
INHIGEO Webinars

The next INHIGEO Webinar will take place on Friday, **26 September 2025**, 16:00-17:30 CET and feature a talk by Dr Valentina Roberti, Università di Catania, titled "Volcanology as an experimental science: the evolution of scientific instruments for studying Mount Etna".

INHIGEO WEBINARS
New Perspectives in the History of Earth Sciences



Eighth meeting
OF VOLCANOS AND INSTRUMENTS



Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729-1799) observing an eruption of Etna (1874)

September 26, 2025 – 16:00-17:30 (CET)

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Guest Speaker

Valentina Roberti – Università di Catania, “Volcanology as an experimental science: the evolution of scientific instruments for studying Mount Etna”

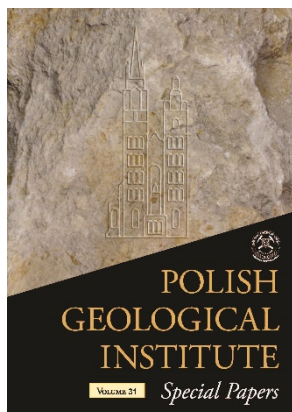
For further information, contact Victor Monnin and Maddalena Napolitani:
victor.monnin@gmail.com ; maddalena.napolitani@gmail.com

Here is the link: Click to join the meeting!

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTBmZjhhODYtOGYzNS00MGRiLWEzMWEtMzhhOGRiNGZkNDYw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229252ed8b-dffc-401c-86ca-6237da9991fa%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d6167fa5-51f8-494c-b417-b69858ef9d9f%22%7d

Meeting ID: 342 151 555 728 5
Passcode: mA2bP3GN

INHIGEO Publications



The proceedings from the 48th INHIGEO Symposium held in Cracow (Poland) in 2023 has been published as a collection of papers in the Polish Geological Institute Special Papers, 2025, vol. 31. Edited by Stanisław Wołkowicz, Piotr Krzywiec.

<https://www.pgi.gov.pl/oferta-inst/wydawnictwa/serie-wydawnicze/pgi-special-papers/16436-special-papers-tom-31-2025.html>

Episodes

Two new articles and a review of a book on the History of Geology that may be of interest to members have been published in the journal Episodes: these may be downloaded from the links below:

Title: *Reassessing the Origin of Fossils in pre-Enlightenment Europe: 1300–1700*

Author: Ivano Del Prete

Episodes 2025; 48(3): 373–383.

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?volume=48&number=3&spage=373&vmd=Full>

Title: *Between fieldwork and classroom training: the Geological School and the early geological surveys of China (1913–1916)*

Author: Yang Lijuan

Episodes 2025; published online July 1, 2025.

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2430&vmd=Full>

Book Review by Gregory A. Good

Title: *The Emergence of Geophysics: Journeys into the Twentieth Century*

Author: Richard J. Howarth

Episodes 2025; published online August 15, 2025.

<https://www.e-episodes.org/journal/view.html?doi=10.18814/epiiugs/2025/025029>

If you are interested in contributing a paper or book review related to the History of the Geological Sciences to IUGS journal Episodes please contact the **INHIGEO Publications and outreach coordinator**.

Anniversaries Series for the INHIGEO Website and IUGS E Bulletin: new papers published!

Lucero Morelos-Rodríguez (Mexico)

Established 60 years ago:

Mexican geologist María Fernanda Campa and the Mexican Petroleum Institute (1965–2025)

In Mexico, as in other countries, petroleum geology is one of the youngest specialties within the geological sciences, associated with hydrocarbon exploration in the early 20th century. In 1965, the Mexican government established the Mexican Petroleum Institute for carrying out research, technological development, innovation, and the optimization of production processes and one of the leading figures was María Fernanda Campa (1940–2019).

IUGS E-Bulletin 218, July 2025;

https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/morelos-rodriguez_l_mexican_petroleum_institute_established_60_years_ago.pdf

Ezio Vaccari (Italy)

The origins of marine geology 300 years ago:

Luigi Ferdinando Marsili's "Physical History of the Sea" (1725)

The Italian scholar Luigi Ferdinando Marsili or Marsigli (1658–1730) was interested in the structure of the seabed and its features and in 1725 published the treatise *Histoire Physique de la Mer* (Physical History of the Sea). This book collected the results of at least forty years of fieldwork undertaken from various boats and vessels, with the use of soundings and probes for measuring the depth of the sea and for collecting samples from the sea bottom. His studies ranged from the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas to the coast of the Atlantic and to the English Channel.

IUGS E-Bulletin 219, August 2025;

https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/vaccari_e.-marsilis-physical-history-of-the-sea_300_years_ago.pdf

Johannes Mattes (Austria)

New 'Culture' of Polar Research: 150 Years Ago:

A Laboratory in the Ice: Carl Weyprecht's Vision of Polarforschung

In September 1875, the German-Austrian naval officer Carl Weyprecht (1838–81) delivered a programmatic speech at the 48th Assembly of German Naturalists and Physicians in Graz, laying the intellectual foundation for a cooperative study of the polar regions. He campaigned for a novel, 'scientific' vision of *Polarforschung* (polar research), distinct from geographical explorations and called for the establishment of land-based, stationary observatories staffed by scientifically trained personnel conducting standardized measurements in coordination with international partners.

IUGS E-Bulletin 220, September 2025;

https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/mattes_j.-new_culture_of_polar_science_150_years_ago.pdf

If you are interested in submitting contributions for this series, please contact the INHIGEO Publications and Outreach Coordinator.

Early Career Research Profiles

This profile series on young members of INHIGEO is to create a space where early career scholars can present their studies and research interests within the history of the geological sciences to the whole membership and anyone who receives the newsletter, in order to highlight their field of expertise. It is hoped this will lead to contacts and collaborations for the future through our extensive network. Our profile this month is on an early career researcher from the US.

Name: **Anna Graber**

Studies:

2012: M.A. and M.Phil. in History, Yale University (USA)

2016: Ph.D. in History, Yale University (USA).

Position:

Currently Assistant Professor, Program in the History of Science and Technology, University of Minnesota (USA).

Title of PhD: *Tsardom of Rock: State, Society, and Mineral Science in Enlightenment Russia*



My dissertation was driven by the question of why and how the Russian ruling elite incorporated German and Swedish mineral science over the course of the eighteenth century into their own culture and into the governance of the Russian Empire. My work describes how Russians adopted a new, natural historical understanding of minerals to build a mining industry in Siberia and examines the cultural and intellectual impact of this mining boom. As mining became increasingly important to the economy, nobles began collecting and studying minerals and fossils, in the process formulating new views of time, nature, and the management of Russia and its resources. In a challenge to a historiography that places scientific activity almost exclusively in the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences, I examine the culture of science in such varied environments as the state mining administration, the imperial court, and nobles' and merchants' homes.

Research interests:

My book project "Tsardom of Rock: Knowing the Earth in Russia's Mining Empire" is a study in how the heterogeneous earth knowledges of eighteenth-century Russia's booming mining industry—scientific, craft, cameralistic, Indigenous, European, Russian—were mobilized at a fluid moment in Russian political and intellectual history to "forge" the modern Russian Empire as a geologically coherent unit. As Russians developed new mineral resources, they were obliged to adopt new forms of knowledge, expertise, and governance, even articulating new understandings of time and space in the geotheories they authored. In my work I approach the mines of Siberia and the Urals as "geocontact zones" in which the science and technology of multiple European cultures interacted with the Russian blacksmithing tradition and the knowledges of Siberian and Uralian peoples. Mine administrators leveraged these diverse knowledge traditions to impose direct imperial rule over restless mining districts situated on the empire's frontiers. The knowledges of the Siberian geocontact zone were not locked in place, and I study the circulation of knowledge into and out of mining districts to understand how the Russian Empire's earth knowledges contributed to the global knowledge of the earth and its products.



Figure caption: Leontii Stanishchevskii, Portrait of Aleksei Turchaninov, 1777. In this portrait 11-year-old Aleksei is dressed as a mining officer and is pointing to the entrance of his family's Gumeshevskii Copper Mine, the richest source of copper and high-quality malachites in the Ural Mountains.

Publications:

Anna Graber, “Mining and Metallurgy in Early Imperial Russia,” in *Handbook of the Historiography of the Earth and Environmental Sciences*, ed. Elena Aronova et al. (Springer, 2024). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-92679-3_29-1

Anna Graber, “Depicting Expertise and Managing Diversity in the Urals Mining Industry (1773-1818),” in *Picturing Russian Empire*, ed. Valerie Kivelson et al. (Oxford University Press, 2024).

Anna Graber et al., “The Natural Turn in Early Modern Russian History,” *Vivliofika: E-Journal of Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies* 6 (2018): 1-12.

Contact: Anna Graber, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, 116 Church St SE, Ste 150, Minneapolis, MN 55455

E-mail: agraber@umn.edu

Archives in the History of the Geological Sciences

This new series will present short overviews of Archives from around the world that are relevant for research in the History of the Geological Sciences in order to highlight their existence and help foster scholarly interest in their content. We hope to thus encourage the use of these fundamental resources by INHIGEO members worldwide and underline the key importance of this historical-scientific heritage for studies of the global development of the geological sciences. In this issue of the INHIGEO circular we present the **Geologen-Archiv** in Germany.

Archive: Geologen-Archiv – i.e. The Geologists' Archive

Host Institution: Universitätsbibliothek of the University of Freiburg i.Br. (Germany)

Brief Overview:

The *Geologen-Archiv* collects archival materials on individuals from the entire field of geosciences, with a focus on German-speaking countries. The *Geologen-Archiv* contains more than 100,000 documents. These are housed in the University Library of the University of Freiburg in a separate area on approximately 140 meters of shelving. The core holdings are individual letters and more than 120 collections of personal papers from German-speaking geoscientists (manuscripts, photographs, letters, and notes).

A first Geologists' Archive was established by Erich Haarmann (1882–1945). This precursor to today's archive, containing approximately 25,000 documents, was destroyed during a bombing raid in March 1943. After World War II, the Freiburg geology professor and trained librarian Max Pfannenstiel (1902–1976) rebuilt the *Geologen-Archiv* with the support of the *Geologische Vereinigung*. In 1972, the collection was transferred to the University Library in Freiburg. Cataloguing of the holdings has always been done on a voluntary basis; currently this task is done by Andreas and Dorothee Hoppe.

More information on the archive and its history is available at https://www.dggv.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Geologen-Archiv_1942-2023.pdf

The archives materials are stored in accordance with the requirements and regulations of the German Archives Act, respecting personal rights and copyrights, and can be viewed by appointment via sammlungen@ub.uni-freiburg.de

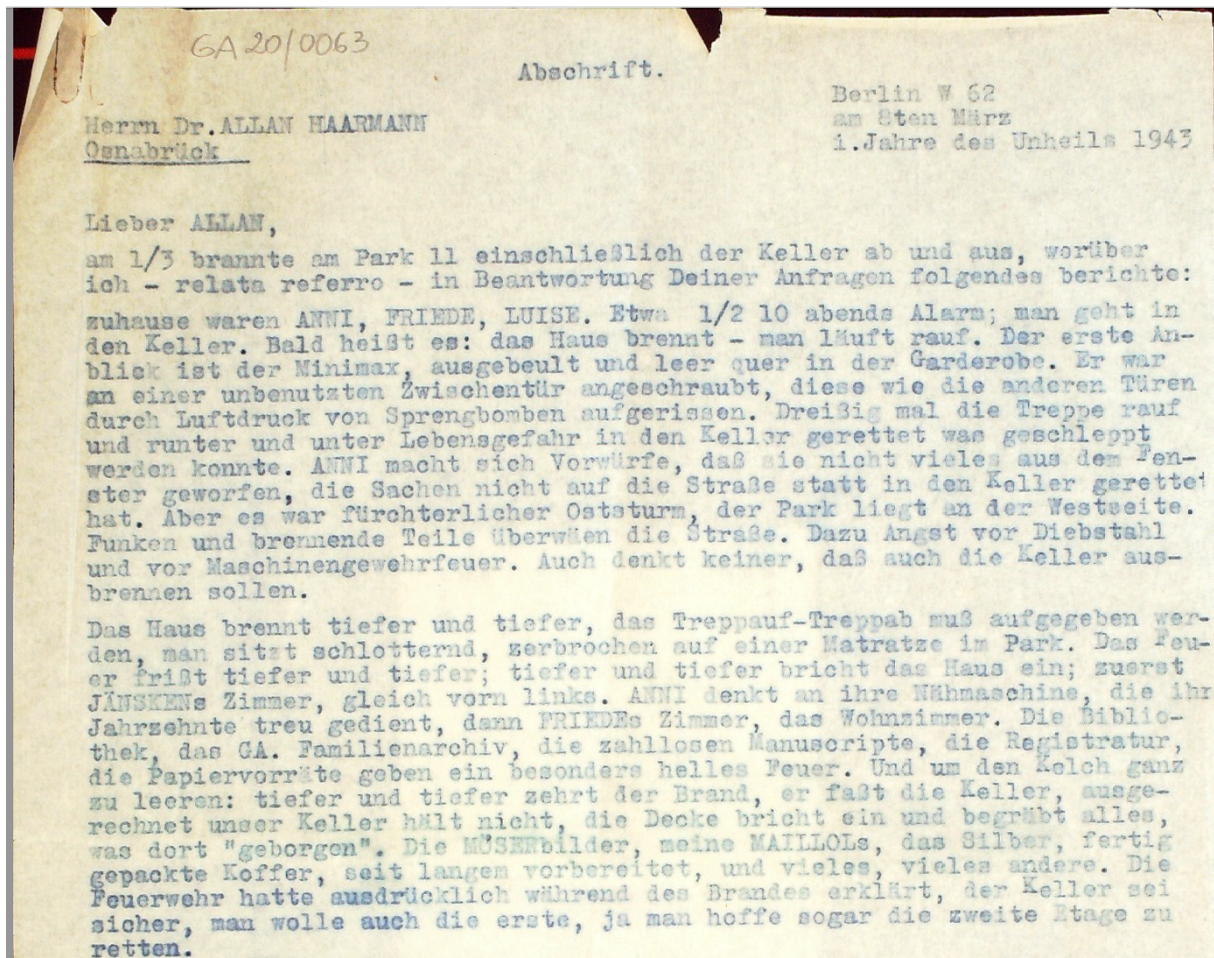
Availability/Accessibility:

The website and the PDF cited above provide a first overview of the individual collections at the Geologen-Archiv. For specific queries access the archive portal *Kalliope* (<https://kalliope-verbund.info/>), where you can search for individual people and institutions and then filter under “Bestandshaltende Institutionen” for “Universitätsbibliothek Freiburg”. This will give you information on individual documents including the call-numbers. To see the material, send your list of call-numbers to the University Library at sammlungen@ub.uni-freiburg.de and ask the friendly and helpful staff for an appointment to access these documents in their reading room “Sonderlesesaal”. This reading room is on the fourth floor of the main library building at Platz der Universität 2, 79098 Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany). The reading room is equipped with an easy to use do-it-yourself scanner (bring a USB-stick).

Website: <https://www.ub.uni-freiburg.de/recherche/historische-sammlungen/bestaende-benutzung/geologen-archiv/>

Online catalogue: Most of the archive material is fully catalogued. The catalogue is accessible via the German archive portal <https://kalliope-verbund.info/>. Search for individual people and institutions and then filter under “Bestandshaltende Institutionen” for “Universitätsbibliothek Freiburg”.

Contact: Email: sammlungen@ub.uni-freiburg.de; Address: Universitätsbibliothek (Sonderlesesaal), Platz der Universität 2, 79098 Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany).



GA 20/0063

Abschrift.

Berlin W 62
am 8ten März
1. Jahre des Unheils 1943

Herrn Dr. ALLAN HAARMANN
Osnabrück

Lieber ALLAN,

am 1/3 brannte am Park 11 einschließlich der Keller ab und aus, worüber ich - relata referro - in Beantwortung Deiner Anfragen folgendes berichte: zuhause waren ANNI, FRIEDE, LUISE. Etwa 1/2 10 abends Alara; man geht in den Keller. Bald heist es: das Haus brennt - man läuft rauf. Der erste Anblick ist der Minimax, ausgebeult und leer quer in der Garderobe. Er war an einer unbenutzten Zwischentür angeschraubt, diese wie die anderen Türen durch Luftdruck von Sprengbomben aufgerissen. Dreißig mal die Treppe rauf und runter und unter Lebensgefahr in den Keller gerettet was geschleppt werden konnte. ANNI macht sich Vorwürfe, daß sie nicht vieles aus dem Fenster geworfen, die Sachen nicht auf die Straße statt in den Keller gerettet hat. Aber es war fürchterlicher Oststurm, der Park liegt an der Westseite. Funken und brennende Teile überwiegen die Straße. Dazu Angst vor Diebstahl und vor Maschinengewehrfeuer. Auch denkt keiner, daß auch die Keller ausbrennen sollen.

Das Haus brennt tiefer und tiefer, das Treppauf-Treppab muß aufgegeben werden, man sitzt schlotternd, zerbrochen auf einer Matratze im Park. Das Feuer frißt tiefer und tiefer; tiefer und tiefer bricht das Haus ein; zuerst JÄNSKENS Zimmer, gleich vorn links. ANNI denkt an ihre Nähmaschine, die ihr Jahrzehnte treu gedient, dann FRIEDEs Zimmer, das Wohnzimmer. Die Bibliothek, das GA. Familienarchiv, die zahllosen Manuscripte, die Registratur, die Papiervorräte geben ein besonders helles Feuer. Und um den Kelch ganz zu leeren: tiefer und tiefer zehrt der Brand, er faßt die Keller, ausgerechnet unser Keller hält nicht, die Decke bricht ein und begräbt alles, was dort "geborgen". Die MÜSSEBilder, meine MAILLOIs, das Silber, fertig gepackte Koffer, seit langem vorbereitet, und vieles, vieles andere. Die Feuerwehr hatte ausdrücklich während des Brandes erklärt, der Keller sei sicher, man wolle auch die erste, ja man hoffe sogar die zweite Etage zu retten.

Image: Detail of a letter by Erich Haarmann to his brother Allan, dated 8 March 1943, describing how on March 1st, the first *Geologen-Archiv* (referred to in the letter as GA) burned down in the basement of his apartment at Am Park 11 in Berlin-Schöneberg (Geologen-Archiv GA 20/0063).

If you are interested in submitting contributions for this series, please contact the INHIGEO Publications and outreach coordinator.

Change in Contact Details?

INHIGEO is a significant network which works efficiently only if the administration has your current contact details. If you change your email address, postal address or any other contact information please advise the INHIGEO Secretary-General as soon as possible.

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Next Circular

Dear INHIGEO members, you will receive the next circular with information updates around December 22nd, 2025. Until then: Take care and stay healthy!

Kind regards
Martina Kölbl-Ebert