

## 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 second profile is on a PhD graduate from Austria.

Name: **Johannes Mattes**

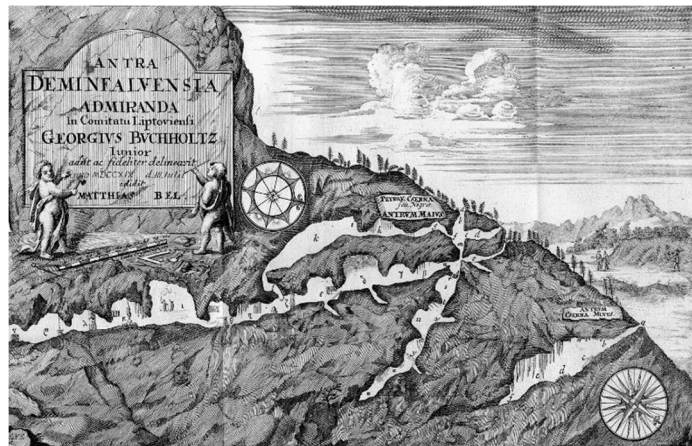
Studies: PhD (12/2013), University of Vienna

Bader Prize for the History of Natural Sciences (2021)

Title of PhD thesis: Travelling underground: a cultural history of cave research in Austria in an international context



The thesis (published in 2015) presents a *longue durée* cultural history of knowledge-based interactions with cavities and other subterranean sites, from the ancient world through to the beginning of the 1920s. The main research focuses on the territories of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, but also considers other parts of Europe. Based on historical discourse analysis, this book discusses modifications in the perception of the underground and the practices of explorers and visitors to these depths. Cultural meanings and knowledge connected to the underground are examined as a semantic field which evokes, activates and accompanies the investigation of caves throughout the ages.



*Longitudinal section of Demänovská Ice Cave (Slovakia), published by Mátyás Bél in 1723.*

Research interests:

- Eighteenth to twentieth history of natural sciences and its cultural contexts (e.g. earth sciences, speleology, geography, cartography, archaeology, zoology, nuclear medicine)
- Scientific infrastructure and collaboration, expeditions, fieldwork, gender, relationship between politics, research and the public
- Geographical focus: Central and Eastern Europe, “Orient“

#### Current Research Projects:

- Knowledge – Economy – Public: Scientific and Economic Societies in Vienna (1850–1925)
- Women Researchers, Discourses, Fields of Action: Women in the Scientific Societies of Vienna (1870–1925)
- Concepts, Cooperation, and Boundaries: Nuclear Medicine Research in Austria during the Cold War
- Cooperative Action in the Network of Academies and Natural Science Associations (1870–1914)

#### Recent Publications:

J. Mattes: Mapping the Invisible: Knowledge, Credibility, and Visions of Earth in Early Modern Cave Maps. *The British Journal for the History of Science*, 55, 2022, 28 pp.

J. Mattes: Mining, collecting, knowing: Habsburg state-building, resources, and geographies in the context of Archduke Leopold's mineralogical catalog. In: A. Franza, J. Mattes, G. Pratesi (eds.): *Collectio Mineralium. The catalog of Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II's mineralogical collection*. Florence: Firenze University Press 2022, pp. 1–36.

J. Mattes: Imperial science, unified forces and boundary-work: Geographical and geological societies in Vienna (1850–1925). *Annals of the Austrian Geographical Society*, 162, 2021, pp. 155–210.

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