



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

PRESIDENT: Professor Dr Ezio Vaccari – ezio.vaccari@uninsubria.it
SECRETARY-GENERAL: PD Dr Martina Kölbl-Ebert – m.koelbl@lmu.de
EDITOR: Professor Dr John A. Diemer – jadiemer@uncc.edu

**INHIGEO CIRCULAR 2024, Number 2
June 2024**

Dear INHIGEO members and friends,

This new INHIGEO Quarterly Circular provides you with information to upcoming INHIGEO meetings, alerts you to the latest INHIGEO publications, presents a new Early Career Research Profile and contains various odds and ends pertaining to the History of the Geosciences.

Maddalena Napolitani and Victor Monnin are organizing a new INHIGEO Webinar. As those, who have attended the previous ones, know, they are splendid events and I invite you all cordially to attend the next of these inspiring webinars.

Thank you very much for your nominations to this year's membership ballot. We have received eight proposals from five countries. They are currently under review by the INHIGEO Board. New members will be announced at the INHIGEO Business Meeting in Busan in August.

Soon, there will be the 2024 INHIGEO Annual Meeting as part of the IGC in Busan, South Korea, and an INHIGEO fieldtrip to Japan, following the congress, and we hope to see many of you there: Travel safely!

With kind regards and best wishes to all of you

Martina Kölbl-Ebert
INHIGEO Secretary General

Conferences

49th INHIGEO Annual Symposium, 25 – 31 August 2024

This year's INHIGEO conference will be held at the 37th International Geological Congress in Busan, South Korea. For registration and the conference programme please see: <https://www.igc2024korea.org/>

INHIGEO Young Scholar Award

The INHIGEO Board will again issue the INHIGEO Early Career Award (under 35 years of age) and the INHIGEO Student Prize for the presentations (oral or posters) in the respective category at the INHIGEO sessions of the 49th INHIGEO Annual Symposium taking place within the 37th IGC in Busan.

Post-Congress Japan Tour: Northern Kyushu Excursion The final deadline for registration is the end of June!

As of June 9th, 17 INHIGEO members and accompanying persons have applied to participate in the excursion after the Busan IGC, supported by JAHIGEO. Below is the final guide to the itinerary and attractions. If you are planning to participate, please contact us immediately at the following: Michiko Yajima (address: pxi02070@nifty.com).

On 1st September at 14 o'clock, participants have to meet at the Queen Beetle ticket counter (on the 3rd floor), at Busan Port International Passenger Terminal (South Korea). At 18:40 participants will arrive at Hakata Port, Fukuoka (Japan), about 10 Japanese Members will welcome the travellers there.

On 2nd September, participants will visit Imaemon Kiln and Izumiyama Quarry. After lunch they will visit Gamadasu Dome (Volcano Exploratorium), and at night they will stay at a Japanese style hotel and enjoy the hot spring.

On 3rd September, participants will visit Unzen Ropeway (Shimabara Peninsula Viewpoint) and Unzen Hell (origin of hot spring), undertake an afternoon visit to Nagasaki City Dinosaur Museum and Nagasaki Peace Park (Ground Zero of the atomic bomb), and at night enjoy the Sayonara party (A social gathering at "Izakaya" (Japanese-style pub).

We are looking forward to seeing you!

ICHST 2025 Congress in New Zealand – Hosting the 50th INHIGEO Annual Symposium

INHIGEO has submitted three proposals for symposia at this conference, which will take place in Ōtepoti Dunedin, 29 June – 5 July 2025:

- Two panels on the topic "**Science & Empires on Geological Sciences**", proposed by Silvia Figueroa and Marianne Klemun, and sponsored by INHIGEO, within the symposium "Science and Empire Turns 30: Peoples, Places, Exchanges, and Circulation" proposed by the DHST/IUHPST Science & Empires Commission
- A symposium on the topic "**Indigenous peoples' knowledge and beliefs about the Earth: an open historiographical issue**", proposed by Martina Kölbl-Ebert and Ezio Vaccari:

Geological materials and geological phenomena are part of human resources and environment in all cultures and from the earliest times of human existence to the present.

Use of materials, observation of landscape and encounters with various geological hazards has shaped human experience, knowledge, mythology and spirituality everywhere, before, outside and beyond a contemporary and ideally but often not truly trans-cultural scientific worldview. A compared history of the knowledge and the interpretations of natural phenomena related to the Earth's surface within cultures in different historical ages and in several parts of the world (in particular Asia, Oceania, America, Africa) is still very little developed in the historiography of sciences.

While the extent of mythological 'proto-geological' views or ideas in the Ancient and Classical world in Europe and the 'Near East' has been recently studied to some extent, as in the case of seismic and volcanic phenomena, the perception of 'geological' phenomena within indigenous communities outside this limited region is still wanting extended investigations, in order to address a long-standing desideratum within the historiography of the geological sciences. Sources include

the use of archaeological tools, objects of material culture, as well as oral history.

Contributions are welcome with reference to the Earth and its phenomena (not necessarily catastrophic) and features (such as mountains, minerals, fossils, etc.) in oral traditions, poems, songs, tales, inscriptions, early art (drawings, pictures, ...), religious rituals, myths and other cultural forms, from the ancient times to the present.

- A symposium on the topic **“The geological notebook: reflections in the field”**, proposed by Kathleen Histon and Carol Bacon:

The aim of this symposium is to focus on an aspect of the history of formulation of ideas and development of theories within the geological sciences, that of looking for traces of their elaboration within the geological field observations in notebooks of naturalists/geologists. Apart from observations and sketches of features seen and places visited, such evidence may often be denoted just by a question mark next to the notes or a scribble on a sketch.

The notebook is often where the person elaborates ideas, interpretations and theories centred around what they have observed and exchanges with locals or other travellers. Sometimes notes may be flanked by reference to specific correspondents and questions to pose and circulate in future correspondence. They may refer to literature read associated to the local geology/studies and to other areas with which to compare what has been seen.

Thematic presentations ranging from the 18th to 20th century will touch upon and open discussion by the panel of the following topics:

How do the published theories/observations compare/differ from the reflections in the field?

Is there a change over time from geological notes within travel diaries and journals of naturalists to the more specific notebook reserved for geological observations during individual field surveys and institutional mapping campaigns, i. e. national geological surveys?

What role do drawings, cross-sections, sketches, etc. (drawn directly in the field or also later during the fieldtrip / travel play in the development and the definition of a visual language of geology?

Stand-alone papers on history of the geosciences will also be possible and can be submitted until 1 December 2024. We have offered to the organizing and program committees our availability, as INHIGEO, to chair and co-sponsor the possible session where submitted stand-alone papers on the history of geology will be included.

The organizers plan for a hybrid meeting. The theme of the 27th ICHST is *“Peoples, Places, Exchanges, and Circulation”*. For more detailed information, please see the conference website: <https://www.ichst2025.org/>

Key Dates

- Decisions on accepted symposia announced: any day now
- Registration opens: 11 July 2024
- Deadline for submission of stand-alone paper proposals: 1 December 2024
- Deadline for submission of paper abstracts within symposia: 1 December 2024
- Decisions on stand-alone papers announced: 31 January 2025
- Early bird registration closes: 3 April 2025
- Program released online: 1 May 2025
- Final date for registration: 1 May 2025
- Congress opens: 29 June 2025

For more information please visit the conference website: <https://www.ichst2025.org/>

36th Congress of the Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA)

to be held in Lyon, 23–28 June 2024

INHIGEO members Victor Monnin (Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago) and Maddalena Napolitani (Museo Galileo, Florence) have organized a panel entitled “Grounding the Arts. Crossing the History of Arts and the History of Earth Sciences”

Slot 1 – 26 June (9:00-10:30):

- Maximilian Geiger (University of Wuppertal/ University of Konstanz): Economy, Earth, and Spirituality: The Antependium of the Beyenburg High Altar
- Martina Baraldi (Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich): The Display of Cosmos and Human Nature in Stones: Gems as Pieces of Art and Science
- Geoffrey Ripert (Bard Graduate Center, New York): L’ingénieur, le marquis et la montagne: la prospection marbrière et sa contribution au goût pour l’objet d’art en marbre en France (1760–1810)
- Elodie Baillot (Université Lumière Lyon 2): Des vertus de la terre à la Valeur patrimoniale des oeuvres. Enjeux d’attribution dans l’historiographie de l’art céramique au 19^e siècle.

Slot 2 – 26 June (11:00-12:30):

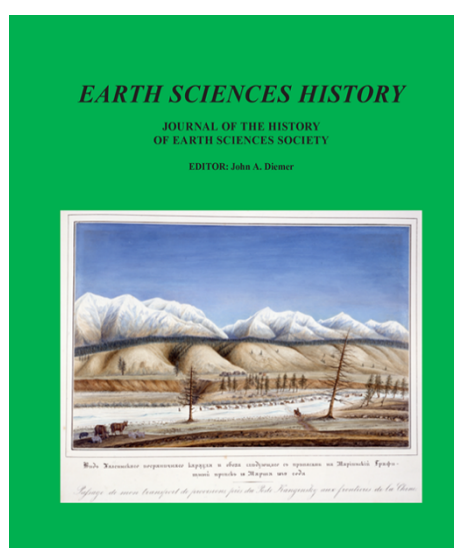
- Helen Bremm (University of Cambridge) and Sandra Zetina Ocaña (Universidad Nacional
 - Autónoma De México, Mexico City): Earth Pigments, Sacred Mountains, and Deep-Time: The Stratigraphy of Leonora Carrington’s “El Mundo Mágico de los Mayas” (1963–1964)
 - Tsz Ching Joy Zhu (University of California, Los Angeles): Secularizing the Dragon in Modern Republican China
 - Margarida Brito Alves (Nova University of Lisbon): Fernando Lanhas: An Earthbound Abstraction
 - Marta and Pawel Tomczok (University of Silesia, Katowice): Carbon Art and Its Role in the Decarbonization Process of the Upper Silesian Coal Basin
-

INHIGEO Webinars

Please save the date: The next INHIGEO Webinar is planned for Friday, 27th September, 4p.m. (CEST – Central European Summer Time).

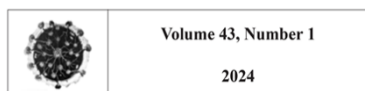
INHIGEO Publications

Earth Sciences History



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 congress of stratigraphy held in Milan (Italy) are newly published in *Earth Sciences History*, vol. 43, issue 1, edited by John Diemer. They include studies on various aspects of the history of Italian geology including stratigraphy, travels and mining ranging from the 17th to 20th century.

The papers are available at the link <https://meridian.allenpress.com/esh>



Front cover image. Gouache by Carl Wolff entitled 'Caravane de traîneaux transportant les provisions, 18 mars 1849' [Caravan of sledges carrying provisions, March 18, 1849], from the album 'Souvenir de mes voyages en Sibérie (1840–1860)', © Musée des arts et métiers-Cnam, Paris / photo M. Favareille.

Episodes

A new paper on the History of Geology that may be of interest to members has recently been published online in the journal *Episodes*: this may be downloaded from the link below:

The curious case of Karl Nagalhard and the central European influence on the early studies on the Cenozoic paleobotany in Turkey

Author: Volkan Sarıgül

Episodes 2024; Published online May 1, 2024.

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2363&vmd=Full>

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: <https://www.inhigeo.com/board.html>

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

Ana Carneiro, Ana Simões and Maria Paula Diogo (PORTUGAL)

Travels of Correia da Serra 250 years ago:

Correia da Serra (1751–1823): “Journal d’une course en avril 1774” – the art of observing and describing

On Monday, 4 April 1774, the Portuguese naturalist José Francisco Correia da Serra left Rome, accompanied by the Belgian physician, Jean Demeste (1743–1783). They travelled along the Ligurian coast and Correia da Serra recorded daily observations, reflections, and critical comments in a 28-page manuscript written in French, to which a two-page Index was appended. This comprised three sections, Mineralia, Vegetabilia and Animalia.

IUGS E-Bulletin 204, April 2024;

https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Carneiro_A._et_al._Correia_Da_Serra_250_years_ago.pdf

Khallaf El Ghalbi (MOROCCO)

Emerald mining in Egypt 700 years ago:

Emerald Mines in Upper Egypt in the Islamic Period (until the 14th century): A neglected era in modern history of mining

Various heritage sources confirm that mines were widespread in all parts of the Islamic world, however, many contemporary studies focused on emerald mining history, ignore the Arab-Islamic experience in this field. Study of historical writings related to mining in Upper Egypt up until the 14th century demonstrates the level of knowledge in mining management and shows an awareness with regard to the worldwide sources of emerald as well as the mining expertise known in their times.

IUGS E-Bulletin 205, May 2024;

https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/El_Ghalbi_K._History_of_Emerald_Mining_in_Egypt_700_years_ago.pdf

Carol Bacon (Australia)

Born 190 years ago:

Charles Gould, the first government appointed Geological Surveyor of Tasmania

At 25 years old, Charles Gould was appointed geological surveyor of Tasmania on recommendation of Sir Roderick Murchison (1792–1871). He travelled extensively throughout Tasmania, reaching many places that are still only accessible to the determined bushwalker. Gould correctly established the stratigraphic sequence of Ordovician to Lower Devonian rocks over much of Tasmania and established that there were two series of coal measures separated by a marine sequence. He interests were varied including an insatiable curiosity regarding mythological creatures.

IUGS E-Bulletin 206, June 2024;

https://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries/Bacon_C._Charles_Gould_born_190_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 Germany.

Name: **Jeremy R. Schneider**

Studies:

2023: Ph.D. in History of Science, Princeton University, USA.

2019: M.A. in History of Science, Princeton University, USA.

2016: M.A. in Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.

2013: B.A. in History, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.

Currently: Junior Research Fellow (History and Philosophy of Science), Trinity College, Cambridge, U.K.

From 2025: Assistant Professor of History, Cornell University, (tenure track).



Prizes:

2024 Caspar Friedrich Wolff Medal in History of Biology.

2023: Ronald Rainger Prize in History of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

2022: Mary and Randall Hack '69 Award for Water and the Environment.

2017: Trevor Levere Best Paper Prize.

Title of PhD: “Reawakening the Ammonites: A History of the Lost World”

Abstract: According to most historians of the earth sciences, the idea of extinction was born when the French anatomist Georges Cuvier reconstructed a variety of lost megafauna from fragmented fossil bones in his *Ossements fossiles* (1812). Contrary to this origin myth, my Ph.D. thesis unearthed a longer, more exacting genealogy of this crucial concept, thereby challenging the widely held assumption that awareness of extinction is unique to the modern science of life. Drawing on literary, visual, and material evidence that spans the domains of science, theology, poetry, and art, the thesis recovered how “lost species”—French *espèces perdues*, German *verlorene Arten*—were already conceived in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. This project retells narratives of extinction through ammonites—the fossilized shells of extinct marine creatures—and how these came to widely symbolize the extinction of species in the pre-modern period. It provides the first book-length study of how the lost world came into being several centuries before Victorian geologists turned dinosaurs into a global fascination.



Figure: Extinct ammonites – Robert Hooke’s drawings of the fossils with sketches of their suture lines and apertures, 17th century (© The British Library)

Research interests: I am broadly interested in the history of the earth sciences from antiquity into the nineteenth century. My specialism lies in the early investigation of fossils in the early modern period (ca. 1500 – 1800) and the many controversies that surrounded their interpretation and

cultural significance. The following themes weave their way through my work in this time period: sacred histories of the earth and deep time; natural history and natural philosophy; conservation, biodiversity, and extinction; environmental history of science; scientific images and visual practice; artisanal epistemology and vernacular science; humanism and ancient ideas of the earth.

Publications (selected):

“Hunted to Extinction: Finding Lost Species in the World of Bernard Palissy (1510–89).” Forthcoming in *Renaissance Quarterly* 77, 2 (2024). Awarded the 2023 Ronald Rainger Prize.

“The First Mite: Insect Genealogy in Hooke’s *Micrographia*.” *Annals of Science* 75, 3 (2018): 165–200. Awarded the 2017 Trevor Levere Prize.

Contact: currently Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ, United Kingdom. Email: js2897@cam.ac.uk

DHST Matters

To the officers of DHST Commissions and Sections

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to bring to your attention an important recent publication of the International Science Council (ISC), to which the DHST is affiliated through our parent organization, the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. Titled "Protecting Science in Times of Crisis," the working paper addresses the plight of scholars caught in the middle of the many ongoing conflicts and wars ravaging across the world. It can be accessed on this link: <https://council.science/publications/protecting-science-in-times-of-crisis/>

Woefully, it is very likely that members of the communities represented by the Commissions and Sections that you lead may be under threat right now, or have been forcibly displaced, or have lost access to archives and livelihoods, among many other dire situations. If you think the DHST Council can help in any way, please let us know. Also, if you have ideas about ways in which our 2025 New Zealand congress could get involved, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Thomas Haddad
Assistant Secretary-General
DHST

Video on palaeobotanist Dixie Lee Bryant

1904: The first woman, an American, completes a doctoral degree at Friedrich-August-University Erlangen, Germany (FAU)

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has named a lecture hall after her. Here in Germany, hardly anyone knows her name. And yet she could be a real inspiration for young women in science: Dixie Lee Bryant, the daughter of a businessman from Kentucky, USA, studied at MIT before becoming the first woman to receive a doctoral degree at FAU, in 1904. She left everything behind in the States to pursue her academic career, coming to Germany and enrolling at FAU for physics, geology and botanics.

FAU has now released a brief video in commemoration of our alumna on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11:

Before the Bavarian Prince Regent Luitpold passed a decree in 1903 allowing women to enroll at Bavarian universities, they were only allowed to attend as guests. However, Dixie Lee Bryant managed to obtain a place in the young team of researchers led by the renowned geologist Hans Lenk, paving the way towards her doctoral degree. She wrote her doctoral thesis on the petrography of Spitzbergen.

When she returned to the North Carolina State Normal Industrial School with a doctoral degree in geology, she was the only member of faculty with a doctoral degree. However, at that time,

it was still not possible for her to pursue a career in science. Instead, she taught for many years at secondary schools in Chicago, before returning to North Carolina in her later years.

“Dixie Lee Bryant was an impressive young woman, who pursued her goal of an academic career with determination. At that time, she was not permitted to enroll at any university in the Southern states of the USA. She completed her Bachelor’s degree later at MIT. She deserves to be admired for the remarkable step of undertaking an arduous journey across the Atlantic, where she gained the respect of her male colleagues. We are proud that this brave woman gained her doctoral degree from FAU,” states FAU President Joachim Hornegger. “FAU has suggested to the City of Erlangen that a street should be named after Dixie Lee Bryant.” (text of FAU press release)

Link to the video: <https://youtu.be/VehluPtWHSE>

Awards

Geological Society of London – June 2024

Sue Tyler Friedman Medal

On 12 June 2024, Martina Kölbl-Ebert, INHIGEO Secretary General, was awarded the Sue Tyler Friedman Medal by the Geological Society of London for her contribution to the History of Geology. This award is for distinguished contributions to History of Geoscience and is not confined to those with a geoscience background or to Fellows of the Society, and is awarded to an individual of any nationality (<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/About/awards-grants-and-bursaries/society-awards/2024-winners>).



Martina Kölbl-Ebert and Ruth Allington, President of the Geological Society, at the award ceremony

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.

Contact Details of the Current INHIGEO Board

President: Prof. Ezio Vaccari (Italy) – ezio.vaccari@uninsubria.it

Secretary-General: Dr Martina Kölbl-Ebert (Germany) – m.koelbl@lmu.de

Vice-President Africa: Dr Sharad Master (South Africa) – Sharad.Master@wits.ac.za

Vice-President Asia: Dr Toshihiro Yamada (Japan) – tosmak-yamada@muf.biglobe.ne.jp

Vice-President Australasia/Oceania: Carol Bacon (Australia) – gclota@trump.net.au

Vice-President Europe: Prof. Marianne Klemun (Austria) – marianne.klemun@univie.ac.at

Vice-President Latin America: Dr Maria Margaret Lopes (Brazil) –

mariamargaretlopes@gmail.com

Vice-President North America: Prof. Steve Rowland (USA) – steve.rowland@unlv.edu

Editor: Prof. John Diemer (USA) – jadiemer@uncc.edu

Web Master: Dr Johannes Mattes (Austria) – Johannes.Mattes@oeaw.ac.at

Ex officio (Publications and Outreach Coordinator): Dr Kathleen Histon (Ireland) –

hiscat@interfree.it

Next Circular

Dear INHIGEO members, you will receive the next circular with information updates around September 20th. Until then: Take care and stay healthy!

Kind regards
Martina Kölbl-Ebert