



**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: Dr Kerry Magruder – kvmagruder@gmail.com

**INHIGEO CIRCULAR 2026, Number 1  
March 2026**

Dear INHIGEO members and friends,

Among other things, this new INHIGEO Quarterly Circular contains the invitation to a new INHIGEO Webinar, where we hope to see many of you as participants!

There is a new Early Career Research Profile and a new issue of our series on History of Geoscience Archives. You are invited to contribute to both!

There are also important deadlines to be met concerning the INHIGEO Annual Record and the INHIGEO membership ballot. The ballot to gain new INHIGEO members is our lifeline into the future, thus feel free to nominate candidates for INHIGEO membership! As always, everyone is welcome, but we are particularly interested in new members from under- or non-represented countries as well as in young scholars, who represent the full diversity of our community.

We would also like to draw your attention to the SWOT analysis required by IUGS for the evaluation of INHIGEO as one of their commissions. Any thoughts or input on this is greatly appreciated.

With kind regards and best wishes to all of you

Martina Kölbl-Ebert  
INHIGEO Secretary General

# 51<sup>st</sup> INHIGEO Annual Symposium in 2026

2–15 September 2026 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

These dates include:

**1–5 September 2026 Pre-Conference Excursion in and around Johannesburg, South Africa:** Mining history of the Witwatersrand the greatest goldfield on Earth, Crown jewels of Palaeoanthropology at Witwatersrand University, Cradle of Humankind tour and Maropeng centre;

**6–10 September 2026 Conference at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe:** At least three days of talks (Topics: History of pre- and post-colonial mining in Southern Africa, History of palaeoanthropology in Southern Africa, History of geological exploration in Central Africa, General Contributions to History of Geological Sciences), Sunset Zambezi Cruise, Tours of Victoria Falls on Zimbabwean and Zambian sides, Day trip to Livingstone Museum;

**11–13 September 2026: Post-Conference Excursion in and around Bulawayo:** Visit to National Museum of Zimbabwe, Matobo National Park with painted caves and spectacular granite tor scenery, Ndebele Village, Khami Ruins;

**14–15 September 2026: Optional trip to Great Zimbabwe**

The **1<sup>st</sup> circular** of the conference including details on costs and travel is available on the INHIGEO website at:

<https://inhigeo0.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/inhigeo-vic-falls-26-1st-circular-final.pdf>

## INHIGEO Grants

INHIGEO will be able to support a limited number of students, young scholars and INHIGEO members from developing countries or those without other funding sources provided they contribute to this conference with an oral paper. The grants amount to 600 €/person. Students and young scholars do not need to be INHIGEO members. Please note, the **extended deadline for applications is 31 March 2026**. Please send an informal letter of application to the INHIGEO secretary general: [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de)

## INHIGEO Young Scholar Awards

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 51<sup>st</sup> INHIGEO Annual Symposium.

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## INHIGEO co-sponsored session at EGU Vienna 2026

Co-organized by INHIGEO members Claudia Principe (Italy) and Piotr Krzywiec (Poland), INHIGEO will be present at the EGU Meeting in Vienna 3–8 May 2026 via a co-sponsored

**Session NH9.14: *Lessons Learnt and Perspectives on Risk Communication and Preparedness***

See: <https://www.egu26.eu/session/58064>

### INHIGEO Grants

INHIGEO will be able to support a limited number of students, young scholars and INHIGEO members from developing countries or those without other funding sources provided they contribute to this session with an oral paper. The grants amount to 300 €/person. Students and young scholars do not need to be INHIGEO members. Please note, the **deadline for applications is 31 March 2026**. Please send an informal letter of application to the INHIGEO secretary general: [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de)

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## INHIGEO co-sponsored session at the Joint Meeting of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS) and History of Science Society (HSS), Edinburgh 2026

INHIGEO will be present at the meeting “Shifting Perspectives: Plural Worlds, Contested Sciences” organized by the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS) and the History of Science Society (HSS), with support from the British Society for the History of Science (BSHS), at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, on 13–16 July 2026.

A co-sponsored session organized by Valentina Roberti (University of Catania, Italy), will include talks from INHIGEO members Maddalena Napolitani (Italy), Ernie Hamm (Canada) and Andrea Candela (Italy), as well as the participation of Luigi Ingalisio (Italy) and Ezio Vaccari (INHIGEO President) as chair-persons.

**Session title (in two panels): *The Plural Worlds of Earth Science: Visual, Material, and Institutional Transformations Across Disciplines, Scales, and Territories***

See: <https://hssonline.org/general/custom.asp?page=Edinburgh26>

### INHIGEO Grants

INHIGEO will be able to support a limited number of early-career or young scholars who will take part to this session with an oral paper. The grants amount to 300 €/person and the recipients do not need to be INHIGEO members. Please note, the **deadline for applications is 30 April 2026**. Please send an informal letter of application to the INHIGEO secretary general: [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de)

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## INHIGEO Annual Record

Your report to the Annual Record 2026 for the year 2025 is required by **31 March 2026** so our “Record” can be issued by the middle of the year. Please note that some countries have a national co-ordinator who will assist with reporting. Finalized country reports should be sent to our editor Kerry Magruder: [kvmagruder@gmail.com](mailto:kvmagruder@gmail.com)

The Annual Record n. 57, 2025 for the year 2024 will be available on the INHIGEO website (<https://inhigeo.org/annual-record/>) on 31 March 2026.

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## INHIGEO Membership Ballot 2026

The following annual election arrangements will operate for the 2026 membership ballot.

- The general membership is now asked for membership nominations with an **extended deadline date of 30 April 2026**.
- After the deadline, the Secretary General will compile a dossier that is submitted to the Board for consideration during the period May–June 2026.
- The welcome of new members will take place at the subsequent annual Business Meeting in September and also announced in the September 2026 INHIGEO Quarterly Circular.DHST news

Under the current Terms of Reference, the INHIGEO Board may approve nominations as either an Ordinary or Associate Member. INHIGEO Membership nominations supported by their country colleagues are preferred, although individuals may submit a direct nomination to the INHIGEO Secretary General.

**Please download the INHIGEO Membership Nomination Form** via this link:

[https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/inhigeo\\_nomination\\_form\\_new\\_blanc.docx](https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/inhigeo_nomination_form_new_blanc.docx)

Nominations are to be submitted to the INHIGEO Secretary General: [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de)

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## Next INHIGEO Webinar

### INHIGEO WEBINARS

*New Perspectives in the History of Earth Sciences*



*Tenth meeting*

### **FOSSIL COLLECTIONS AND GEOLOGY AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IN PARIS**



*View of the Natural History Museum of Paris*

**April 24, 2026 – 16:00-17:30 (CET)**

Guest Speaker

**Adèle Chevalier** – Natural History Museum of Paris/CNRS,  
“Selections, exhibition, and uses: What significance for the fossil  
collections of the chair of geology at the Natural History Museum  
in Paris (1853-1900)?”

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

To access the webinar click this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3333193712?pwd=zB4orWRvapJIoEq5HCUyJc8x65a02X.1#success>

We have also planned a webinar for 19 June 2026 and we'll share with you further information in the future.

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## INHIGEO Publications

### Episodes Special Issue



INHIGEO members have contributed to a collection of papers in a Special Issue of the IUGS journal Episodes, an initiative co-sponsored by INHIGEO and co-edited by INHIGEO members – the editorial and articles may be downloaded from the links below:

**Special Issue: Empowerment of women in geoscience towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality)**

Guest Editors: Heejung Kim, Dolores Pereira, Kathleen Histon & Martina Kölbl-Ebert.

Episodes, vol. 49, Issue 1, March 2026. <https://www.episodes.org/main.html>

Details regarding motivation and goals of the Special Issue are outlined at the following link [https://www.episodes.org/content/about/special\\_issues.html#n](https://www.episodes.org/content/about/special_issues.html#n)

**Editorial: Empowerment of women in geoscience towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality)**

Authors: Heejung Kim, Dolores Pereira, Kathleen Histon & Martina Kölbl-Ebert.

Episodes 2026; 49(1): 1-5

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?volume=49&number=1&spage=1&vmd=Full>

**Title: Women in Geology: An historical review**

Author: Martina Kölbl-Ebert

Episodes 2026; 49(1): 17-24

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2465&vmd=Full>

Title: **IUGS: How did women fare?**

Author: Susan Turner

Episodes 2026; 49(1): 25-31

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2464&vmd=Full>

Title: **Silvia Fernanda de Mendonça Figueirôa: Brazilian Historian of Geology and First Woman President of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)**

Authors: Aja B. Tolman, Kerry V. Magruder

Episodes 2026; 49(1): 33-40

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2466&vmd=Full>

Title: **Survey of Twenty-Five Women Geoscientists in the Czech Republic: How to Become a Geologist – Motivating the Next Generation**

Authors: Zdeňka Petáková, Gabriela Langhammerová

Episodes 2026; 49(1): 41-45

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2462&vmd=Full>

Title: **An investigation into the public awareness of famous women geoscientists**

Authors: Cynthia V. Burek, Bettie Higgs

Episodes 2026; 49(1): 47-56

<https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2467&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**.

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## INHIGEO Outreach

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

Occasion January 2026: Published 100 Years Ago

**Author: Stanisław Wołkowicz (POLAND)**

***Title: Geological map of the Republic of Poland (scale 1:750,000)***

As a result of agreements following the end of the First World War, Poland regained its independence and was redefined within new borders. In addition, numerous geological studies were conducted, but their results were often not published. Compiled by Czesław Kuźniar (1889–1955) a Geological Map of the Republic of Poland, scale 1:750,000, was commissioned by the Director of the Polish Geological Institute.

IUGS E-Bulletin 224, January 2026;

[https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/wolkowicz\\_s\\_geological\\_map\\_of\\_poland\\_published\\_100\\_years\\_ago.pdf](https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/wolkowicz_s_geological_map_of_poland_published_100_years_ago.pdf)

Occasion February 2026: Died 200 Years Ago

**Author: Andrea Candela (ITALY)**

***Title: A geological and intellectual biography of the Italian geologist Scipione Breislak (1750–1826)***

Scipione Breislak (1750–1826) was a leading Roman geologist and a central figure in European earth sciences at the turn of the 19th century. Although primarily renowned as one of the most distinguished Italian Vulcanists—maintaining that magmatism and volcanic activity were fundamental to orogenesis and the formation of the Earth’s crust—he is equally well-known for his adherence to Plutonist theories.

IUGS E-Bulletin 225, February 2026;  
[https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/candela\\_a.\\_scipione\\_breislak\\_died\\_200\\_years\\_ago.pdf](https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/candela_a._scipione_breislak_died_200_years_ago.pdf)

Occasion March 2026: Died 80 Years Ago

**Author: Chengsheng Sun (CHINA)**

***Title: Amadeus W. Grabau (1870–1946): A Pioneer Bridging Western and Chinese Paleontology***

In 1920 Amadeus W. Grabau (1870–1946), the world-renowned American paleontologist, was invited by Ding Wenjiang (V. K. Ting, 1887–1936), one of the founders of geology in China, to come to China where he served as the Chief Paleontologist to the Geological Survey of China and concurrently acted as Professor in the Department of Geology at the National University of Peking.

IUGS E-Bulletin 226, March 2026;  
[https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/sun\\_c.\\_amadeus\\_w.\\_grabau\\_died\\_80\\_years\\_ago.pdf](https://inhigeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/sun_c._amadeus_w._grabau_died_80_years_ago.pdf)

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

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## 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 China.

Name: **Liu Chao**

Studies:

2017: PhD, History of Science, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

2012: Master's degree, History of Science and Technology, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, China.

2009: Bachelor's degree, Geography, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China.



Position:

Currently: Lecturer, Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China (Since January 2022).

2018-2021: Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of the History of Science, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.

Title of Ph.D: Influence of Learning from the Soviet Union on Chinese Higher Geographical Education

At the beginning of People's Republic of China (PRC), the theoretical foundation of geography was weak, and the geographical education was the weakest part in the national higher education. At that time, as the world's first socialist country, the Soviet Union attached great importance to geographical research and education, with particular emphasis on higher geographical education. The construction of PRC drew on the experience of the Soviet Union, incorporating the geography education of colleges and universities into the national plan, and made new plans and adjustments to the national geographical education resource.

So, what influence did learning from the Soviet Union have on higher geographical education in the PRC? This dissertation studies its impact on specialty settings (Dept. of Geology & Geography, PKU), curriculum systems, and Russian article translations. Conclusions: 1) It wasn't a simple "copy." 2) Geography was established as a science. 3) Soviet experts boosted education & teacher training.

Research interests: She is interested in the history of earth sciences, the history of geology in modern China, and the history of Chinese earth sciences education in the 20th century. In particular her research is currently focused on the history of women in geology in China.

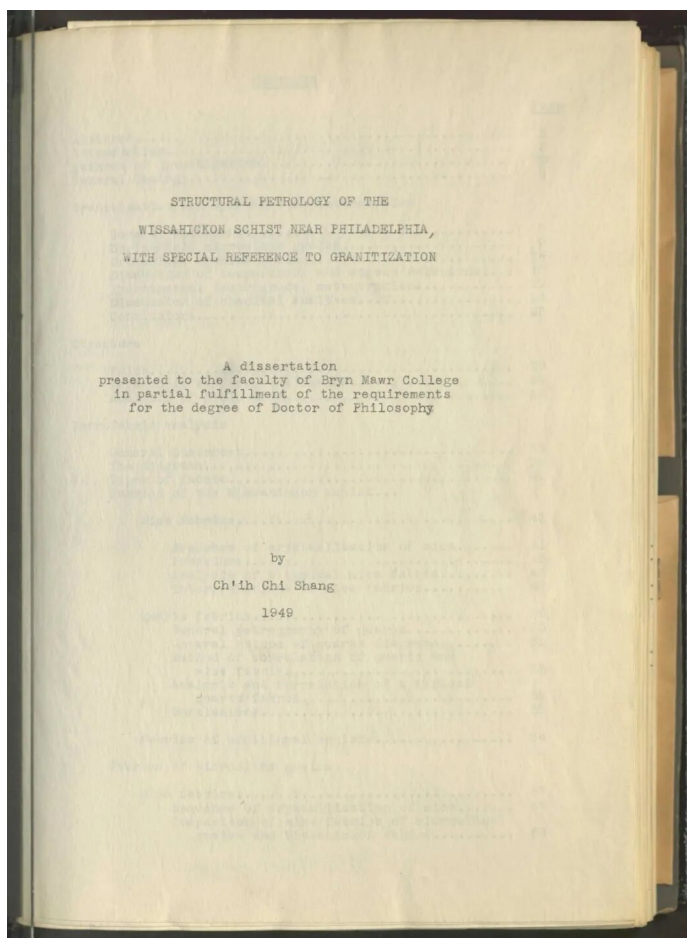


Fig. Cover of Dr. Chi Jishang's Doctoral Dissertation (Ma and Jiao 2024)  
Ma, X.G. and Jiao, S.Q. 2024. I found Academician Chi Jishang's 1949 doctoral dissertation. [我找到了池际尚院士1949年的博士毕业论文] [online] Available at: <https://voice.cug.edu.cn/info/1032/25255.htm> (Accessed 3 November 2025).

#### Publications

Chao Liu. 2017. The model of the Soviet Union: The setting up of geography disciplines in Peking University during the early days of New China. *Studies in the History of Natural Sciences*, 36(4): 535-547. (In Chinese)

Chao Liu. From Sacrifice to 'Half the Sky' : The Trailblazing Path of Chinese Female Geologists. Geological Society of London Special Publication. Accepted.

Contact: Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China; E-mail: [lc.2018@tsinghua.org.cn](mailto:lc.2018@tsinghua.org.cn)

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## Archives in the History of the Geological Sciences

In this new series short overviews of Archives from around the world that are relevant for research on the History of the Geological Sciences will be given occasionally 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 geo-historical archive of the former publishing house Justus Perthes in Germany.

**Archive: The Gotha Perthes Collection (cartography/geography/geosciences), University of Erfurt (Germany)**

Host Institution: Research Library Gotha, University of Erfurt (Germany)

**Brief Overview:** The Perthes Collection originates from the historical holdings of the former publishing house Justus Perthes in Gotha. It provides unique source material on the development of cartography, geography and geosciences in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Owing to the coherence and interconnection of its holdings, the collection documents the final phase of the age of discovery, when the interior regions of the non-European continents and polar areas were explored. At the same time, it provides unique insights into map production and development of geographical exploration and the geosciences of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The maps, atlases, and journals published by Perthes—most notably Stieler’s Handatlas and Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen, the leading journal for scientific exploration—shaped the scientific perception of the world well into the twentieth century and communicated it to a broad public. A second major focus of the publisher’s profile was genealogical and statistical works such as the Almanach de Gotha (“Gothaischer Hofkalender”), the authoritative biographical directory of the European nobility.

In addition to a map collection of approximately 185,000 maps and a publishing library comprising 124,000 volumes, the collection includes an extensive publishing archive (800 linear metres). It contains materials from the historical archive of the publishing house (1785–1953) and the VEB Hermann Haack Geographisch-Kartographische Anstalt Gotha (1953–1992), including field notes, travel diaries, correspondence, cartographers’ workbooks, copper plates, and business records.

**Availability/Accessibility:** The Gotha Perthes Collection may be consulted by appointment only. Maps and archive documents are made available on request in the special reading room of the Perthes-Forum during the opening hours, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. Material from the library may be requested for consultation in the special reading room of the Gotha Research Library during opening hours: requests should be made two working days in advance of visits.

**Travel Awards:** Herzog Ernst Scholarships. Research grants are available to visit the collections and details for application may be found at the following link: <https://www.uni-erfurt.de/en/gotha-research-centre/scholarships/herzog-ernst-scholarships/profile>

**Website:**

<https://www.uni-erfurt.de/en/forschungscampus-gotha/campus-gotha/akteure/wissen-global>

**Online catalogue:** Part of the collection—particularly a significant portion of the Africa and Asia maps as well as the publishing output—is available in the Digital Historical Library Erfurt/Gotha. By searching with the abbreviations SPA (Sammlung Perthes Archiv), SPB (Sammlung Perthes Bibliothek), and SPK (Sammlung Perthes Kartensammlung), the digitized items belonging to the Perthes Collection can be filtered from the overall holdings.

Printed works and books from the publishing library can also be researched via the online catalogue of the University Library of Erfurt. In addition, substantial holdings relating to the editorial office of the journal *Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen* (E.g., correspondence, manuscripts, map drafts of explorers and cartographers) already listed in the Kalliope union catalogue.

Contact: Please direct your enquiries about guided tours or usage/consultation of the collection to the following e-mail: [sammlungperthes.fb@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:sammlungperthes.fb@uni-erfurt.de)  
Address: Perthes-Forum Gotha, Justus-Perthes-Straße 5, 99867 Gotha, Germany.



Map Room (Ancestral Hall), Perthes Forum Gotha, © Norman Henniges

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

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## Awards

INHIGEO past-president **Silvia Figueirôa** from Brazil has been awarded the **2026 François Ellenberger Award** of the Comité Français d'Histoire de la Géologie (COFRHIGEO) as COFRHIGEO celebrates its 50th anniversary:



Chère Collègue,

Comme vous le savez sans doute, le Cofrhigéo a créé il y a deux ans un prix en histoire de la géologie qui a été nommé en l'honneur de son fondateur F. Ellenberger. Les premiers lauréats en ont été Jacques et Lydie Touret, puis Philippe Taquet.

Je suis heureux de vous écrire que notre Comité vous a retenu pour leur succéder au titre de l'année 2026. Pourriez-vous ainsi me dire si vous acceptez cette distinction ? Et, si oui, de me dire si vous envisagez de vous rendre en France dans les mois prochains ?

Si c'était le cas, alors ce serait parfait si vous pouviez être présente lors de notre réunion du mois de juin pour recevoir ce prix. La date de notre réunion n'est pas encore fixée, mais devrait être le deuxième mercredi de ce mois. A défaut, une autre possibilité serait notre réunion précédente qui aura lieu le deuxième mercredi de mars. Et, bien sûr, la remise de ce prix pourrait faite par téléconférence si vous n'avez aucun projet de traverser l'Atlantique. (N.B. Notre comité n'a malheureusement pas les moyens de prendre à sa charge un tel déplacement...).

Bien cordialement, avec les vives félicitations que je joins au nom de tout le Cofrhigéo !

Pascal Richet  
Président de COFRHIGEO

## Call for Application



**SOCIETÀ GEOLOGICA ITALIANA** ETS

FONDATA NEL 1881 - ENTE MORALE R. D. 17 OTTOBRE 1885

### **Biennial Prize “Quintino Sella for the History of Geosciences” in honor of Nicoletta Morello and Bruno Accordi - Competition notice 2026**

In application of the provisions of the Art. 8 of the **Statute** of the "Prize":

- Art. 1** - A competition is announced for the prize ""Quintino Sella for the History of Geosciences" – in honor of Nicoletta Morello and Bruno Accordi.
- Art. 2** - The Prize, sponsored by the Banca Sella, consists of € 2.000. The winner will receive the membership to the Società Geologica Italiana for the year following the prize assignment, or the renewal if already a member. The Prize is conferred to a researcher presenting a scientific paper in the field of the History of Geosciences (as author or co-author), published in the period 17/04/2024 – 16/04/2026, in Italian or English language according to the criteria defined in the Art. 3 of the **Statute**. The Prize is indivisible.
- Art. 3** - The Competition is open to all those who, on the deadline for the submission of applications, meet the following requirements:
- under the age of 35 at the deadline for the submission of the works foreseen in the call;
  - are not tenured university professors.
- Art. 4** - The **application** and documentation required by the **Statute** must be sent by email to the following address: [premi@socgeol.it](mailto:premi@socgeol.it) by April 30, 2026.
- Art. 5** - The prize will be awarded by an Evaluation Panel in accordance with the Art. 5 of the **Statute**. The judgment of the Evaluation Panel is unappealable.
- Art. 6** - The announcement of the winner and the awarding of the prize will take place during the General Assembly of the Members to be held in Padova at the headquarters of the 95th National Geological Congress of S.G.I. in September 2026.

*Roma, 23 febbraio 2026*

Il Segretario Generale  
*Alessandro Zuccari*

## News from IUGS

This year, INHIGEO will be evaluated as an IUGS Commission. Consequently, it will be necessary that you send your **input to the Annual Record 2026 (for 2025) as soon as possible** to our editor Kerry Magruder.

Also, we would like to ask your help with the required **SWOT analysis**. Any thoughts you might want to share with the INHIGEO Board are welcome. Please send them to the secretary general under [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de)

# SWOT ANALYSIS



image: Wikipedia

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## News from DHST

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that 2026 is off to a very good start for all of you, and that the year ahead will be productive and rewarding for your Commissions and Sections.

The beginning of the year seemed a good moment to draw your attention to an important matter that I would like to encourage you to include in your administrative agenda for 2026: the development of a respectful behavior policy tailored to the needs and characteristics of your own communities.

You may of course find inspiration in the general DHST Respectful Behavior Policy, but I am fully aware that the specific activities, formats, and dynamics of each Commission or Section may require particular solutions. Given that Commissions and Sections often organize many more activities than the DHST itself, and involve frequent interactions among officers as well as with broader communities, it would be especially important to take these specificities into account.

With best wishes for the year ahead, and many thanks for all your ongoing work,

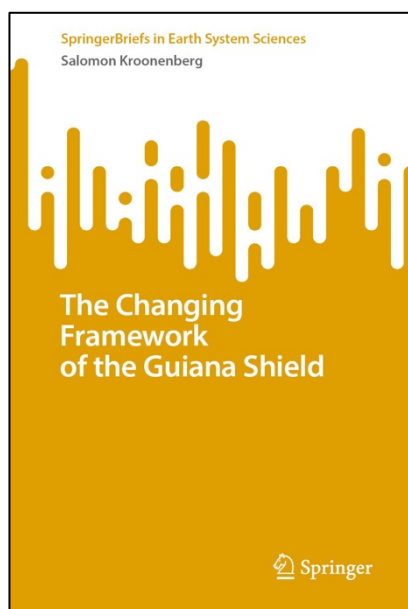
Thomas Haddad  
DHST Secretary-General

INHIGEO encourages you to read the general DHST Respectful Behavior Policy under <https://dhstweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/DHST-EGA-Respectful-Behavior-Policy-final-1.pdf>

Any thoughts or comments you may have are very welcome. Please send them to the INHIGEO secretary general under [m.koelbl@lmu.de](mailto:m.koelbl@lmu.de) by the end of April at the latest. The INHIGEO Board will be discussing the adoption of an INHIGEO Respectful Behaviour Policy over the summer – to be ratified at the INHIGEO Business Meeting in Zimbabwe.

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## New History of Geoscience Books



### **Salomon Kroonenberg (2025):**

#### *The Changing Framework of the Guiana Shield*

This book describes the widely different concepts that have been developed about the general structure and origin of the Guiana shield during the last one hundred years. A review of the evolution of thoughts about the geological framework of the Guiana Shield shows that many problems discussed at present have deep roots in the past: is the shield essentially an Archean craton reworked and remobilized by later Proterozoic events, or is it the result of juvenile continental accretion around pre-existing Archean nuclei? Is the tectonic development comparable to that in the Archean or to modern orogenic processes, and what is the role of plate tectonics? All these questions have an immediate bearing on metallogenesis in the shield. On the basis of many published maps and stratigraphic schemes, advances in geochronology, geochemistry and structural geology, this book shows that

many problems have still to be solved. It is based on thorough literature research, including many 'grey' papers in old conference proceedings that are not available digitally, written in the five languages of the Guiana Shield countries Dutch, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, collected by the author during the fifty years of his involvement in Guiana Shield research. One of the striking features is that from the beginning until the present day, there are discrepancies between the views of scientists from the northern Guianian countries Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana on the one hand, and the views of many Brazilian scientists in the south on the other hand, both sides commonly ignoring or neglecting the knowledge obtained by the other side across the rainforest-clad divide. Only a recent international cooperation programme opened the dialogue. By bringing together these views, the book contributes to a better understanding of the history of the Guiana Shield.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-86334-9>

Best regards  
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## Lázeňský host, geolog a výletník

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe v Čechách

## Brunnengast, Geolog und Spaziergänger

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Böhmen

Oldřich Fejfar

### **Oldřich Fejfar:**

*Brunnengast, Geolog und Spaziergänger - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Böhmen/ Lázeňský host, geolog a výletník - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe v Čechách.*

*(Spa guest, geologist and traveller: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Bohemia)*

The author of this bilingual Czech-German book – Oldřich Fejfar (1931 – 2023) was a prominent Czech paleontologist who was mainly involved in the research of fossil mammals of the late Cenozoic (Neogene and Quaternary). His research and scientific results were broadly credited thanks to his extensive and precise field work as well as detailed and innovative analysis of obtained data. It allowed him, except many taxonomical contributions, e.g., to demonstrate for the first time the fine-scale faunal changes during Early Pleistocene glacial-interglacial transition or establish a new biostratigraphical scheme for continental Quaternary, which was subsequently used as the main tool for intercontinental stratigraphical correlation for several decades.

In addition to his field, Oldřich Fejfar was interested in the history of geological sciences and his lifelong inspiration was the poet and naturalist J. W. Goethe (1749 – 1832), who during his spa stays in Western Bohemia devoted himself to natural science research, which significantly influenced his literary work. The places that Goethe explored in Bohemia are often important geological heritage sites today, and the poet's presence is commemorated there. Goethe's questions about the structure of the Earth, the origin of hot spa springs, and the polemics waged in the so-called dispute between Neptunists and Vulcanists/Plutonists are contained in his diaries, correspondence, and poetic and literary works. There are also numerous notes on paleontological findings in them. Specifically, Goethe dealt with the molar of fossil proboscidean from Dolnice near Cheb/Dolnitz bei Eger (it was a mastodon tooth), and corresponded with prominent men of his time, such as D'Alton and Cuvier, on the issue of identifying the animal. This fossil also influenced the career of Oldřich Fejfar, who, following in Goethe's footsteps, began to uncover other significant Tertiary finds in West Bohemia.

The book is divided into personal memories of Tertiary research since the 1950s and literary research of Goethe's sources. The conclusion summarizes current knowledge and findings from the region of West Bohemia. The author documents geological knowledge and polemics surrounding the emerging field at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries using original literary quotations and introduces the reader not only to contemporary knowledge, but above all to a natural philosophical way of thinking that was based on exact observation, which, however, was not separated from a poetic and philosophical stance. For Goethe, the questions of the formation of rocks are among those that cannot be fully explained and should remain hidden. Even in the dispute between Neptunism and Plutonism, whose main stage was the small Quaternary volcano Komorní hůrka near Cheb/Kammerbühl bei Eger, he alternately takes one side or the other. This dispute was not just a quarrel between the vain founders of geological sciences, but actually represented a dispute over the method of knowledge and interpretation of life experience, where not only factual arguments but also approaches to the world were opposed: the chief spokesman for Neptunism, Professor Abraham Gottlob Werner (1749 – 1817) was a supporter of the idea of non-violent gradual events in nature, while the Plutonists defended the idea of sudden violent changes. Werner's approach was much more in line with Goethe's humanism, even though the findings from the field supported the volcanic theory. Goethe himself writes on this topic:

“But in speaking here of heated natural phenomena, we note that we are also at a hot theoretical ground, namely where the dispute between Vulcanists and Neptunists has not yet completely cooled down. Perhaps it is therefore necessary to expressly state [...] that we do not attach any dogmatic value to this attempt to understand the origin of the Kammerbühl, but rather encourage everyone to exercise their intellect on this subject as well.”

This literary perspective may also be enriching for readers who are unfamiliar with the West Bohemian terrain and know Goethe primarily as a poet and artist.

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## Job Offer

Uppsala University is seeking to appoint a full professor in the History of Science.  
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## Next Circular

Dear INHIGEO members, you will receive the next circular with information updates around June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Until then: Take care and stay healthy!

Kind regards  
Martina Kölbl-Ebert