



Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

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2018 ASPEN INSTITUTE ITALIA AWARD WINNERS



Luca Bindi (Professor of Mineralogy and Crystallography, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Florence, Italy) and **Paul J. Steinhardt** (Albert Einstein Professor in Science, Professor of Physics, Director of the Princeton Center for Theoretical Science, Princeton University, New Jersey, USA) received the Aspen Institute Italia Award 2018 for scientific research and collaboration between Italy and the United States. Their joint project was entitled "The Quest for Forbidden Crystals". The award consolidates the Aspen Institute's commitment towards initiatives and meetings on important topics in the fields of science and technological innovation, with particular reference to their relevance to Italy. The jury was comprised of Aspen Italia Chairman Giulio Tremonti (Chair); Luciano Maiani, Professor Emeritus of Theoretical Physics at Rome's La Sapienza University; and Lucio Stanca, Vice Chairman of Aspen Institute Italia and former Minister for Innovation and Technology. Luca Bindi (left in the picture) and Paul J. Steinhardt (right in the picture) were given their awards by the President of Aspen Italia, Giulio Tremonti, during the annual ceremony held 25 October 2018 in Rome (Italy).

SIMP, SGI AND SOGEI ANNUAL MEETING

"Time of Planet Earth and Human Lifespan: Geosciences Between Past and Future"

<http://parma2019.socminpet.it/index.php>

The Joint Congress of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP), the Italian Geological Society (SGI), and the Italian Geochemistry Society (SOGei) has the title "Time of Planet Earth and Human Lifespan: Geosciences between Past and Future" and will be held 16–19 September 2019 in Parma (Italy).

Time is a central concept in the Earth sciences, and, in this meeting, it will gain an additional significance, being closely linked to the main theme of "Parma 2020 Italian capital of culture".

The congress will be organized into three days of oral sessions and posters, with plenary lectures by internationally distinguished speakers, special events on topics of public interest and outreach activities. Particular attention will be paid to young researchers: an introductory day will be dedicated to PhD student projects in order to promote their activities and to facilitate the creation of cooperative networks. The congress is open to all the members of the geosciences and has the aim of improving interactions between companies, professionals, high schools, and public authorities.

The deadline for abstract submission is 20 May 2019. The SIMP looks forward to seeing you in Parma!



JOINT SGI-SIMP CONGRESS 12-14 SEPTEMBER 2018

Last September, at the foot of the largest active volcano in Europe and in the striking late-Baroque setting of the city of **Catania**, there was held a joint meeting between the Italian Geological Society (SGI) and the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) congress. The meeting was entitled, "**Geosciences for the Environment, Natural Hazard and Cultural Heritage**". The congress took place over three days, from 12 to 14 September 2018, with scientific sessions on the title's main themes. There were 42 scientific sessions comprising 890 contributions, many of which were interdisciplinary, and they all highlighted the effervescent dynamics of the Italian geoscientific community. There were round tables, conferences and forums on topics of relevant "geo-social" importance and on major themes of geoscientific interest with particular regard to a relaunch of the Italian geological cartographic project (CARG). Worthy of note was the geological video awards based on the general theme, "On the Rocks". Finally, the plenary conferences covered a wide spectrum of Earth science topics: Italian participation in the **European Consortium for Ocean Drilling-Integrated Ocean Drilling Program and the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program**, earthquakes and tsunamis, old and new defensive strategies between real and perceived geohazards, the contribution of geosciences to the study and preservation of art and cultural heritage, and landslides as natural large-scale laboratories for understanding geological processes and risks.



The congress was a success, as judged by the presence of about 900 participants, and represented an important meeting for geoscientists to present their research and to discuss their results. For professionals, it represented an opportunity for a professional refresher and a deepening of competences in the field in which they operate. For school teachers, it was an opportunity to discuss the contents and didactic methods of the geosciences, as well as providing the possibility of establishing relationships with research laboratories. Finally, it offered everyone the opportunity to increase their collaboration with the many public and private entities that require geological expertise and to discuss new strategies for development and technology transfer.

The 2018 SGI-SIMP congress was also an important opportunity to reflect on the current and future role of geosciences in society, the function that they must assume in the formation of the citizen and in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage. Particular attention was paid to young researchers, PhD candidates and students through the organisation of events and meetings aimed at creating collaborative networks to facilitate intercultural and information exchange for the development of their research and the planning of future studies.