



# Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

[www.socminpet.it](http://www.socminpet.it)

Looking back over the previous few issues of *Elements*, it is startling how many warnings there were about postponing or cancelling congresses, conferences, schools, field trips, and workshops. We can now all-too-easily grasp the deep impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our scientific community. For example, the emc<sup>2020</sup> conference, which is the official conference of many European mineralogical societies, including the Italian Society for Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP), was scheduled to take place in Krakow (Poland) in 2020. This was postponed. However, I am happy to report that emc<sup>2020</sup> was held on-line from 29 August 2021 to 2 September 2021.

Most of the conferences and workshops that were planned, or supported by, SIMP during 2020, or that had been planned for 2021, have had to be postponed until 2022. However, there are a few exceptions: the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Diamond and Coloured Gems Conference took place 22–23 July 2021 live at Bari University (Italy); the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Tourmaline (TUR2021) will take place 9–11 September 2021 on Elba Island (Italy); the International School on Mantle Dynamics (MEREMA 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) will take place live 24–29 October 2021 at Sestri Levante, Genoa (Italy).

There has also been an important online-based initiative by which to maintain close contact with our community. As some of you may know, the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology and the Italian Geological Society (SGI) have, in the past, organized a Distinguished Lecture series that would be given in different Italian universities and that are intended to stimulate an interdisciplinary debate on a relevant Earth science topic. We asked many of our previous guest lecturers to update and present once more their talks so that we could record them and put them up online for all to enjoy and discuss. The lecturers very generously agreed. As a result, most of the past editions of the SGI–SIMP lectures have been/are being put up online on a monthly basis on the SIMP Zoom and SGI YouTube platforms. The discussion topic and the specific lectures were/are as follows:



Rodolfo Carosi



Fabrizio Nestola



Domenico Liotta



Orlando Vaselli

29 January 2021

Topic: *THE INACCESSIBLE EARTH*

**Rodolfo Carosi** (Earth Science Department, Turin University): “High-Grade Metamorphic Rocks from the Himalayas: A Window into Earth’s Interior”

**Fabrizio Nestola** (Geoscience Department, Padua University): “Diamonds: Messengers from the Deep Earth”

26 February 2021

Topic: *GEOTHERMAL ENERGY: A SIGNAL FROM EARTH’S INTERIOR AND AN OPPORTUNITY*

**Domenico Liotta** (Earth and Geoenvironmental Science Department, Bari University): “Relationships between Geological Structures and Fluid Circulation in Geothermal Areas”

**Orlando Vaselli** (Earth Science Department, Florence University): “Geothermal Energy vs. Geochemistry: From Exploration to Environmental Impact”



Giulio Di Toro



Cecilia Viti



Carlo Doglioni



Diego Perugini

30 March 2021

Topic: *EARTHQUAKE GENESIS: MECHANISMS AND FAULT ROCKS*

**Giulio Di Toro** (Geoscience Department, Padua University): “A Close Look at the Earthquake Engine”

**Cecilia Viti** (Department of Physical, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Siena University): “Faults and Earthquakes at the Nano-scale”



Gian Gabriele Ori



Luca Bindi

26 April 2021

Topic: *RHYTHMS OF THE EARTH: GEODYNAMICS, SEISMICITY AND VOLCANISM*

**Carlo Doglioni** (Earth Science Department, Sapienza Rome University): “Mechanisms of Geodynamics and Seismicity”

**Diego Perugini** (Physics and Geology Department, Perugia University): “A Geochemical Clock for Timescales of Volcanic Eruptions”

26 May 2021.

Topic: *GEOLOGY OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM: QUASICRYSTALS, METEORITES AND PLANET EXPLORATION*

**Gian Gabriele Ori** (Engineering and Geology Department ‘G. d’Annunzio’, Chieti and Pescara University): “Planetary Depositional Environments”

**Luca Bindi** (Earth Science Department, Florence University): “How Impossible Crystals came to Earth: A Short History”

Webinars were also organized to introduce the SIMP Honorary Fellows for 2019 (**Mark Welsh**, Natural History Museum of London, UK) and for 2020 (**Giuseppe Cultrone**, University of Granada, Spain; **Elena Sokolova**, University of Manitoba, Canada). Mark Welsh’s webinar was entitled “The Mineralogy of Cold Subduction - Recent Progress and Updates”; Giuseppe Cultrone gave the talk “Petrophysical Characterisation of Ceramic Materials”; Elena Sokolova’s talk was entitled “Ti Silicates with the TS Block: Direct and Inverse Prediction of Structure Topology”. During these webinars, **Nicola Campomenosi**, **Francesca Miozzi** and **Mara Murri** (ex-equo best PhD award 2020), **Giorgia Confalonieri** and **Ruggero Vigliaturo** (ex-equo Fiorenzo Mazzi Award for Mineralogy 2020) also introduced their research topics.

A 2021 promotion for young SIMP members has been set up by the *European Journal of Mineralogy*, and the journal also has a new series of special issues having the general title “Probing the Earth: Experimental and Theoretical Advances” (see *Elements* v17n1). The forthcoming third issue of the series will be specifically entitled “Probing the Earth: Melt Inclusions as Probes to Understand Nature” (Editors: Elisabetta Rampone, Silvio Ferrero, and Marie Edmonds). Submissions will be open from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

I am now getting close to the end of my term as SIMP President. I take this opportunity to warmly thank my colleagues on the SIMP Council, particularly Francesco Princivale (Vice-President), Nadia Malaspina (Treasurer), and Sabrina Nazzareni (Secretary) for their relentless, competent, and friendly support. And it is also my pleasure to thank the many other SIMP members who have helped organize and run the society’s many activities and functions.

**Daniele Castelli** (University of Torino, Italy)