

## DMG SECTION MEETING 2026

**Applied Mineralogy and Crystallography**

From March 11 to 13, 2026, the joint workshop of the DMG sections “Applied Mineralogy” and “Crystallography” again took place in the charming town of Bad Windsheim (between Würzburg and Nuremberg). With 32 participants from across Germany and Austria, attendance continued its upward trend in recent years. Master’s students, PhD students, postdocs, and professors met with experts from industry. The event and accommodations were organised in the same hotel, making the atmosphere welcoming and collegial from the start.

The programme was kicked off on Wednesday evening with a talk by Dr. Kathrin Weber of Refratechnik Cement GmbH, who spoke about her career path as a mineralogist in the refractory industry. The presentation was very well received and sparked a lively discussion on how university education can better prepare students for the demands of the industry, how academia and industrial practice can grow closer together, and which skills make mineralogists particularly valuable for the industry sector. Given the high level of interest, there are plans to focus more strongly on the topic of “Mineralogists in the Industry” at the next workshop.



2026 Attendees of the section meeting 2026 in Bad Windsheim. PHOTO: K. HAUKE.

A total of 20 talks were given. The topics were grouped into six sessions: “Methods & Characterisation,” “Modelling & Simulation,” “Energy Materials,” “Synthesis & Reaction Mechanisms,” “Ceramics, High-Temperature Materials and Functional Materials,” and “Recycling & Sustainability.” From the energy transition to new materials and the circular economy, many societal issues were addressed. The workshop thus once again showed the forward-looking nature of applied mineralogy and crystallography.

The workshop was deliberately kept informal and particularly aimed at giving early-career researchers the opportunity to present their work. Speakers were explicitly encouraged to share ongoing work, open questions, and unsolved problems. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as the coffee breaks, were used intensively for discussions, making new contacts, and exchanging ideas.

For me personally, this was not only my first workshop of this kind, but the first academic event outside of my own university. As a student at the beginning of my master’s programme, I was pleasantly surprised by how warmly I was welcomed into the community. The many open conversations gave me a valuable insight into how diverse career paths after graduation can be. The workshop also motivated me to approach my studies more consciously with regard to my future career path. I can highly recommend it to other students.

The next workshop is already in its planning stages—the DMG sections “Applied Mineralogy” and “Crystallography” look forward to welcoming participants again. Mark March 10–12, 2027 in your calendars.

**Paula Sablowski**, Cologne

## SHORT COURSE REPORT

**“High Pressure Experimental Techniques and Applications to the Earth’s Interior”**

The annual DMG short course at the Bavarian Research Institute (BGI) titled “High Pressure Experimental Techniques and Applications to the Earth’s Interior” took place from February 16 to 20, 2026. A diverse, international group of 25 master’s students, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers with different geological backgrounds was welcomed by experts in the field of high-pressure experimental science. The exceptionally well-thought-out curriculum provided a short but deep dive into both the theory and practical application of high-pressure experiments in the BGI and its laboratories.



Attendees of the 2026 short course at the BGI. PHOTO: F. HEIDELBACH (BGI).

Mornings started with various lecturers taking turns discussing their areas of expertise. Lectures on the mineralogical, geochemical, and geophysical backgrounds of the Earth’s interior were combined with overviews of the methods used to study them. Topics ranged from different pressure apparatuses, such as the piston-cylinder press, multi-anvil press, and diamond anvil cell, to analytical methods such as X-ray diffraction, transmission electron microscopy, Raman spectroscopy, laser ablation mass spectrometry, and many more. Lectures on thermodynamics, equations of state, and mineral chemistry provided the necessary theoretical foundation for those not yet familiar with them.

After lunch—usually accompanied by coffee and a lively exchange of ideas among participants—the practical portion of the day followed. The attendees were split into smaller groups and distributed among the multitude of labs to get hands-on experience with the devices and methods discussed in the morning sessions. From applying stress to a prepared sample to observe the corresponding strain response, to preparing samples for the piston-cylinder and multi-anvil presses, to placing (or trying to place) minuscule rubies in a diamond anvil cell—all techniques and machines were thoroughly demonstrated and explained, expanding on the theoretical lectures.

The short course was an overall great experience for all participants and a unique opportunity to connect and exchange ideas among students and future researchers. The week was crowned by a Franconian dinner at the local “Oskar’s” restaurant, a first for many.

Of course, the entire program would not have been possible without the engagement and dedication of the organizers and staff at the BGI, who generously offered their time to make this event a unique experience. This, combined with the energy and curiosity of the course participants, made for a truly special week. We sincerely hope that the course will be offered for many years to come, giving future students the exact same opportunity!

**Tobias Röper & Thomas Kühle**, Cologne

## ANNUAL DMG MEETING 2025 – DMG YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

At the annual meeting of the German Mineralogical Society (DMG), the **Young Scientist Award** is given for the best oral and poster presentations by a student. Student DMG members may apply when submitting an abstract for the 104<sup>th</sup> annual DMG meeting in 2026, which will be held within the GeoMinBochum Conference 2026 ([www.geomin-bochum2026.de](http://www.geomin-bochum2026.de)). The application form can be downloaded from our homepage ([https://www.dmg-home.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Form-Nachwuchs-Preis\\_v2026.pdf](https://www.dmg-home.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Form-Nachwuchs-Preis_v2026.pdf)).

The DMG is pleased to present the 2025 Young Scientist Award for an outstanding poster or presentation at the Geo4Göttingen Conference 2025 to two young scientists.



One of the awardees is **Vanessa Winkler** from Leibniz University Hannover.

With her poster on the suitability of approximately 3.25-My banded iron formations of the Fig Tree Group in the Barberton Greenstone Belt (South Africa) as archives of Palaeoarchaean seawater chemistry, she convincingly demonstrated how geochemical analyses can contribute to the reconstruction of early ocean conditions. Based

on major and trace element data from magnetite-, chert-, and siderite-rich layers of a drill core, she showed that the samples are affected to varying degrees by detrital input.

Particularly noteworthy is that chert and selected magnetite samples preserve characteristic signatures of Archaean seawater. The observed REY patterns and the absence of a negative cerium anomaly indicate conditions, while positive europium anomalies point to the influence of hydrothermal fluids.

The results demonstrate that chert, in particular, represents a reliable archive for reconstructing early marine environmental conditions and provide important insights into processes during the early evolution of the Kaapvaal Craton.



The second award goes to **Angelina Abel** (University of Göttingen). In her presentation on the formation of jadeite in metagranitic rocks, she convincingly showed that its occurrence is by no means controlled solely by pressure and temperature conditions. Using piston-cylinder experiments at 2.2 GPa and 800 °C, she demonstrated that jadeite forms locally at albite-biotite interfaces in fresh granite, whereas it does not form in

a complexly overprinted metagranite from the Monte Rosa area under identical conditions.

Of particular importance is the finding that jadeite formation does not proceed via simple albite breakdown, but is controlled by localized reactions. Key factors include the stability of biotite depending on aluminium content, sluggish reaction kinetics under fluid-limited conditions, and the metamorphic history of the rock.

This work provides important new insights into reaction mechanisms under high-pressure conditions and shows that classical interpretations of jadeite formation must be critically reassessed.

We warmly congratulate both awardees on these well-deserved honors!

## BEATE MOCEK PRIZE 2026

The Beate Mocek Award of the DMG aims to support early-career female scientists in mineralogy, particularly in the fields of petrology and geochemistry. The award was established in 2013 in memory of the geochemist and petrologist Beate Mocek by her family. This year, the award is presented to two outstanding early-career female scientists.



One of the awardees is **Anne Sturm** from Heidelberg University.

Anne Sturm specialized early in volcanology, petrology, and geochemistry and has consistently pursued this focus throughout her academic career into her doctoral research. Within a DFG-funded project, she investigates the structure and temporal evolution of the continental crust beneath the intraplate volcanic field of

the Eifel. A particular focus of her work lies in the development of an innovative method for dating maar eruptions using (U-Th)/He geochronology on zircons from crustal xenoliths. With this approach, she has already produced new and robust age constraints for numerous Eifel volcanoes, significantly reducing existing uncertainties. Her results make an important contribution to the understanding of intraplate volcanic systems and are also relevant for volcanic hazard assessment. In addition, she combines various geochronological and geochemical methods to precisely date and stratigraphically correlate tephra deposits. Her work has been published internationally and presented at conferences. Her profile is further strengthened by international research experience, her engagement in science communication, her role on the board of the German Volcanological Society, and her participation in scientific networks. With her scientific excellence, methodological innovation, and strong commitment, Anne Sturm is among the outstanding early-career scientists in her field. The Beate Mocek Award supports her in further expanding her international network and advancing her research, including her participation in the “2<sup>nd</sup> Submarine Volcanism Workshop” in Santorini, Italy.



The Beate Mocek Award is also presented to **Annalena Stroh** from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz.

Annalena Stroh works in the field of numerical modelling of petrological processes, in particular chemical diffusion, crystal growth, and resorption processes, and the quantification of metamorphic and magmatic timescales. Her research integrates petrology, geochemistry, and

physical and mathematical modelling. A central contribution of her work is the development of new numerical approaches for describing moving phase boundaries in diffusion systems. She implemented these approaches in the open-source software *MovingBoundaryMinerals.jl*, which enables thermodynamically consistent simulations of diffusion and growth processes in minerals. In doing so, she makes an important methodological contribution to quantitative petrology. In addition, she focuses on statistical uncertainty quantification of petrological models, including the application of modern Monte Carlo methods. Her work has been published in international journals and presented at conferences. Through her combination of methodological innovation, interdisciplinary expertise, and high scientific independence, Annalena Stroh is among the outstanding early-career scientists in her field.

We warmly congratulate both awardees on this well-deserved recognition.