
News at a Glance

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1. EPISODES: THEMED ISSUE ON FORENSIC GEOLOGY

Special Issue on
Forensic Geology

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Episodes
Journal of International Geoscience



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Chair, International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

The June 2017 thematic issue of *Episodes* is dedicated to Forensic Geology. IUGS set up the Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) in 2006 to promote and develop forensic geology around the world. Forensic geology (also known as Forensic Geoscience or Geoforensics) is the application of geology to policing and law enforcement, which may potentially be applicable to a court of law. As such, forensic geologists assist police and law enforcement in relation to: serious crimes (homicide, rape, and sexual assaults), organized crime, counter terrorism, kidnapping, humanitarian incidents, environmental crimes, wildlife crime, illegal and unlawful global trading or theft of precious metals (gold, platinum and REE) and minerals (diamonds and gemstones), fraudulent crimes, fakes, geohazards, geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, and ground searches for buried graves and other concealed items. Forensic geology includes most of the geosciences and it also seems to be of growing interest to non-geologists such as school children, students, the media, some politicians and the general public. This issue provides an overview of the establishment of IUGS-IFG and a summary its main achievements. The history and early developments of forensic geology are presented going back to the middle part of the nineteenth century to present day. The independent and simultaneous development of forensic geology in each region of the world is also explored. The co-authors have been carefully selected from consultancy, academia, police and law enforcement to provide information on multi-disciplinary aspects of forensic geology, in particular; ground searches for burials, crime scene examinations and geological trace evidence. Numerous operational cases are cited throughout to show case some of



advancements in forensic geology. As the practicable applications of forensic geology continues to expand and develop this issue of *Episodes* therefore also serves to bench mark the status of forensic geology. This issue is comprised of the following ten sections:

1. Section 1 Introduction: The Episodes Themed Issue on Forensic Geology and the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology

Dr Laurance Donnelly

2. Ground Searches for Graves and Buried Targets Related to Homicide, Terrorism and Organised Crime

Dr Laurance Donnelly, Commander Prof Mark Harrison, MBE

3. Geology of the FBI Lab and the Challenge to the Admissibility of Forensic Geology in US Court

Ms Jodi Blakely Webb, Dr Maureen Bottrell, Dr Libby A Stern, Mr Ian Saginor

4. Global Developments in Forensic Geology

Dr Rosa Maria Di Maggio, Dr Laurance Donnelly, and Co-authors

5. The Role of Forensic Geology in Illegal Precious Trade

Dr Roger Dixon, Prof Robert Schouwstra

6. Predictive Geolocation: Forensic Soil Analysis for Provenance Determination

Dr Duncan Pirrie, Prof Lorna Dawson, Dr Giles Graham

7. The Role of Pedology and Mineralogy in Providing Evidence for 5 Crime Investigations Involving a Wide Range of Earth Materials

Professor Rob Fitzpatrick, Dr Mark Raven, Dr Peter Self

8. Soil Organic Characterisation in Forensic Case Work



Prof Lorna Dawson

9. Application of Application of Geographic Information System (GIS) in Forensics
Geoscience

Dr Jennifer McKinley

10. International Case Studies in Forensic Geology: Fakes and Frauds, Homicides and
Environmental Crime

Dr Alastair Ruffell, Mr Bill Schneck

2. UPGRADING OF LYELL COLLECTION

S The Geological Society of London is pleased to announce that the Lyell Collection, the Society's online publication platform hosted by HighWire Press, was upgraded on 21 June.

As you know the IUGS has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Society giving it first refusal of books proposals that arise from IUGS and IGCP activities. Many have been published mainly in the Society's Special Publication series. The Lyell collection includes as well as a comprehensive range of the Society's other books and journals.

If you, or your Institution subscribe to the Lyell collection you will be able to view *Crust–Mantle Interactions and Granitoid Diversification: Insights from Archaean Cratons*, SP449 on the new platform at:

<http://sp.lyellcollection.org/content/449/1>

And look at one of the articles in this new format:

<http://sp.lyellcollection.org/content/449/1/1>

The new website has an intuitive interface which allows readers to discover featured articles easily and quickly and benefit from enhanced article functionality such as:



- **Figures and Data** tab collates all the figures in one place and allows you to view and download them easily
- Easy navigation pointers to the various article types on the right hand side
- Enhanced author information through the ORCID icon for those authors who wish to record this identifier
- **Info & Metrics** tab which may include funding information, latest version indicators, Altmetrics data and usage statistics <http://sp.lyellcollection.org/content/449/1/1/tab-article-info>
- Direct links to **Most read** and **Most cited** articles helping you keep up to date with what your colleagues are reading

In addition the site now supports **CrossMark** – an icon which points to the latest version of an article so that readers don't waste time on articles that have been updated.

The IUGS Publications Committee congratulates the GSL on this achievement which will enhance outreach by both the GSL and IUGS.

3. RESOURCING FUTURE GENERATIONS 2018

If you wish to get involved and to learn more about the RFG initiative visit the IUGS website at <http://iugs.org/index.php?page=resourcing-the-future-initiative> or contact me, Edmund Nickless, at edmund@geolsoc.org.uk

PUBLICITY OF IUGS ACTIVITIES AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

IUGS is keen to promote better publicity of its activities and joint activities and to coordinate publicity in the:

- IUGS E-Bulleting (published monthly)
- IUGS website, and



IUGS social media platforms.

You are encouraged to provide short publicity items on current activities and recent and forthcoming events (such as symposia, conferences and publications).

To reduce effort we aim that material should be easily customized for each of these outlets.

Items should normally consist of a maximum of about 600 words accompanied by one or two good photographs or other relevant images (this will be placed on the website). The author(s) should also provide:

- a summary of about two or three sentences. These will be published in the E-Bulletin with a link to the material on the website and, if appropriate, links to other relevant sites (e.g. the IUGS Commission websites); and
- a summary for publication on IUGS social media platforms not exceeding 100 words.

Each contribution should be sent simultaneously to the E-Bulletin editor Councillor Prof. Ben Mapani (Ben.mapani@gmail.com) and the webmaster Dr. Giuseppe Di Capua (giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it) and social media co-ordinator Councillor Dr. Amel Barich (amel.barich@gmail.com).

NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please mail to amel.barich@iugs.org or amel.barich@gmail.com.
- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings this coming month. If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in this Calendar please mail to: giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please <mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com> or secretariat@iugs.org.
- Follow the IUGS on Social Media! We are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Google+](#).

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An IUGS Event



RFG 2018

RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

PREMIER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ENERGY • MINERALS • WATER • THE EARTH

June 16-21, 2018

Vancouver Convention Centre

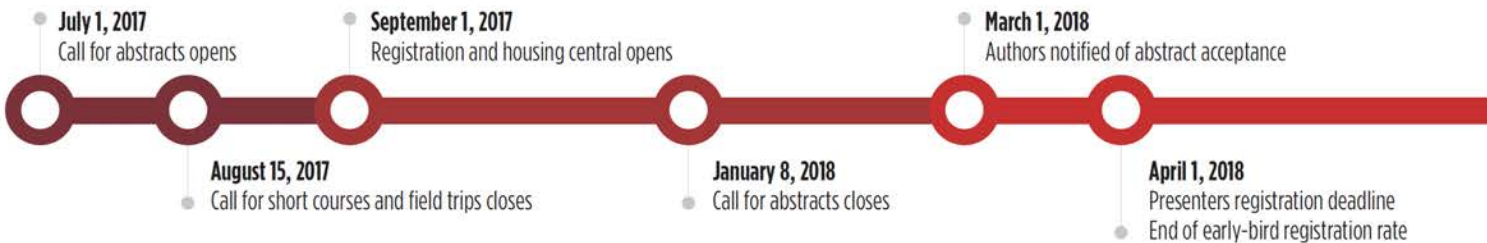
Vancouver, BC, Canada

WHERE ON EARTH WILL YOU BE IN 2018?



Resources for Future Generations is a global conference covering earth science, major resources—energy, minerals and water—and societal implications. Join us for this exciting event in magnificent Vancouver, Canada!

KEY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS:



Organizers



Supporters



Find more information at

RFG2018.ORG



#RFG2018

An IUGS Event



RFG 2018

RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS | VANCOUVER, CANADA

PREMIER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ENERGY • MINERALS • WATER • THE EARTH

JUNE 2018

BOOKMARK THE DATE

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

EMPOWER A GENERATION – GET RESOURCEFUL

- Discovery**
4-day technical program
2,500+ oral presentations and poster sessions
Opening and theme-based plenaries
- Education**
Short courses and field trips
- Community**
4,000 to 5,000 Canadian and international participants
- Exhibition**
3-day trade show
- Students & Emerging Leaders**
Dedicated sessions and events
- Networking**
Knowledge exchange and business opportunities



Get the latest updates at RFG2018.org

Organizers

Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum Institut canadien des mines, de la métallurgie et du pétrole



Supporters



+ 30 Technical Partners