



HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- 08:30 – Models in the geosciences (US3: Room B); Interactions between tectonics and surface processes from mountain belts to basins (IE3.1/TS3.1/GM4.5: Room K2); Communication and education in geoscience (EOS4: Room -2.16); Human-landscape interaction in the Anthropocene (GM6.1/BG7.5/HS11.13/SSS2.22: Room L4/5); Origin of life and habitability (PS7.1/BG8.2: Room F1); Monitoring and modelling of geodynamics and crustal deformation (G3.5/GD5.9/SM6.4: Room M1)
- 12:15 – Announcement of EGU photo, video and public engagement competition results (EGU Booth)
- 13:30 – Plate tectonics started in the PaleoArchean (GDB5: Room G1); Aeolian dust (AS3.4/CL4.13/GM11.4: Room F2); Soil mapping and process modelling for sustainability (SSS12.10: Room -2.32)
- All day – Medal lectures (various rooms: see right); Short courses & ECS events (various rooms: see right); Meet EGU (EGU Booth); GeoCinema (Room 0.90)

EGU Today helps you keep up with the many activities at the General Assembly by highlighting sessions and events from the programme. If you have comments or questions, email Bárbara Ferreira at media@egu.eu. The newsletter is also available online at egu2016.eu/egu_today.html.

Message from the EGU President

This week has been full of new impressions for all of us in a vibrant EGU meeting with discussions and networking between participants. There are now some 13,000 individual stories to tell about the experience and outcome of the conference. This week's success is due to the contribution by each individual attendee. Thank you to all convenors and authors for creating an inspiring atmosphere.

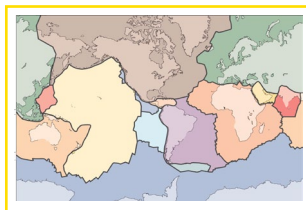
I am particularly pleased by the large impact on the meeting made by early career scientists. This group forms the majority of the attendees, and becomes more and more active in creating new initiatives that improve future general assemblies.

The theme Active Planet has provoked our minds, and the thematic key note lectures have broadened our horizons. PICO presentations have been very well received this year. PICOs represent the future of presentations in scientific meetings, and I hope this format will be requested by many convenors in the future.

I look forward to seeing you again at next year's meeting. In the meantime you may want to attend one of EGU's topical meetings and publish your next paper in one of the 17 high-quality open access EGU journals.

Hans Thybo, EGU President

Plate tectonics started in the PaleoArchean



When did plate tectonics start? One school of thought argues the process started from the time of the first geological record, some 3.8 Byr ago, and one that opts for a later date, perhaps around 3 Ga, perhaps later. In this Great Debate, which is convened by EGU and AOGS, two teams will defend the alternative points of view.

GDB5: 13:30–15:00 / Room G1

Origin of life and habitability

The aim of this session is to discuss the possible conditions and habitat for the origin and persistence of life in the solar system and beyond with emphasis on Earth, terrestrial planets, icy moons and exoplanets.

PS7.1/BG8.2: Orals / 08:30–12:15 / 13:30–15:15 / Room F1; Posters / Attendance 17:30–19:00 / Hall X4

Monitoring and modelling of geodynamics and crustal deformation

A session, in the framework of the WEGENER consortium, featuring studies of Earth deformation using geodetic techniques, complementary tectonic and geophysical observations, and modeling approaches focusing on the European-Mediterranean and Northern African regions.

G3.5/GD5.9/SM6.4: Orals / 08:30–10:00 / Room M1; Posters / Attendance 13:30–15:00 / Hall X2

Short courses & early career scientist events

- How to convene a session at the EGU 2017 (SC13/SSS0.1: 10:30–12:00 / Room -2.85)
- Publishing in Solid Earth and Earth Surface Dynamics: meet the editors (SC4/GM13.4/TS9.2: 10:30–12:00 / Room -2.61)
- Analytical techniques for revealing the nature and chemical properties of natural organic matter (SC19/BG1.15/GI3.8/SSS0.7: 12:15–13:15 / Room -2.61)
- The Cryosphere – Publishing your work: meet the editor! (SC58/CR6.9: 13:30–17:00 / Room -2.85)

Today's medal lectures

- David Bates Medal Lecture by Sushil Atreya (ML12: 10:30–11:30 / Room F1)
- Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Young Scientists Lecture by Grace E. Shephard (ML8: 10:45–11:15 / Room G1)
- Alexander von Humboldt Medal Lecture by Jean W.A. Poesen (ML1: 12:15–13:15 / Room E1)

Competitions

Find out who the winners of this year's Imageo and Communicate Your Science competitions are today at 12:15 by the EGU Booth. We'll also announce the winners of the EGU Public Engagement Grants.

GeoCinema Highlights

Room GeoCinema (0.90)



The uncertainties in climate change scenarios (Active Planet), 13:05–13:10

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Outlaws in air city / SAGE III - Monitoring Earth's Ozone Layer, 18:00–18:30

Meet EGU at the EGU Booth

- Division President of Atmospheric Sciences (Annica Ekman), 09:15–10:00
- Officer for Energy, Resources & the Environment (Suzanne Hangx), 10:00–10:30
- Programme Committee Chair (Gerrit de Rooij), 10:30–11:15
- Division President of Hydrological Sciences (Elena Toth), 10:30–12:00
- Division President of Seismology (P. Martin Mai), 11:15–12:00

What to do in Vienna this weekend

- **Vienna Blues Spring Festival 2016:** relax after a week of exciting science with a beer and some blues. <https://www.wien.info/en/music-stage-shows/pop-rock-jazz/vienna-blues-spring>
- **The Long Night of Research:** a free event where science will be shared all over the city in innovative and entertaining ways! <http://www.langenachtderforschung.at/>
- **Wine Tasting in Vienna's Vineyards:** join a bike tour along the Danube to a delicious destination. https://www.getyourguide.com/vienna-17/vienna-3-hour-wine-tour-by-bike-t47463/?partner_id=CDE2C

The Assembly Online



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Models in the geosciences

The geosciences increasingly rely on computer models as a way to store knowledge, as hypothesis testing tools, for inter- and extrapolation and for predictions, all of which are subject to uncertainty. This Union session features contributions addressing the role of models in the geosciences, the general nature and limitations of models, and recent advances in geoscience modelling, among others.

US3: 08:30–12:00 / Room B

Your highlights of this year's General Assembly

"The Arne Richter medallist presentation was very good from a scientific perspective. More generally, [the General Assembly] has been a great opportunity to meet everyone in one place." (Thomas Vienken, UFZ Helmholtz Centre, Germany)

"I'm an EGU virgin, so I'd never heard of the PICOs... this is a kind of happy medium where, certainly for something like [intrasalt structure and composition] which is quite niche, it does mean that there are 40 people all here together who care about the talk, it's better than being in a room for 200 with only 40 in there because that feels really empty." (Prof Christopher Jackson, Imperial College London)

"What I found very interesting was the short courses I took. One was for the ERC career grant. It was very informative, but also it opened my horizons to asking wider questions and scientific questions in the future." (Yael Sagy, the Geophysical Institute of Israel)

Communication and education in geoscience

This session encourages critical reflection on science communication practices and provides an opportunity for science communicators to share best practice and experiences with evaluation and research in this field.

EO54: 08:30–12:00 / Room -2.16; Posters / Atten. 17:30–19:00 / Hall D

Aeolian dust

The interactions between aerosols, climate, and weather are among the large uncertainties of current atmospheric research. This interdivision session features contributions looking into aeolian dust as an initiator, player and recorder of environmental change.

AS3.4/CL4.13/GM11.4: Orals / 13:30–16:45 / Room F2; Posters / Atten. 17:30–19:00 / Hall X2

Interactions between tectonics and surface processes from mountain belts to basins

This session, co-sponsored by the Tectonophysics section of AGU, discusses the coupling between tectonics and surface processes that fundamentally governs the dynamics of mountain belts and basins.

IE3.1/TS3.1/GM4.5: Orals / 08:30–12:00 / 13:30–15:00 / Room K2; Posters / Attendance 17:30–19:00 / Hall X2

Soil mapping and process modelling for sustainability

Soil mapping helps synthesise complex information in an understandable manner, while process modelling can be employed to facilitate the task of territorial planning, contributing to a sustainable landscape use. This session brings together studies on the use of soil mapping and process modelling for sustainable land use management.

SSS12.10: Orals / 13:30–17:15 / Room -2.32; Posters / Attendance Fri, 22 Apr, 17:30–19:00 / Hall X1

Human-landscape interaction in the Anthropocene

The session features recent work on new advances on the quantification of time-lags of responses, feedback mechanisms, and threshold behaviour in human-landscape interactions.

GM6.1/BG7.5/HS11.13/SSS2.22: Orals / 08:30–10:00 / Room L4/5; Posters / Attendance 17:30–19:00 / Hall X1

EGU 2017 General Assembly

The EGU conference returns next year, right here in Vienna. Mark the dates (23–28 April 2017) in your calendar, and check the website www.egu2017.eu in the next few months for updates. See you next year!