



# *The Educational Activities of the European Geosciences Union*

*Carlo Laj*

*Chairman*

*EGU Committee on Education*

*Merida, October 2016*

The Committee on Education of EGU was created in 2002 with the purpose of developing educational activities at EGU.

1) Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshops

(At the EGU General Assemblies and more recently at Alexander von Humboldt topical Conferences)

2) Educational sessions at EGU General Assemblies (teachers and scientists and sciences educators)

3) Gift Distinguished Lectures series

4) Teachers at sea

5) Foster collaborations between schools

## **Typically a GIFT workshop in Vienna includes:**

80 participants

20 countries

8-9 conferences

2 half-days practical works with hands-on activities experts

4 oral teacher-to-teachers communications

40-45 teachers' posters

1 visit to local institutions in Vienna (UNOOSA, IAEA...)

Visit and reception at the Vienna Museum of Natural History



European Geosciences Union

<http://gift.egu.eu/gift-symposia.html>

2009

**Topic: The Earth from Space**

Programme Presentations Brochure Web Conferences

2008

**Topic: The Carbon Cycle**

Programme Presentations Brochure

2007

**Topic: Geosciences in the city**

Programme Presentations Brochure

2006

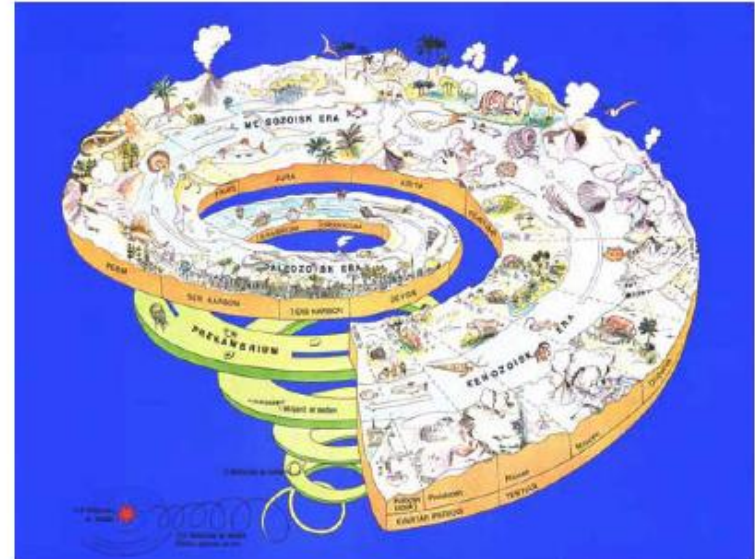
**Topic: The Polar Regions**

Programme Presentations Brochure

2005

**Topic: The History of the Earth**

Programme Presentations Brochure



*The time spiral, ©Sveriges geologiska undersökning (SGU)  
Permission 30-109/2005 from the Geological Survey of Sweden*

GIFT - 2005

# The History of the Earth

*Geophysical Information for Teachers Workshop*

*Vienna, Austria, 26-27 April 2005*



**European Geosciences Union**

**<http://gift.egu.eu/gift-symposia.html>**

2009

**Topic: The Earth from Space**

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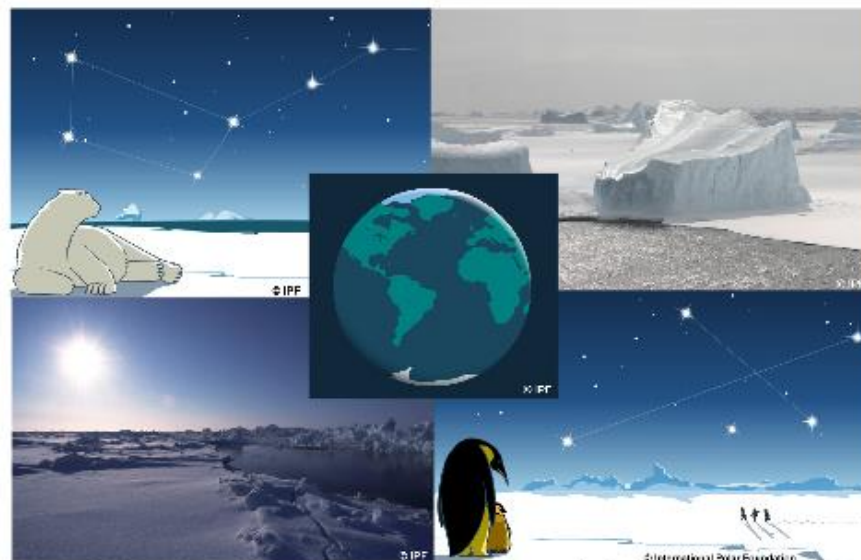
**Topic: The Polar Regions**

Programme Presentations Brochure

2005

**Topic: The History of the Earth**

Programme Presentations Brochure



*Courtesy of the International Polar Foundation*

**GIFT - 2006**

***The Polar Regions***

*Geophysical Information for Teachers Workshop*

*Vienna, Austria, 3-5 April 2006*



**European Geosciences Union**

<http://gift.egu.eu/gift-symposia.html>

2009

**Topic: The Earth from Space**

Programme Presentations Brochure Web Conferences

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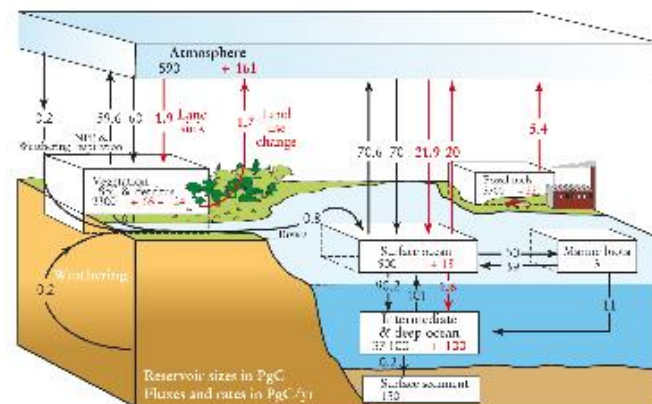
**Topic: The Polar Regions**

Programme Presentations Brochure

2005

**Topic: The History of the Earth**

Programme Presentations Brochure



Reprinted with permission from: Sarmiento and Gruber, *Physics Today*, 55 (8), 2002  
Copyright [2002], American Institute of Physics

**GIFT - 2008**

*The Carbon Cycle*

*Geosciences Information for Teachers Workshop*

*Vienna, Austria, 14 - 16 April 2008*





Circa 906.000 risultati (0,40 secondi)

### European Geosciences Union

[www.egu.eu/](http://www.egu.eu/) Traduci questa pagina

European Geosciences Union (EGU) Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the geosciences and the planetary and space sciences for the benefit of ...

#### Meetings

Meetings. General Assembly. The EGU General Assembly is a ...

#### Publications

The EGU, through Copernicus Publications, publishes 17 peer ...

[Altri risultati in egu.eu »](#)

## European Geosciences Union



La European Geoscience Union o è una associazione interdisciplinare aperta a persone che hanno un ruolo professionale o sono associate con le Scienze della Terra, Planetologia, Scienze dello spazio e relativi studi. [Wikipedia](#)

**Sede:** Monaco di Baviera, Germania

**Fondazione:** 2002

[Feedback](#)

# www.egu.eu

European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2016 Vienna (Austria) 17-22 April  
... their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geoscience.

### European Geosciences Union - Wikipedia

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_Geosciences\\_Union](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Geosciences_Union)

La European Geoscience Union o (EGU) è una associazione interdisciplinare aperta a persone che hanno un ruolo professionale o sono associate con le ...

### European Geosciences Union - Wikipedia, the free ...

[https://en.wikipedia.org/.../European\\_Geosciences\\_...](https://en.wikipedia.org/.../European_Geosciences_...) Traduci questa pagina







# European Geosciences Union

Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the geosciences and the planetary and space sciences for the benefit of humanity.



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## Featured News

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### Press Release: Applications open for EGU 2016 Science Journalism Fellowships (up to €5k)

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) is now accepting applications for the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of its Science Journalism Fellowship competition. The fellowships enable journalists to follow scientists on location to report on ongoing research in the Earth, planetary or space sciences. Successful applicants receive up to €5000 to cover expenses related to their projects. The deadline for applications is 6 December. [ [Read more](#) ]

## News

[View all](#) | [RSS](#)



### Voting for the next EGU President/Vice-President and General Secretary

From now until 4 December 2015, EGU



### Ice water content vertical profiles of high-level clouds: classification and impact on radiative fluxes



## European Geosciences Union Education



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### Education

Welcome to the EGU's Education section! Here you can find information about EGU's educational initiatives, including:

- [Geosciences Information for Teachers \(GIFT\) workshops](#)
- [Planet Press – geoscientific news for children](#)
- [Teacher's Corner – teaching resources in the geosciences](#)
- [GeoLocations Database – geological locations across Europe](#)
- [I'm a Geoscientist – engagement event connecting school students and geoscientists](#)

You can also access the contact details of the EGU [Committee on Education](#) on this page.

### News

#### ■ Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Workshop - Topic: The Solar System and beyond

The GIFT-2016 will take place in Vienna, April 18-20 2016, during the General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union. The theme of this workshop, organized in close cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA) is « The Solar System and Beyond ». During two and a half days, the workshop will explore the major characteristics of the solar system with the latest information gathered from recent space exploration using man-made satellites and give also the latest theories on the formation of the solar system. Special attention will be paid to the Moon and to Mars. [ [Read more](#) ]

#### ■ GIFT Distinguished Lectures Series - Call for Proposals

The EGU Committee on Education is going to inaugurate an annual series of Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Distinguished Lectures, to be given by top scientists who have previously participated as speakers in GIFT workshops during EGU General Assemblies. High school teachers, high school directors and educators for teachers from the European area are welcome to request a lecture, for which the EGU Committee on Education will cover the travel and subsidise the costs of the speaker. [ [Read more](#) ]



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### GIFT – Geosciences Information For Teachers

The EGU Committee on Education has organised Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Workshops since 2003. These are 2.5 day teacher enhancement workshops held in conjunction with EGU's annual General Assembly. There, selected top-level scientists working in the Earth Sciences offer the invited teachers talks centered on a different theme every year.

The main objective of the GIFT workshops is to spread first-hand scientific information to science teachers of primary and secondary schools, significantly shortening the time between discovery and textbook, and to provide the teachers with material that can be directly transported to the classroom. In addition, the full immersion of science teachers in a truly scientific context (EGU General Assemblies) and the direct contact with world leading geoscientists are expected to stimulate curiosity towards scientific research that the teachers then transmit to their pupils.

### Aims & Scope

The EGU Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Programme offers teachers of primary school to high school the opportunity to upgrade their knowledge in geophysical themes and to shorten the time between new discoveries and textbook information.

The Programme includes three different activities:

- The GIFT Workshop:**  
Organised at each EGU General Assembly, this symposium combines presentations on current research by leading scientists with hands-on activities presented by science educators for about 100 invited teachers.
- The Fall Meeting:**  
Organised over a long weekend, this workshop brings together representatives of the European funded and the international "science and education" programmes on selected topics to prepare the next EGU GIFT Symposia.
- The GIFT Home Site:**  
Organised as open platform for all national, European or international "science and education" programmes, scientists interested in sharing their results with educators, and teachers interested in bringing the geosciences into





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### GIFT Workshops

#### 2016 GA 2016 GIFT Workshop

Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 18-20 April 2016

Topic: The Solar System and beyond

#### 2015 GA 2015 GIFT Workshop

Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 12-15 April 2015

Topic: Mineral Resources

■ [Presentations](#)

■ [Brochure](#) (PDF, 3.0 MB)

■ [Web Streaming](#)

#### 2014 GA 2014 GIFT Workshop

Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 27-30 April 2014

Topic: Our changing Planet

■ [Presentations](#)

■ [Brochure](#) (PDF, 6.7 MB)

■ [Web Streaming](#)

#### 2014 Istanbul 2014 GIFT Workshop

Istanbul, Turkey, 27-28 March 2014

Topic: High Impact Natural Hazards Related to the Euro-Mediterranean Regions

■ [Presentations](#)

■ [Brochure](#) (PDF, 2.9 MB)

#### 2014 2014 UNESCO-EGU-ESA GIFT Africa Workshop

Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 26-28 February 2014

Topic: Climate Change and Human Adaptation

■ [Presentations](#)

■ [Brochure](#) (PDF, 2.3 MB)

#### 2013 GA 2013 GIFT Workshop

Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 07-10 April 2013

Topic: Natural Hazards

■ [Presentations](#)

■ [Brochure](#) (PDF, 6.7 MB)

■ [Web Streaming](#)

#### 2012 Cusco 2012 GIFT Workshop

■ [Presentations](#)



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### GA 2015 GIFT Workshop - Mineral Resources

Monday, 13 April 2015

- Welcome!**  
Günter Bloeschl  
President of EGU
- Practical instructions for the workshop**  
Carlo Laj  
EGU Committee on Education
- Mineral raw materials: sustainability issues for the XXIst century**  
Patrice Christmann  
BRGM, France  
[Presentation](#) (PDF, 2.1 MB)
- Mineral deposits – where do they come from and how did they get there?**  
Laurence Robb  
Department of Earth Science, University of Oxford, UK  
[Presentation](#) (PDF, 9.4 MB)
- Role of organic geochemistry in mineral deposits**  
Kliti Grice  
Department of Chemistry, Curtin University, Australia  
[Presentation](#) (PDF, 5.2 MB)
- Instructions for the poster session EOS02**  
Eve Arnold  
Stockholm University, Sweden
- Presentation of CD 'Minerals in your life'**  
Claudia Delfini



## **GIFT WORKSHOP – 2015**



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

# MINERAL DEPOSITS WHERE DO THEY COME FROM AND HOW DID THEY GET THERE?

**Laurence Robb**

**Dept of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford**



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### GIFT Workshops

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>2016</b> GA 2016 GIFT Workshop<br>Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 18-20 April 2016<br><b>Topic:</b> The Solar System and beyond                           |  |
| <b>2015</b> GA 2015 GIFT Workshop<br>Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 12-15 April 2015<br><b>Topic:</b> Mineral Resources                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▀ <a href="#">Presentations</a></li><li>▀ <a href="#">Brochure</a> (PDF, 3.0 MB)</li><li>▀ <a href="#">Web Streaming</a></li></ul> |
| <b>2014</b> GA 2014 GIFT Workshop<br>Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 27-30 April 2014<br><b>Topic:</b> Our changing Planet                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▀ <a href="#">Presentations</a></li><li>▀ <a href="#">Brochure</a> (PDF, 6.7 MB)</li><li>▀ <a href="#">Web Streaming</a></li></ul> |
| <b>2014</b> Istanbul 2014 GIFT Workshop<br>Istanbul, Turkey, 27-28 March 2014<br><b>Topic:</b> High Impact Natural Hazards Related to the Euro-Mediterranean Regions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▀ <a href="#">Presentations</a></li><li>▀ <a href="#">Brochure</a> (PDF, 2.9 MB)</li></ul>   |
| <b>2014</b> 2014 UNESCO-EGU-ESA GIFT Africa Workshop<br>Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 26-28 February 2014<br><b>Topic:</b> Climate Change and Human Adaptation       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▀ <a href="#">Presentations</a></li><li>▀ <a href="#">Brochure</a> (PDF, 2.3 MB)</li></ul>   |
| <b>2013</b> GA 2013 GIFT Workshop<br>Austria Center Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 07-10 April 2013<br><b>Topic:</b> Natural Hazards                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▀ <a href="#">Presentations</a></li><li>▀ <a href="#">Brochure</a> (PDF, 6.7 MB)</li><li>▀ <a href="#">Web Streaming</a></li></ul> |
| <b>2012</b> Cusco 2012 GIFT Workshop   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▀ <a href="#">Presentations</a></li></ul>  |



Many persons, not only from the Committee on Education of EGU, have given their time and energy to the preparation of this Workshop!

We all hope that you'll enjoy it and most of all that it will be useful in your teaching.

**But we also expect something from  
you!**

We would like to continue to offer teachers the opportunity to attend GIFT and similar workshops, but **this depends upon us being able to show our sponsors that teachers have used the GIFT information and science didactics in their daily teaching**, or as inspiration for new ways to teach science in their schools.

**Therefore we ask you:**

Therefore, we ask you

1. To fill in the evaluation forms as soon as possible and email them back to us

**EGU GIFT WORKSHOP**  
**(Mérida, Yucatan, Mexico, October 5-7, 2016)**

**EVALUATION FORM**

**to be emailed to Carlo Laj <[education@egu.eu](mailto:education@egu.eu)>**  
**and Francesca Cifelli <[francesca.cifelli@uniroma3.it](mailto:francesca.cifelli@uniroma3.it)>**

NAME of the Teacher

School name and address :

Score (5 = very good, 0 = poor)	5	4	3	2	1	0
What is your overall evaluation of the course?						
How would you rate the course with respect to its usefulness for your work?						
How would you rate the lectures?						
How would you rate the practical sessions?						

What are the main benefits that you will take from the course?

How will you apply the skills/knowledge acquired during the course to your work?

Do you plan to apply some of the GIFT 2016 educational material for your classe? If so, please specify which material and for which course (Geography, Science, Physics, other).

Did the course meet your expectations? If not, why not?

Which subjects/lectures did you find most useful?

Were there any topics which you feel could have been covered in more detail, or which should have been added to the course?

Were there any subject areas which you feel were unnecessary?



**2.** Make a presentation of your experience at GIFT to a group of your teaching colleagues sometime after you return from EGU

**3.** Send us reports and photographs about how you have used the GIFT information in your classrooms.

Enjoy the 2016 - Merida

GIFT Workshop!



And finally answer to the frequently asked question:

**Can I come again to the GIFT workshop?**

Every year, we welcome 10-15 % of teachers who have already attended GIFT in previous years.

These teachers are selected among those who have given us the reports!

In addition, please bear in mind that we usually donot accept more than one teacher from one particular school in the same year.