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# EDITORIAL

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This is the last issue of GeoQ. From January onwards, we are changing the quarterly PDF newsletter format that started with The Eggs over a decades ago, and continued when the publication was revamped and renamed GeoQ three years ago. The EGU has grown significantly in the past few years. This is reflected in the record-breaking number of participants at our annual General Assembly, the larger number of open access journals we publish, and the planned staff increase at the EGU office in Munich. We now publish information – from press releases and EGU news to journal highlights and General Assembly updates – on our websites, blog and social media channels at a rate that a quarterly newsletter cannot keep up with.

To inform our members about EGU activities on a more regular basis, we are introducing a shorter email newsletter, which we will send out every month from 2015 onwards. The new EGU newsletter will keep some of the popular sections of GeoQ, such as Journal Watch and EGU News, but we will abandon the interactive PDF format to make the newsletter more functional and easier and quicker to read.

But before we move on to a more frequent newsletter, we have an excellent final issue of our GeoQ(quarterly)! It is dedicated to a very interdisciplinary and timely theme: The Anthropocene.

The Deutsches Museum (the largest science and technology museum in the world, based in Munich) is [opening a major gallery](#) in December dedicated to the age of humans. Moreover, October saw the first meeting of the Anthropocene Working Group, the International Commission on Stratigraphy body in charge of examining whether humans have impacted the Earth significantly enough to merit defining a new geological epoch, an era of humanity's own making. In this issue (see [External News](#)), the Anthropocene Working Group writes a report on the outcome of that meeting, including future steps being taken to formalise the Anthropocene epoch.

The last issue of GeoQ also features [articles](#) on interesting research related to the different ways in which humans are affecting the Earth's systems. Sara Mynott explores how major engineering

works, such as the Suez Canal, have irreversibly affected natural ecosystems. Jonathan Fuhrmann focuses on the Himalayas, explaining how dark aerosols of human origin are affecting the ice, snow and water availability in the Third Pole. Tim Middleton looks at the Amazon in the Anthropocene, pointing out that signs of human presence in the rainforest can be traced back hundreds, or even thousands, of years. And, in the [EGU Voice](#) section, the EGU President writes about new thinking, data and models for doing geosciences in the Anthropocene.

This newsletter also informs members about recent EGU events and activities. For example, in the [EGU News](#) section we announce the winners of the 2015 EGU's awards and medals. Congratulations to all for their important contributions to the Earth, planetary and space sciences! Also of highlight is the forthcoming EGU General Assembly, taking place in Vienna, Austria, from 12 to 17 April. Don't forget to **submit your abstracts to the conference by January 7**.

Thank you for reading GeoQ, and I hope you like the new EGU newsletter we have in store for you. Check [www.egu.eu/newsletter](http://www.egu.eu/newsletter) in the coming weeks for more information.

*Bárbara Ferreira*

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The current and previous editions of the EGU newsletter (GeoQ and The Eggs) are available online at [www.egu.eu/newsletter](http://www.egu.eu/newsletter).

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COVER PHOTO: Crop Circles in the Desert, a NASA Earth Observatory image created by Robert Simmon and Jesse Allen, using Landsat data provided by the United States Geological Survey.

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