

**37<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress**

*30 August 2024*

# **2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)**

*minutes*



**Silvia Peppoloni  
Giuseppe Di Capua**

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# Agenda

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1. Welcome greetings.
2. Review and Approval of the Agenda.
3. Overview of the past years activities and the international geoethics infrastructure.
4. Financial Report.
5. Executive Council 2024-2028.
6. Busan Declaration on the Global Socio-Ecological Crisis and the Need for Geoethics.
7. Discussion on future initiatives: editorial projects, scientific sessions, projects.
8. Other business.

**Overview of the past years activities  
and the  
international geoethics infrastructure**

# Once upon a time ... the 34th IGC and the birth of the IAPG



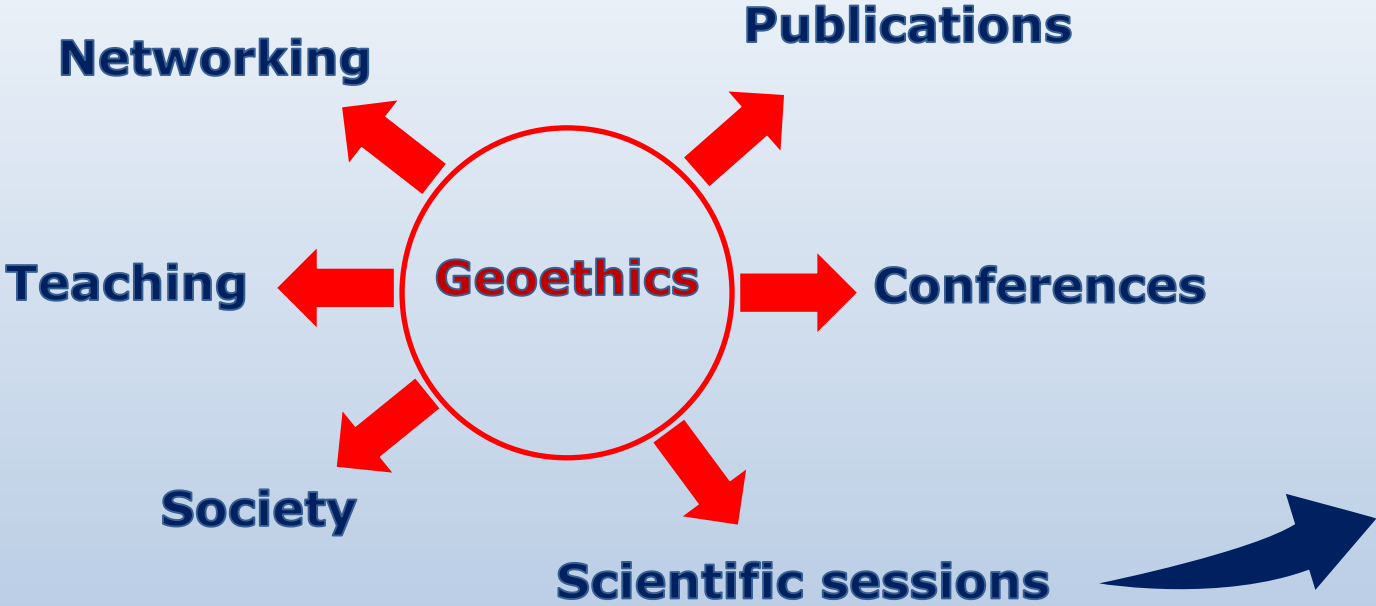
The IAPG was founded in August 2012, during the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC in Brisbane (Australia), from an idea conceived at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in April 2012.

The foundation of the IAPG was announced by Silvia Peppoloni during her keynote speech.





# Strategy and sessions on geoethics





# Publications on geoethics

2012

ANNALS of GEOPHYSICS

Engineering Geology for Society and Territory – Volume 7

Geoethics

Geoethics: the Role and Responsibility of Geoscientists

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY and ETHICS in the GEOSCIENCES

ANNALS OF GEOPHYSICS

Exploring Geoethics

Teaching Geoethics

Geosciences and the Sustainable Development Goals

Advances in Geoethics and Groundwater Management: Theory and Practice for a Sustainable Development

GEOETICA

Geo-societal Narratives

Geoethics: Status and Future Perspectives

Geoethics

Bridges to Global Ethics

2023

2024

NEW

GEOETHICS FOR THE FUTURE

*Facing Global Challenges*

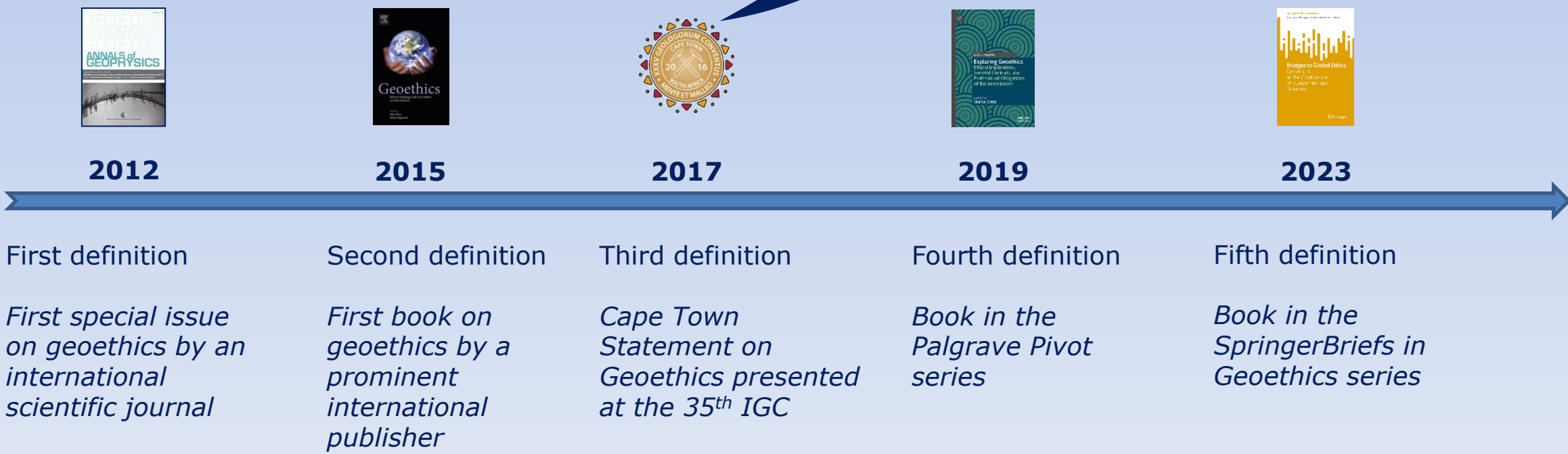
Edited by  
Silvia Peppoloni  
Giuseppe Di Capua

ELSEVIER

# Definition of geoethics and evolution over time

Developing an original definition of geoethics, which effectively delineates its scope and objectives, was a **crucial milestone in initiating the advancement of geoethics.**

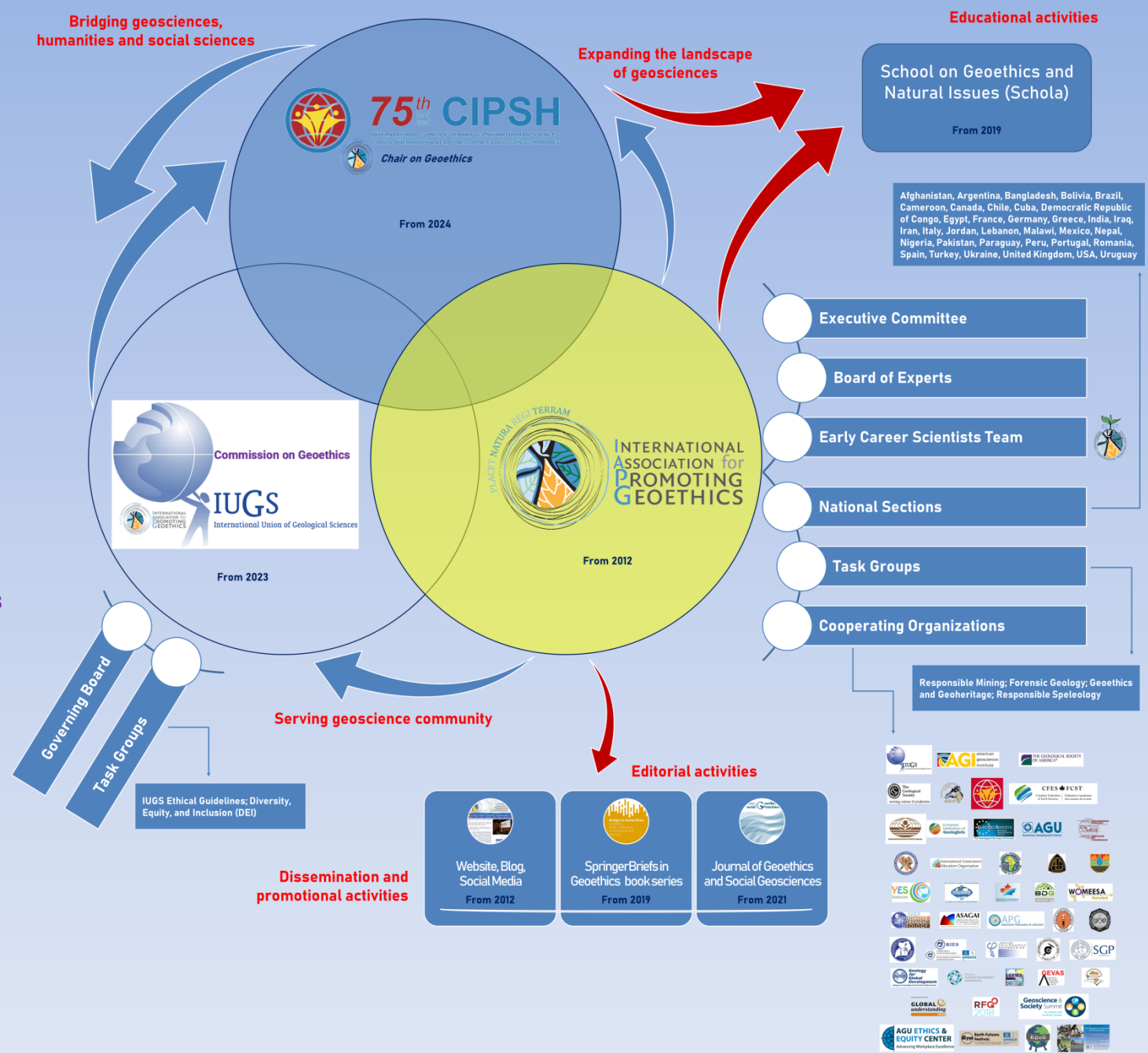
*"Geoethics consists of research and reflection on the values which underpin appropriate behaviours and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system. Geoethics deals with the ethical, social and cultural implications of geoscience education, research and practice, and with the social role and responsibility of geoscientists in conducting their activities."*



# The Geoethics Infrastructure: A scheme

## Strategy

- Serving geoscience community
- Expanding the landscape of geosciences
- Bridging geosciences, humanities, and social sciences
- Educational activities
- Dissemination and promotional activities
- Editorial activities



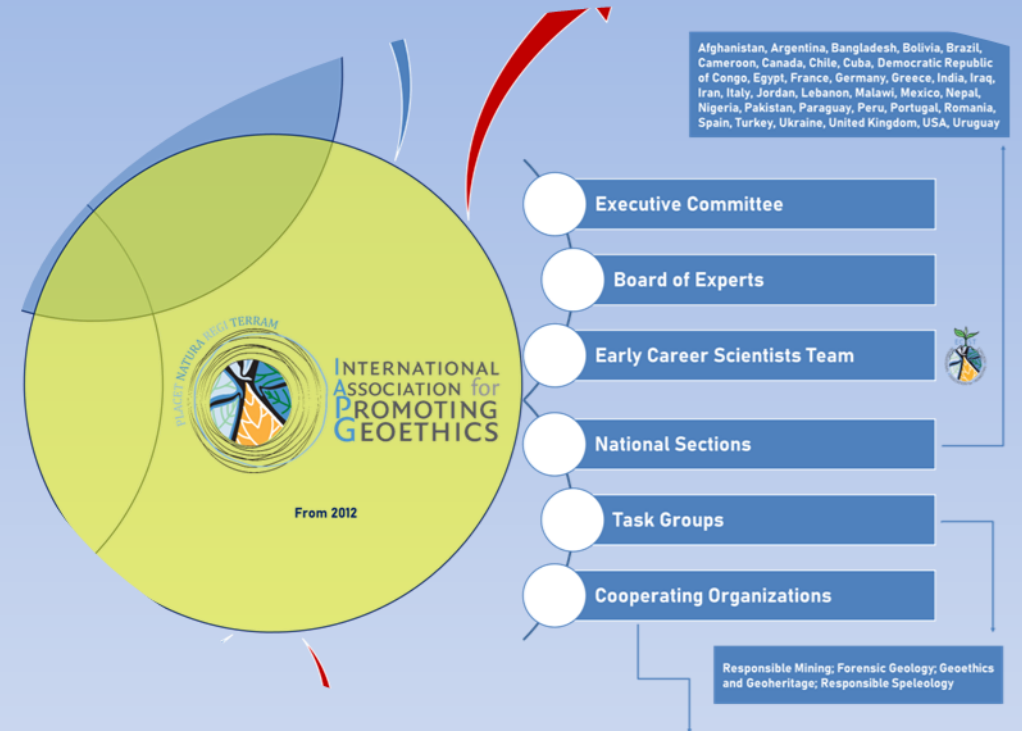
[www.geoethics.org](http://www.geoethics.org)



# The IAPG

A global network of 3200 members in 130 countries on 5 continents

- 1 Executive Committee
- 36 National Sections
- 1 Board of Experts
- 1 Early Career Scientists Team
- 4 Task Groups (Responsible Mining, Forensic Geology, Geoheritage, Responsible Speleology)
- 7 Affiliations
- 31 Agreements for cooperation
- 5 Partnerships



## Fundamental documents

**Geoethical Promise**

**Cape Town Statement on Geoethics**

**White Paper on Responsible Mining**

**White Paper on Responsible Speleology**

**Declaration against war and authoritarianism for the affirmation of human freedom and dignity**

# The IUGS Commission on Geoethics



The IUGS has officially established the Commission on Geoethics (CG) on 16 February 2023 in Belfast (UK)



The Governing Board of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics held its first meeting (virtual) on 2 May 2023

[www.geoethics.org/iugs-cg](http://www.geoethics.org/iugs-cg)

**Guidelines for Ethical Conduct at IUGS/IGC Meetings and Events**

**Preamble.** The IUGS is an international community of geoscientists that fosters dialog and communication by organizing meetings, symposia, and field trips and publishing peer-reviewed scientific work. IUGS and IGC events are intended to provide a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all participants in which they can effectively share reliable geoscience knowledge.

Participants in IUGS and IGC events include event organizers, speakers, attendees, volunteers, exhibitors, representatives of outside bodies, and public visitors. Contributing to making the event a positive and productive experience for everyone is the ethical responsibility of all participants. These guidelines apply to all participants in all IUGS and IGC activities, including ancillary meetings, events, and social gatherings.

**PRINCIPLES**

- Show respect** as a member of the IUGS community
- Be honest and act with integrity** in all situations
- Be civil, courteous, and fair** in interacting with others
- Promote and protect safety** in all plans, decisions, and actions

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA).** Organizers of IUGS meetings, including IGCs, must ensure that they are organized and conducted without any discriminatory bias.
- 2. Scientific Standards.** Geoscientists must abide by accepted research standards (such as the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity) as they communicate their reproducible data, testable hypotheses, and interpretations at IUGS/IGC events.
- 3. Prior Ethical Commitments.** Many participants in IUGS/IGC events are members of other geoscience organizations governed by codes of ethical conduct to which they have personally committed. The geoscience community expects participants to abide by these pre-existing ethical commitments during IUGS/IGC events and at all other times.
- 4. Behaviour – All Participants.** While the debate of scientific ideas is encouraged, participants are expected to behave in a respectful and professional manner. Bullying or harassment (including sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, sexual attention or innuendo, deliberate intimidation, stalking, intrusive photography or recording of an individual without consent, or inappropriate comments or jokes that are sexist, racist, or exclusionary) will not be tolerated.
- 5. Behaviour – Organizers, Convenors, and Session Chairs.** All those responsible for organizing, convening, chairing, or hosting all or any part of an IUGS meeting are expected to ensure that contributions and participants are invited fairly and without conflict, that selection and programming decisions are made transparently and without bias, and that participants are treated respectfully and professionally.
- 6. Authorship and Acknowledgement.** Participants should take responsibility for their contributions to all material presented by them as their own work. They should also acknowledge the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to the research, including writers, funders, sponsors, and others who might not meet authorship criteria.
- 7. Peer Review.** Organizers, convenors, session chairs and any other person responsible for reviewing abstracts or proposed submissions shall provide fair, prompt, unbiased, and rigorous evaluations. They shall respect confidentiality and disclose any conflicts of interest when reviewing others' work.
- 8. Adherence to Rules.** All participants must obey all applicable laws and adhere to all rules, policies, and procedures covering ethical behaviour, EDIA, complaints, and disciplinary procedures adopted and published by IUGS or IGC. They must also obey the rules and policies of the meeting venue, hotels, IUGS/IGC-contracted facility, or any other venue where a participant's meeting badge and IUGS affiliation will likely be displayed.
- 9. Public Communications.** In discussions with the public during IUGS/IGC events, participants should limit their comments to their recognized areas of expertise and clearly distinguish professional comments from opinions based on personal views.
- 10. Complaints and Disputes.** Complaints about matters that occur during IUGS/IGC events should be communicated to the event organizers or the event staff for investigation and resolution.
- 11. Penalties.** Participants who violate these ethical guidelines in a significant way might be subject to penalties from IUGS/IGC, including (but not limited to) expulsion from the meeting or event.

This document was prepared by a task group from the Commission on Geoethics of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). Additional resources are available at the website of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) – <https://www.geoethics.org/index>

## Guidelines for Ethical Conduct at IUGS/IGC Meetings and Events

**Commission on Geoethics**  
**IUGS**  
International Union of Geological Sciences

**Task Group on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility**

**PREAMBLE.** The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) with 121 national members, representing over a million geoscientists, is one of the World's largest scientific organizations. The International Geological Congress (IGC) is the scientific forum for the IUGS, and is organized every four years, attracting participants from all over the world. IUGS and IGC events are intended to provide a safe, productive, and inclusive environment for all participants in which they can effectively share reliable geoscience knowledge. Contributing to making the event a positive and productive experience for everyone is the ethical responsibility of all participants. These guidelines apply to all participants in all IUGS and IGC activities, including ancillary meetings, events, and social gatherings.

In September, 2023, in response to this resolution, the IUGS Commission on Geoethics convened a Task Group on DEI to provide recommendations for the IUGS to bring the leadership and administration of its constituent groups (commissions, sub-commissions, task groups, initiatives) to a balance of their members concerning issues of DEI, focusing on topics of gender, ethnicity, geographical provenance, discipline, career stage. Additionally, the IUGS Commission on Geoethics is supporting the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Science, which is a network of international organizations that promotes gender equality in science.

**Members of the IUGS Task Group on DEI:**

- Christopher Atchison (Chair), Professor, University of Cincinnati, USA
- Yong Ge, Professor, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences/Jiangsu Normal University, China
- Eva Hartai, Honorary Professor, University of Miskolc, Hungary
- Rachelle Kernon, Research Fellow, the University of Adelaide, Australia
- Billy Williams, EVP for Ethics, Diversity and Inclusion, American Geophysical Union, USA

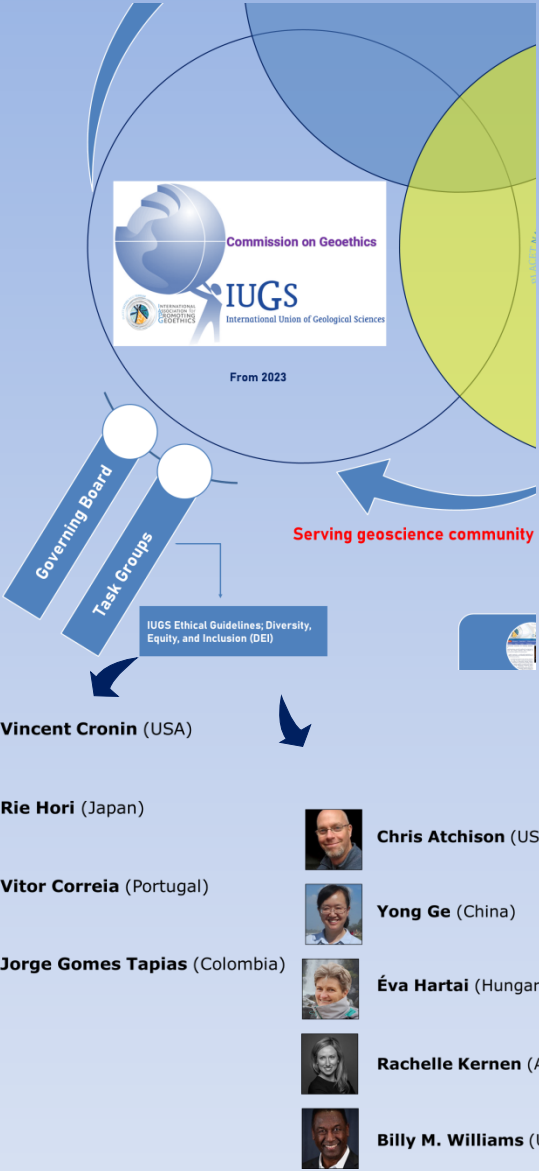
According to its charge, the Task Group recommends the following essential initiatives IUGS should consider implementing to raise awareness of DEI, which is then used to shape policies and practices for broadening participation and representation within its constituent bodies.

**Suggested Organization Reference Principles / Recommended Principles from the Committee:**

IUGS will strive to:

- Operate in an environment where all are treated with inherent dignity and respect;
- Value and promote gender diversity in its programs and activities;

## Action Plan on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility



# The CIPSH Chair on Geoethics

## International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH), under UNESCO umbrella

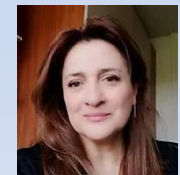
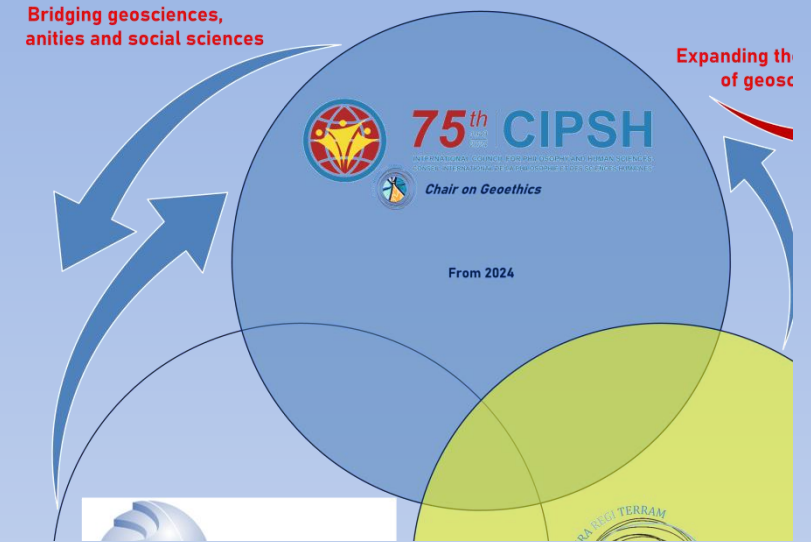
It would serve as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange, bringing together experts from the fields of geosciences, humanities, and social sciences. It aims to foster collaboration among scholars with diverse cultural backgrounds; to develop and further the field of geoethics, lead discussions on a global ethics grounded in geoethics, and bridge geosciences and humanities.

### officially supported by:

- International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)
- American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, Rome (Italy)
- Geosciences Center, University of Coimbra (Portugal)
- Faculté Polydisciplinaire de Safi, Université Cadi Ayyad, Casablanca (Morocco)
- China Center at the Institute for Security and Development Policy, Stockholm (Sweden)
- Norwegian Institute of Philology, Oslo (Norway)

### hosted at:

- National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, Rome (Italy)

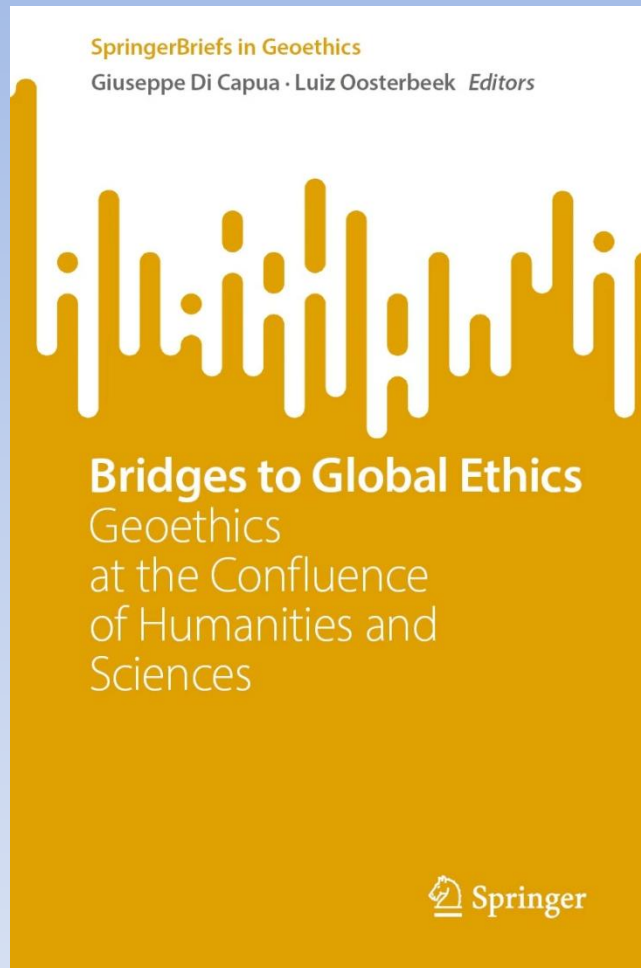


**Silvia Peppoloni**  
(Chair holder)

[www.geoethics.org/cipsh-cg](http://www.geoethics.org/cipsh-cg)



# Editorial activities

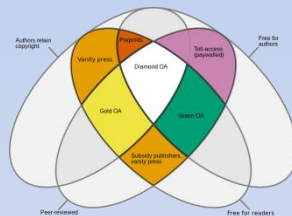


<https://www.springer.com/series/16482>



<https://www.journalofgeoethics.eu/>

**Diamond  
open access**



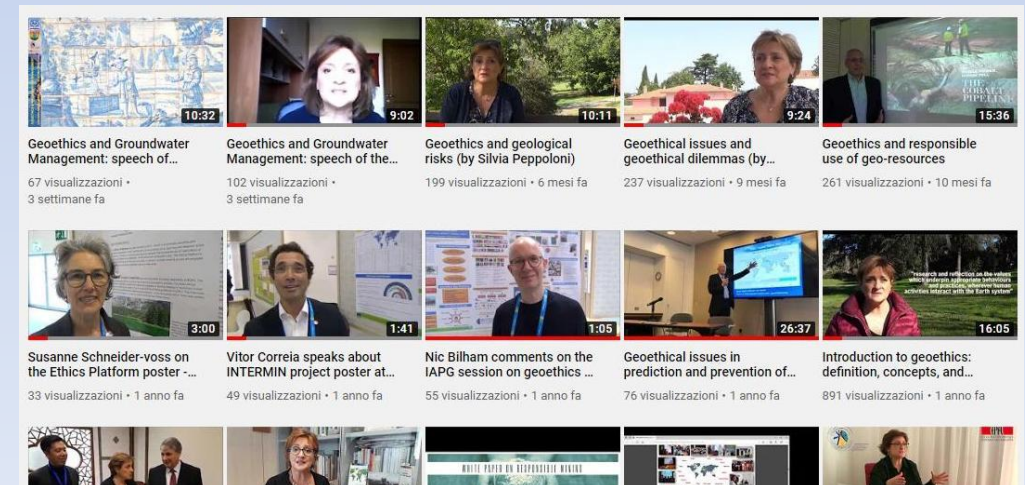
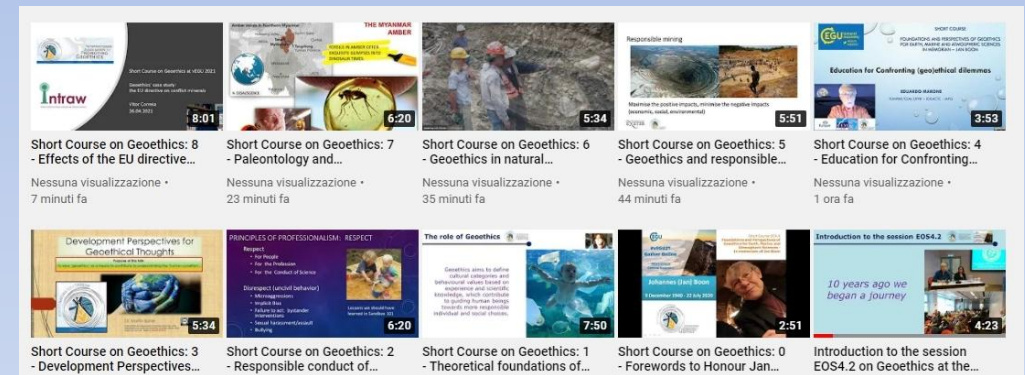
# The “Schola”

Date of foundation: 20 July 2019  
Director: Silvia Peppoloni  
Founding members: P.T. Bobrowsky, G. Di Capua, S. Peppoloni

Website: <http://www.geoethics.org/geoethics-school>

## Aims:

- teaching and learning of the principles and values of geoethics in the light of the philosophy and history of Earth sciences;
- providing background knowledge and the evaluation skills necessary to understand the complex relationship between human action on ecosystems and the decisions geoscientists make in the discipline that impact society, including improving the awareness of professionals, students, decision-makers, media operators, and the public;
- promoting the development of a scientific and critical attitude to the knowledge of the Earth and its constituent systems, by fostering a growth of awareness and responsibility towards the planet, education in the values and actions underlying a respect for ecosystems, including responsible use of resources, management of natural risks, reduction of pollution and its repercussions on human health and climate, adaptation to environmental changes, in view of an accountable and ecologically sustainable development.



# The International Geoethics Day

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First edition: **12 October 2017**

Website: **<https://www.geoethics.org/geoethics-day>**

Aim: Raising the awareness of the geoscience community and society as a whole about the importance of ethical, social and cultural aspects of geoscience knowledge, research, practice, education and communication.

The International Geoethics Day will be held every year during the Earth Science Week of the American Geosciences Institute, on Thursday.

This year, we will celebrate the 8th edition on 17 October 2024. Theme: **Valuing geosciences for the public good.**



# The Geoethics Medal

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First edition: **2018**

Website: **<https://www.geoethics.org/geoethics-medal>**

Aim: The Geoethics Medal honors scientists and scholars who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to ethical practices in geoscience research and/or practice, as well as its interdisciplinary applications. The award highlights the importance of responsible and ethical behavior in geosciences and encourages others to integrate geoethical principles into their work.



# Conclusions

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- In recent years, there has been a notable surge in the refinement of **the theoretical foundations of geoethics and its practical applications**.
- A growing number of **scholars from diverse disciplines** are actively engaging in this progressive development.
- This has increasingly underscored **the need for establishing platforms** where reflections, discussions, findings, and study materials can be readily exchanged and disseminated.
- The network of scholarly relationships has evolved to create both **physical and conceptual spaces for meaningful discussions**.
- This fruitful environment has increasingly developed and organized through what can today be defined as the **international infrastructure of geoethics**.

# **Financial report**



IAPG lives exclusively through donations and personal funds of its members.

IAPG received grants from the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS): 1,000 USD (687.19 Euros) in 2014; 1,500 USD (1,298.57 Euros) in 2016; 1,500 USD (1,316.11 Euros) in 2017; 2,000 USD (1,595.61 Euros) in 2018; 3,000 USD (2,623.01 Euros) in 2019; 4,000 USD (3,484.33 Euros) in 2020; 4,000 USD (3,293.43 Euros) in 2021; 5,000 USD (4,673.81 Euros) in 2022. From 2023, the annual financial support by the IUGS is transferred to the IUGS Commission on Geoethics.

Italian taxpayers can choose to devolve to IAPG a compulsory 5 ‰ = 0.5% ('five per thousand') from their annual income tax return. They donated to IAPG: 505.00 Euros (2014); 337.29 Eur; 287.53 Euros (2016); 612.47 (2017); 553.98 (2018); 894.51 (2019); 486.25 (2020); 458.87 (2021); 419.98 (2022); 362.87 (2023).

# **Executive Council 2024-2028**



**Silvia  
Peppoloni**  
(Italy)

President



**Elizabeth I.  
Rovere**  
(Argentina)

Vice-President



**Peter T.  
Bobrowsky**  
(Canada)

Vice-President



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**Matthew Hughes**

(New Zealand)

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(Oceania)

**Busan Declaration  
on the Global Socio-Ecological Crisis  
and the Need for Geoethics**



**The International Association for Promoting Geoethics, the Commission on Geoethics of the International Union of Geological Sciences, and the Chair of Geoethics of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences, express profound concern and unwavering commitment to addressing the urgent and escalating global socio-ecological crisis.**

**The world is facing unprecedented socio-ecological crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and resource depletion. These crises are intertwined with social issues such as inequality, poverty, and the displacement of communities.**

**The Busan Declaration recognizes the urgent need to address these challenges and acknowledges the critical role that geoscientists play in finding sustainable solutions.**



**Discussion on future initiatives:  
editorial projects, scientific sessions,  
projects**

## **Editorial projects**

- SpringerBriefs in Geoethics (proceedings session on geoethics at the 37<sup>th</sup> IGC; book “responsible Earth/Geosciences”).
- Special Issue of the Journal of Geoethics and Social Geosciences.
- Handbook on Geoethics.

## **Scientific sessions**

- EGU General Assembly 2025: “Geoethics and Global Anthropogenic Changes: Geoscience Informing Policy-Making and Decision-Making” (Vienna, 27 April – 2 May 2025).

## **Course on geoethics**

- Training Course of the Geological Society of London: “Exploring Geoethics: Ethics of Responsibility Towards the Earth System” (online, 19 March – 6 April 2025).

## **New IAPG national sections**

- Australia, Colombia, Israel

**Other business**





# Thanks for the attention

Giuseppe Di Capua

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