



### IAPGeoethics Newsletter n. 3 (2021)

This is the official newsletter of the IAPG.

It contains news about events, initiatives, publications on Geoethics by the IAPG.

The IAPG is a multidisciplinary, scientific community and aims at creating awareness about application of ethical principles to theoretical and practical aspects of Geosciences. The IAPG is affiliated to the IUGS - International Union of Geological Sciences, AGI - American Geosciences Institute, GSA - Geological Society of America, GSL - Geological Society of London, CFES - Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences, CIPSH - International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences and has **25 agreements for cooperation and 4 partnerships** with national and international organizations all over the world.

The IAPG is legally recognized as a not-for-profit association, has 2,831 members in 129 countries on 5 continents, and can count on a network of **34 national sections**.

Send any kind of information about geoethics that could be published in the IAPG webpages to: [iapgeoethics@aol.com](mailto:iapgeoethics@aol.com)

International Website: <https://www.geoethics.org>

Blog: <http://iapgeoethics.blogspot.it>

IAPG newsletter collection: <https://www.geoethics.org/newsletter.html>

### Membership

Becoming an IAPG member is easy! Fill in the form in the IAPG website at <https://www.geoethics.org/membership.html>. No fee is required at this time.

**Donation:** <https://www.geoethics.org/donations>



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## Geoethics at the EGU 2022

EGU General Assembly, 3-8 April 2021, Vienna (Austria)

**THE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS IS OPEN!**  
**Deadline: 12 January 2022, 13:00 CET**

### **Session EOS4.1: Geoethics in the face of global anthropogenic changes: how do we intersect different knowledge domains?**

(Conveners: Silvia Peppoloni, John Ludden, Luiz Oosterbeek, Pimnutcha Promduangsri, Billy Williams). This session is co-sponsored by the IAPG, AGU, CIPSH, IUGS.

Description: How can geosciences serve society in addressing global anthropogenic changes, such as climate change, hazards and risks, natural resources exploitation? Which is the societal role geoscientists play within society? How much ethics is important in geosciences? These are only some of the fundamental questions that modern geoscientists, aware of the ethical implications of their profession, should ask themselves. As any scientist, geoscientists have responsibilities in developing excellent science and international cooperation, as well as in communicating scientific knowledge to different stakeholders. Specifically, geoscientists have great responsibility in creating methods and technologies for assuring people's safety and a responsible use of planet Earth as entity and of its georesources, to guarantee public welfare and sustainable life conditions for present and future generations. The complexity of the world and problems affecting it requires interdisciplinary approaches and cooperation, capable of synthesizing a range of knowledge, methods, tools. This is one of the goals of promoting geoethical thinking. The purpose of this session is to create an opportunity for thinking and discussing about ethical, societal and social implications of global problems investing issues at the intersection between geosciences, humanities, and social sciences, with the objective of framing global anthropogenic changes as the crisis of the 21st century. Conveners invite colleagues to confront on these topics from their professional perspectives, by presenting concepts, investigations, experiences, methods, problems, practices, case studies on ethical, societal and social perspectives to address global warming, exploitation of natural resources, risk reduction, conservation of geoheritage, science communication and education, to provide food for thought and create connections between different disciplinary fields, with the aim to build a genuine interdisciplinary community. This session celebrates 10 years since the foundation of the IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics (<https://www.geoethics.org>), and is co-sponsored by AGU - American Geophysical Union, CIPSH - International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences, and IUGS - International Union of Geological Sciences.

### **Abstract submission**

### **Session EOS1.8: Climate & ocean literacy: Helping people to care ethically within planetary boundaries**

(Conveners: David Crookall, Giuseppe Di Capua, Bärbel Winkler, Francesca Santoro, Mario Mascagni). This session is sponsored by the IAPG.

Description: Climate change (CC) and ocean degradation (OD) are among the greatest threats to humanity. Climate impacts the ocean in massive ways; the ocean is the climate's most powerful regulator. Separately or combined, they impact every living being and ecological niche, with poorer communities suffering disproportionately. In turn, flora and fauna (incl humans) are suffering. CC and OD are affecting the cryosphere, biodiversity, and food and water security. Given that humans are the prime cause of this devastating change taking us beyond our planetary boundaries, geoethical issues come to the fore. The 2020 EGU Declaration of the Significance of Geoscience highlights the need for massive and widespread action to help people around the world to become literate about the changes affecting their and their offsprings' and communities' lives. The more people are literate about these changes, the more they can make informed decisions, adapt and mitigate. Previous General Assemblies have addressed climate change literacy (CL). Ocean literacy (OL) has developed strongly in recent years, especially with impetus from the UN Ocean Decade. Ocean-climate literacy (OCL) is an imperative that needs to be addressed massively and urgently, both within and beyond the EGU. We invite colleagues to submit contributions on any aspects of OCL; this can, of course, include CL (without the ocean) and OL (without the climate). We welcome papers related, eg, to learning processes/experiences, instructional materials, curricular innovation, learning games, citizen initiatives, Ocean Decade activities, evaluation, well-used methods, novel approaches and policies, eg, 1. make OCL an essential component in all subjects and at all levels of education; 2. require all people in positions of responsibility (eg, mayors, teachers, doctors, CEOs, ministers, et al) to pass exams on the basics of climate and/or ocean before taking office. Of particular interest are literacy actions that bring in geoethical dimensions. (If your paper is primarily on geoethics, then a better home is the EGU session on geoethics.) The broad aims of such OCL might include encouraging an intergenerational outlook, developing a sense of the geoethical dimensions of OCL, understanding complexities and implementing solutions. This session is an opportunity for ECSs, scientists, educators, policy influencers, learning resource developers and other practitioners to share their experience, expertise and research on CL and OL.

### **Abstract submission**

#### **Short Course SC4.1: Geoethics for Earth, Marine and Atmospheric Sciences**

(Convenership: Eduardo Marone, Silvia Peppoloni). This short course is co-organized by EOS4/BG8/GM14/SSP5 and co-sponsored by the IAPG and IOI-TC-LAC.

Rationale: The proper and deep education on ethical issues in geosciences has been evolving in recent times, although not as quickly and deeply as necessary. Many of the professionals dedicated to Earth Sciences have been not in touch with such new concepts and tendencies. Geoethics is the research and reflection on the values that underpin appropriate behaviors and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system. It provides a framework to define ethical professional behaviors in Earth sciences and engineering and to determine how these should be put into practice for the benefit of environment and society. The Short Course is directed towards introducing and training Earth scientists in those

new concepts and ideas as well as exposing the perspectives of this field. Social-ecological Systems and the anthropic impact on land, ocean, and atmosphere are at the cores issues to be discussed under the umbrella of geoethics, as a tool to cope with Climate Changes and other earth-society related challenges.

Learning objectives: After completing this course, participants

1. Will know the basic principles of ethics and how these lead to geoethics
2. Will be aware of the dilemmas involved in making geoethical decisions
3. Will have gained some experience in taking a geoethical approach to real-world cases

Course Content: (provisional)

1. From Ethics to geoethics: definition, values, tools
2. Responsible conduct of research and professionalism
3. Tools for confronting (geo)ethical dilemmas
4. Geoethics for society: sustainable development and responsible mining
5. Geoethics in natural hazards
6. Education challenges in geoethics
7. Geoethics in geoscience communication
8. Recent developments in geoethical thinking
9. Perspectives of geoethics
10. Geoethics' case studies: Water Management, Ocean Governance, etc.

Sponsorship: The short course is co-organized by EOS4/BG8/GM14/SSP5

More about these sessions and the short course:

<https://www.geoethics.org/egu2022>

Rules about abstract submission at the EGU 2022:

[https://egu22.eu/abstracts\\_and\\_programme/how\\_to\\_submit\\_an\\_abstract.html](https://egu22.eu/abstracts_and_programme/how_to_submit_an_abstract.html)



### **Geoethics Medal 2021: winners announced**

Sandra Villacorta (Peru) and Iain Hay (Australia) are awarded the Geoethics Medal 2021

Congratulations to the medallists!!!



These are the reasons for the medals (more on the IAPG website):

*"Sandra Villacorta is one of the outstanding figures in geoethical practice in the Spanish-speaking region. She has made a measurable impact over the past 10 years as a passionate advocate for promoting the spread of Geosciences in the society as well as the improvement of Geosciences education quality and leading the advance in geoethics in Latin America. She was the founder of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) Peruvian section, highlighted in the region. Since 2014 she has dedicated herself to promoting scientific integrity, ethics, and equality in*



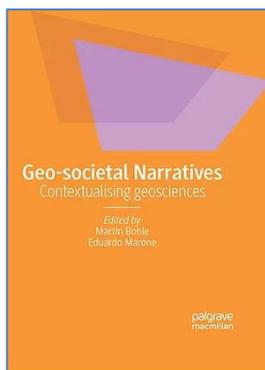
*geosciences, as well as giving conferences and writing articles on geoscience subjects and geoethics to spread it in the Spanish language. Her volunteer activities include: working with the International Union of Geological Sciences (Commission on Geoscience Education) and the International Geoscience Education Organization to help the improvement of Geosciences education worldwide and working in raising the awareness of applying Geosciences as part of the solutions for the development in Latin American countries, as a member of international committees. She has also assisted the Peruvian Groups of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment and IAPG with encouraging the use of worldwide techniques of engineering geology and ethical values to solve environmental problems faced in Peru and frequently been asked to give public talks as well as to appear as the subject of a variety of media material, encouraging awareness in disaster prevention in Peru. Sandra is an example of a high level of commitment to the practice of geoethics, academic excellence and develops its activities as a geoethical duty to society."*

*"Iain Hay has pioneered the field of geographies of domination and oppression in a lifetime's work acknowledged by a rare Doctor of Letters (University of Canterbury 2009). His research unmasks unintended and insidious ways in which injustice is created, reproduced and transformed. He works tirelessly to overcome injustice through practical and conceptual means and has led international professional development initiatives on ethics in geography; shaped geographical organisations' codes of ethics; and developed influential educational resources on ethics. Iain's lasting service to geoscience professions includes as First Vice-President of the International Geographical Union, President of the Institute of Australian Geographers, Chair of the Australian Academy of Science's National Committee for Geography, and Councillor of the global Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). He co-founded the ground-breaking journal *Ethics, Place and Environment* and promoted its ambitions for twelve years as Asia-Pacific Commissioning Editor. He has been Editor-in-Chief of *Geographical Research* and Editor of *South Australian Geographical Journal*. Iain co-authored the innovative *Research Ethics in the Social Sciences* and continues to write extensively on ethics in geography. Contributors to his landmark multi-edition book *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography* are entreated to emphasise ethical concerns, social justice, issues of racism, ableism, sexism, and Indigenous issues in their chapters. Iain's dedication to justice and the development of geoethical understandings is acknowledged by awards from the: American Association of Geographers, New Zealand Geographical Society, and Royal Geographical Society. He is the only geographer to receive the Australian Prime Minister's Award for University Teacher of the Year."*

#### **Geoethics Medal recipients**

2021: Sandra Villacorta (Peru) and Iain Hay (Australia)  
2020: John Geissman (USA)  
2019: Linda Gundersen (USA)  
2018: Chris King (United Kingdom)

**[Geoethics Medal website](#)**



## **New book: Geo-societal Narratives - Contextualising geosciences**

A new book (16 chapters, 20 authors) has been printed in 2021:

*Bohle M. and Marone E., eds. (2021). **Geo-societal Narratives - Contextualising geosciences**. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, XXV+221 pp., ISBN 978-3030790271. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-79028-8>.*

This book provides an accessible overview of the societal relevance of contemporary geosciences. Engaging various disciplines from humanities and social sciences, the book offers philosophical, cultural, economic, and geoscientific insights into how to contextualise geosciences in the node of Culture and Nature.

The authors introduce two perspectives of societal geosciences, both informed by the lens of geoethics. Throughout the text, core themes are explored; human agency, the integrity of place, geo-centricity, economy and climate justice, subjective sense-making and spirituality, nationalism, participatory empowerment and leadership in times of anthropogenic global change. The book concludes with a discussion on culture, education, or philosophy of science as aggregating concepts of seemingly disjunct narratives.

The diverse intellectual homes of the authors offer a rich resource in terms of how they perceive human agency within the Earth system. Two geoscientific perspectives and fourteen narratives from various cultural, social and political viewpoints contextualise geosciences in the World(s) of the Anthropocene.

This book is dedicated to Mario Bunge.

Bohle M. and Marone E.

### **Why Geo-societal Narratives?**

Peppoloni S. and Di Capua G.

### **Current Definition and Vision of Geoethics**

Blok V.

### **Geoethics Beyond Enmeshment: Critical Reflections on the Post-humanist Position in the Anthropocene**

Milligan T.

### **After the Permafrost: A Provisional Outline**

Frigo G. and Ifanger L.A.

### **A Critique of (Weak) Anthropocentric Geoethics**

Bellaubi F.

### **Exploring the Relevance of the Spiritual Dimension of Noosphere in Geoethics**

Rochira A. and Salvatore S.

### **How to Promote Responsible Conducts Towards the Environment: A Semiotic Cultural Psychological Analysis**

Herrmann-Pillath C.

**A Copernican Moment: Engaging Economic Ethics in Orchestrating the Geocentric Turn in Economics**

Sklair L.

**Geoethics: A Reality Check from Media Coverage of the Anthropocene**

Conversi D.

**Geoethics Versus Geopolitics. Shoring up the Nation in the Anthropocene Cul-de-sac**

Nauen C.E.

**Sustainable Small-Scale Fishing and Artisanal Mining Need Policies Favourable to a Level Playing Field**

Kunnas J.

**Climate Change, Uncertainty and Ethical Superstorms**

Nelson C.

**GAIA's Futures in the Anthropocene: A Call for Evolutionary Leadership**

Nagy G.M. and Bohle M.

**Geo-scientific Culture and Geoethics**

Marone E. and Bouzo M.

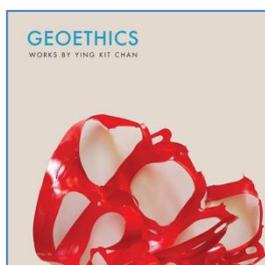
**Humanistic Geosciences: A Cultural and Educational Construction**

Potthast T.

**Geosciences and Geoethics in Transition: Research Perspectives from Ethics and Philosophy of Science - A Commentary**

[Read more](#)

[This book on the Springer Link website](#)



**New book: Geoethics and Arts**

We announce the publication of the following art book:

*Ying Kit Chan*

***Geoethics***

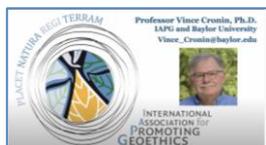
*Works by Ying Kit Chan*

*2021, Old Stone Press, pp. 158, ISBN 978-1938462542*

At the end of this book, the Ying Kit Chan writes an artistic statement "Toward an Aesthetic of Geoethics". In this statement he is calling on all artists to adopt geoethics as a philosophical framework for their art production.

[Read more about this book](#)

[Download the book preview](#)



## International Geoethics Day 2021 celebrated

This year the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Geoethics Day was celebrated on 14 October 2021.

The theme of this year was "Geoethics enhances the value of Geodiversity". In order to celebrate the International Geoethics Day 2021, many people around the world took photos of them together with geological items of the place where they live (outcrops, rocks, minerals, fossils, geological landscapes and/or processes) and posted on social media.

In addition, several sections of the IAPG organized events to celebrate this important day for geoethics and our association.

IAPG-Bangladesh organized a meeting at the Shaheed Mokhlesur Rahman Auditorium of the Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) and requested to all the geoscience community of the country to join the International Geoethics Day. This initiative was led by Abdul Baquee Khan Majlis and Jahangir Alam (IAPG-Bangladesh co-coordinators).

IAPG-Turkey organized a webinar on natural hazards and geoethics with the following speakers: Nur Beyaz Erkizan (Mugla Sitki Kocman University - Department of Philosophy) with a talk entitled "The ethos of being or on being able to love kosmos/universe"; Ayhan Sol (METU Department of Philosophy) with a talk entitled "Morality of Catastrophes and Doomsaying". Yüksel Örgün Tutay (IAPG-Turkey co-coordinator) was moderator of this event, organized in cooperation with TMMOB (Chamber of Geological Engineers).

IAPG-India organized an International Workshop on "Geoethics with focus on Geohazards and Mining Disasters" in cooperation with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR). Surya Parkash (IAPG-India coordinator) and Vincent Cronin (IAPG-USA co-coordinator) opened this event. Several speakers discussed about "Geoethics for Tunnel Investigations in Himalaya", "Geoethics and Mining Disasters", "Geoethics and Geohazards", "Ethics of Disaster Research". [Vince Cronin's video](#)

IAPG-Peru prepared a video with photos that national members of our association took in Peru to geological outcrops and landscapes.

[IAPG-Peru's video](#)

Hashtag: #geoethicsday2021

## Past editions of the International Geoethics Day



## International Geodiversity Day established by UNESCO

The International Geodiversity Day was established on 23 November 2021 by the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference!

From now on, the 6<sup>th</sup> of October will be an annual worldwide celebration, raising awareness across society about the importance of non-living nature for the well-being and prosperity of all living

beings on the planet!

The IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics was among the organizations supporting the proposal submitted to UNESCO.

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



### **MinerLima 2021 took place**

18-21 November 2021

The 7th edition of the geoscience exhibition organized by IAPG-Peru was successfully held in Miraflores, Lima (Peru).

The topic of this year was: "For a sustainable and inclusive mining"

A range of events were organized within MinerLima 2021: seminars, courses, conferences, workshops, and the exhibition of minerals, rocks, and fossils. Those events were attended by geoscientists, technicians, teachers, students and common citizens.

[Website](#)

[Video](#)

[Programme](#)



### **Special Issue of the journal Sustainability (Call for papers): "New Advances on Geoethics and Sustainable Development"**

Dear Colleagues,

The Earth, understood from a human perspective, is the physical place, but also the cultural and technological space, which humanity have the ethical duty to protect and transfer to future generations. There is a close connection between the social–ecological systems of the planet and their possible degradation if the thresholds of systemic sustainability are exceeded. The serious problems produced by Western development models, gradually accepted or imposed on a global level, cannot now find solutions through actions limited to local or national contexts—these need to be addressed through agreements on implementation methods and actions that are designed at a supranational level. For that reason, in this historical moment, it is essential to develop a global ethics towards the Earth that takes into account local contexts, but which is also able to provide a general vision of the common challenges to be addressed.

Geoethics has been defined as "the research and reflection on the values that underlie appropriate behaviours and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system". It is proposed as a global ethics that identifies the values on which to base a more responsible and functional interaction between human beings and

the planet understood as a system. Geoethics was born and developed to valorize geosciences from a social point of view and to make geoscientists aware of the role they can and have to play in society. At present, its conceptual and practical potentials are increasingly evident, as well as its ability to propose itself as an ethics capable of redefining the relationship between human beings and the Earth system on a global level. Geoethics specifies and qualifies responsible human action through concepts such as sustainability, geo-conservation, adaptation to changes, risk prevention, and geo-environmental education, which give operational concreteness to the modern ecological feeling and which underlie the cultural, technological, energy, and economic changes of our societies.

Responsibility towards the Earth, its social-ecological systems, and future generations introduces the fundamental concept of sustainability, which in turn implies the human capability to manage production and consumption mechanisms in a long-term perspective and to respect natural environments and processes in order to contribute to their ecological sustainability. Sustainability is based on the awareness that the natural resources of the Earth system are limited, that ecosystem services can be extremely delicate, and that their management by human communities must take into account planetary limits, so as to develop a safe operating space. A more sustainable society is a more just, equitable, inclusive, prepared, participatory, and ecologically oriented society, in line with the values expressed by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

This Special Issue aims to enrich and broaden the discussion on the concept of sustainability, analyzing it also in the light of the values of geoethics and considering its ethical, social, and cultural implications, so as to enrich the theoretical perspectives and practical applications of a global ethics towards the Earth. To this end, authors are invited to submit papers with scientific considerations, but also reflections relating to philosophical, historical, sociological, economic, and technological aspects, also with the help of practical examples and case studies. The Special Issue is promoted by the IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics (<https://www.geoethics.org>).

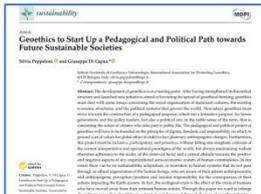
Silvia Peppoloni (INGV Rome, Secretary General of the IAPG)  
Giuseppe Di Capua (INGV Rome, Treasurer of the IAPG)  
Guest Editors

More information about this special issue:

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special\\_issues/geoethics](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/geoethics)

Keywords: geoethics, sustainability, human niche, social–ecological systems, planetary boundaries, safe operating space, ecosystem services, Sustainable Development Goals, Earth system governance, Earth stewardship

**1 new paper was published in this special issue and can be freely downloaded (other 4 ones, already published, are available on the IAPG website):**



Peppoloni S. and Di Capua G. (2021). **Geoethics to Start Up a Pedagogical and Political Path towards Future Sustainable Societies**. *Sustainability*, 13(18), 10024. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su131810024>.

**Abstract:** The development of geoethics is at a turning point. After having strengthened its theoretical structure and launched new initiatives aimed at favouring the spread of geoethical thinking, geoethics must deal with some issues concerning the social organization of dominant cultures, the existing economic structures, and the political systems that govern the world. Nowadays geoethics must move towards the construction of a pedagogical proposal, which has a formative purpose, for future generations and the policy leaders, but also a political one, in the noble sense of the term, that is, concerning the action of citizens who take part in public life. The pedagogical and political project of geoethics will have to be founded on the principles of dignity, freedom, and responsibility on which to ground a set of values for global ethics in order to face planetary anthropogenic changes. Furthermore, this project must be inclusive, participatory, and proactive, without falling into simplistic criticism of the current interpretative and operational paradigms of the world, but always maintaining realism (therefore adherence to the reality of the observed facts) and a critical attitude towards the positive and negative aspects of any organizational socio-economic system of human communities. In our vision there can be no sustainability, adaptation, or transition in human systems that do not pass through an ethical regeneration of the human beings, who are aware of their inborn anthropocentric and anthropogenic perception/position and assume responsibility for the consequences of their actions impacting the Earth system. In fact, the ecological crisis is the effect of the crisis of humans who have moved away from their intimate human nature. Through this paper we want to enlarge disciplinary areas that should be investigated and discussed through the lens of geoethical thinking and propose geoethics for an ethical renewal of societies, making them more sustainable from a social, economic, and environmental perspectives.



**New article on hydrogeoethics in a special issue of the journal Mediterranean Geoscience Reviews**

Chaminé H.I., Abrunhosa M., Barbieri M., Naves A., Errami E., Aragão A. and Di Capua G. (2021). **Hydrogeoethics in sustainable water resources management facing water scarcity in Mediterranean and surrounding regions**. *Mediterranean Geoscience Reviews*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42990-021-00069-2>.

“... groundwater resources are the main source of water supply in several Mediterranean countries and are subject to anthropogenic pressures resulting from unequal distribution, uneven accessibility and quality issues ... Currently, society demands a balanced groundwater footprint in sustainable resources management, eco-responsibility, and water ethics ... Hydrogeoethics is an emergent transdisciplinary field in geosciences focused on ethical research and best practices related to responsible groundwater science and engineering, creating conditions for sustainable water resources management while respecting human needs and environmental dynamics ... like geoethics, it can be defined through the same

characteristics ... Therefore, its studying objects are related to transdisciplinary fields in geosciences, anthropological and social sciences, dealing with the relationship between humans and the water cycle, including cultural, aesthetic, and historic traditions linked to water uses, legal frameworks, best practices and governance, groundwater management-society-policy interface ... hydrogeoethics addresses a conceptual and practical framework for a reliable people-centric approach in dialogue with ecocentric perspectives, underlining the connectivity, interlinkages, and interdependency of groundwater resources management, water conservation, environment, social and cultural activities."



### **New article on a geo-ethical logic for citizens and geoscientists**

Bohle M. (2021). ***A geo-ethical logic for citizens and geoscientists***. *Sustainable Water Resources Management*, 7, 85, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40899-021-00557-1>.

Abstract: The impacts of anthropogenic change do call for strengthening the socio-political and socio-economic anchorage of geoethical thinking. Geosciences are more than mere techno-scientific disciplines as, for example, geohydrology shows. Geoscience expertise ties geosciences and people's social lives. Geosciences are relevant for the societies' functioning, namely, to operate a technosphere at local, regional and planetary scales. Therefore, geoscience expertise includes a school of philosophical thinking called geoethics. Although initially designed for professional use, geoethics should support any citizen's individual, professional and civic dealings. Nowadays, the technosphere is a vital feature of the contemporary Earth System (or 'human niche'). In these contexts, conceptual benchmarks for geoethical thinking are described to address: (i) the operational limits of aspirational stipulations and (ii) a stronger socio-political anchorage of geoethical thinking. Methodologically, the present study relates geoethical thinking with the political philosophies of Bunge, Jonas and Kohlberg about people's social lives. Their works offer foundations for a broad application of geoethical thinking by providing benchmarks: Kohlberg's 'hierarchy of societal coordination (moral adequacy)', Bunge's 'balance of individual happiness (well-being) and duty' and Jonas' 'imperative of responsibility for agents of change'. These political philosophies can be combined with geoethical thinking (or geoethics). A 'geo-ethical logic' can be formulated, calling to act with: agent-centricity, virtue-focus, responsible-focus, reproducible/scientific knowledge, all-agent-inclusiveness and universal-rights-base. Whilst preserving the design of geoethics, the proposed geo-ethical logic strengthens the socio-political anchorage of geoethical thinking, and aspirational stipulations are benchmarked. Further study should aim to complement the given frame of socio-political benchmarks by socio-economic benchmarking.



## New article on the need for transparent communication in mining

Ribeiro T., Lima L. and Vasconcelos C. (2021). ***The need for transparent communication in mining: a case study in lithium exploitation***. *International Journal of Science Education, Part B*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21548455.2021.1999530>.

**Abstract:** Society's progress and living standards depend on the exploitation of raw materials. For centuries, its exploitation had kept pace with humanity's demand. Lithium is a critical element, essential to the development of green technologies, to decarbonization process, and for our daily life. In Portugal, there are high-quality Lithium deposits, with the Barroso-Alvão region holding a significant one. In this region, the mining possibility raises communities' societal concerns. Although exploitation is a needed asset for geoscientists, communities present a contrary position. Then, what is the reason for this conflict? A questionnaire was conducted amongst inhabitants (N=61) from two communities to determine their perceptions concerning the transparency of communication by the specialists, media, and exploitation companies. The results revealed insufficient clearness leading to the population's disapproval. Geoethical dilemmas were raised such as the need for reliable communication and the geoscientists' role in informed consent. Underlying to geosciences education and communication, citizens' engagement activities are required for the forming of accurate opinions about the demand for georesources.



## Geoethics in a Training Course on Oceans

November 2021 - February 2022

Eduardo Marone (IAPG-Brazil coordinator) is chair of the module "Geoethics" in the Training Course on Ocean Governance, Ocean Sciences, and Geoethics, organized by the International Ocean Institute - Training Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (IOI-TC-LAC).

The IAPG is partner organization of this training course.

[Download the flyer \(pdf\)](#)

[Read more](#)



## 4th Round Table on Geoethics in Peru

18 December 2021

After holding three round tables on Geoethics in Peru, as part of the activities of the Peruvian Section of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics and with the support of the IAPG-Peru Student Group, IAPG-Peru organizes the 4th Round Table on Geoethics, entitled: "On geoethics in Peru: Towards the development of geoethical policies".

The main goal of the activity is to promote the debate on ethics in the geoscience profession, focusing on different fields of activity, through critical reflections and analyses of case studies. Participants will receive certificates of attendance.

Organizing Committee: Pedro Isique, Sandra Villacorta, Judith Sullón, César Chacaltana, IAPG-Peru Student Group.

[Read more](#)

## Past events



### IAPG at the XXXV General Assembly of the CIPSH

12-13 December 2021

Silvia Peppoloni (IAPG Secretary General) represented the IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics at the XXXV General Assembly of the CIPSH - International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences. Even Giuseppe Di Capua (IAPG Treasurer) attended the General Assembly as IAPG representative within the CIPSH Executive Committee 2020-2023. The CIPSH General Assembly took place in Odense (Denmark) in a mixed mode (presence and virtual).

The IAPG is a member organisation of the CIPSH from 2017.



### A talk on hydrogeoethics in Afghanistan

12 December 2021

Mohammad Salem Hussaini and Asadullah Farahmand (IAPG-Afghanistan co-coordinators) deliver a talk entitled "Introduction to Hydrogeoethics: A new transdisciplinary approach in water science" in the AWEP Net (Afghans Water and Environment Professionals Network) seminar series (virtual mode).



### An IAPG talk on geoethics in Colombia

9 December 2021

Nic Bilham (IAPG Continental Coordinator for Europe, University of Exeter) delivers an invited talk entitled "Sustainable development and the energy transition: a geoethical perspective" at the third version of the "Encuentro de Sostenibilidad y Energía – Sustainability and Energy Summit" (virtual event), organized by the Colombian Association of Petroleum Geologists and Geophysicists (ACGGP) and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists AAPG Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

[Website](#)



### Geoethics in a Humanities seminar of CIPSH

6-7 December 2021

Giuseppe Di Capua (IAPG Treasurer) was invited to deliver a talk, entitled "Geoethics as global ethics to face global anthropogenic changes", at the The Second CIPSH International Academy on Chinese Cultures and Global Humanities Seminar on "Global Challenges and Global Ethics in a time of Pandemic and Climate Change", organized by Union Académique Internationale (UAI) in collaboration with the Stockholm China Center at the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) in Stockholm (Sweden).



### Invited talks on geoethics for a training course on disaster management in India

25 November 2021

Silvia Peppoloni (IAPG Secretary General) gave an invited talk (virtual mode) entitled "Ethics for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience", in the "One Week Faculty Development/ToT Programme on Disaster Management", organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs (India), in collaboration with the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES), Dehradun, Uttarakhand (India). Surya Parkash (Head of the GMR Division at NIDM and IAPG-India coordinator) chaired this event and gave a talk entitled "Basic Understanding of Disaster Management".

[Brochure](#)



### Lecture on geoethics in Slovenia

17 November 2021

Giuseppe Di Capua (IAPG treasurer) held an online lecture entitled "Geoethics: from an ethics for geosciences to a global ethics for societies", organized by the GeoZS - Geological Survey of Slovenia for its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

[Download the lecture summary](#)

[Video](#)



### Seminar on geoethics at the GSAf

29 October 2021

Giuseppe Di Capua (IAPG treasurer) held an online seminar on "Foundations of Geoethics", organized by the GSAf - Geological Society of Africa for its seminar series.



### Special session on geoethics in Chile

26 October 2021

The Chilean section of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) organized a special session 'Towards the construction of the Geoethics Code for the geoscience community in Chile' in the Symposium of the Geology of Chile (SAGChi). This virtual session took place on Tuesday October 26th through the SAGCHI platform and aimed to join the geoscience community in Chile to discuss about the social role of the people that work in this field. The language of the session was Spanish.

The keynote speakers of the session were:

Luisa Pinto Lincoñir, Associate Professor, Universidad de Chile, and coordinator of IAPG-Chile: "¿Qué principios y qué valores? El desafío

de la construcción de un código de geoética". (What principles and what values? The challenge of building a code of geoethics).

Roberto Lencina Kairuz, Researcher, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina, member of IAPG-Argentina: "Litio en la Puna Argentina: La percepción de las comunidades indígenas y el rol de los geocientíficos ¿un dilema ético de la transición energética?". (Lithium in the Argentinian Puna: The perception of indigenous communities and the role of geoscientists, an ethical dilemma of the energy transition?)

Mauricio Mella Barra, Geologist, Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería: "Servicio Público e Investigación Científica: Una mirada ética desde las emergencias geológicas". (Public Service and Scientific Research: An ethical perspective from geological emergencies).

## Video



### IAPG talk on geoethics in Mexico

25 October 2021

Sandra Villacorta (Scientific Coordinator of IAPG-Peru) gave a talk on geoethics at the First International Congress "Study and Application of Geoscience on Earth and in the Space" (Primer Congreso Internacional "El Estudio y la Aplicación de las Geociencias en la Tierra y en el Espacio") in Mexico.

The title of Sandra's talk was "Geoethics and its importance in Latin America" (Geoética y su importancia en América Latina).

The congress was organized by Centro de Inteligencia y Análisis Estratégico under the auspices of the Centro de Investigaciones Geopolíticas en Energía y Medio Ambiente de México.



### Round table on geoethics in Bolivia

22 October 2021

The online roundtable on geoethics was included in the programme of the XXIV Bolivian Geological Congress, held in La Paz (Bolivia) and organized by IAPG-Bolivia. Speakers: Giuseppe Di Capua (IAPG-Italy), Pedro Isique (IAPG-Peru), Elizabeth Rovere (IAPG-Argentina), Wilfredo Ramos Collorana (IAPG-Bolivia)



### IAPG at the AGI-GSA MSC Fall 2021 meeting

4 October 2021

Vince Cronin (IAPG-USA co-coordinator) represented the IAPG at the American Geosciences Institute's (AGI) virtual Fall 2021 Member Society Council (MSC) meeting, that was held jointly with the Geological Society of America's Associated Societies.





## Webinar on Hydrogeoethics

1 October 2021

Manuel Abrunhosa (IAPG Board of Experts) was the speaker of the webinar entitled "Hydrogeoethics: the newest Hydrogeology discipline", included in the "Where Groundwater Meets" series and organised by IAH's Western and Central European Chapters.



## Geoethics at GeoKarlsruhe 2021

1 October 2021

Martin Bohle (IAPG Board of Expert) delivered a presentation entitled "Geo-Rational - Ethics in/for the Geosciences" and Dominic Hildebrandt (IAPG member) delivered a presentation entitled "Shaping responsible future experts: the need for integrating Geoethics in Geoscience university education" in the Session 12.3 "Geoscience and Society" at the GeoKarlsruhe 2021 (virtual conference).

[Website](#)

## Donations



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