



EGU TODAY

Daily newsletter from the General Assembly

Thursday
6 May 2010

Jasper Vrugt to receive Outstanding Young Scientist Award.

The 2010 Outstanding Young Scientist Award has been awarded to Dr Jasper Vrugt in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of hydrology. The ability to make hydrological predictions in the context of global change is one of the biggest challenges the science of hydrology is facing today. Vrugt's accomplishments are instrumental towards addressing this issue and rank him among the most insightful and influential scientists of his generation. **ML31, 17:00 – 17:30, Room 39. Convener: Alberto Montanari**

Today's Medal Lectures

Vilhelm Bjerknes Medal
Akio Arakawa
ML5, 10:30–11:15, Room 12

Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky Medal
Donald E. Canfield
ML6, 15:45–16:30, Room 23

Vening Meinesz Medal
Philip L. Woodworth
ML10, 19:00–20:00, Room 19

Robert Wilhelm Bunsen Medal
Mark S. Ghiorso
ML14, 15:30–16:15, Room 20

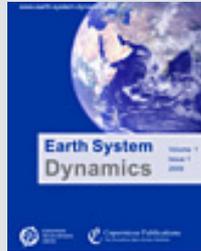
Henry Darcy Medal
Renzo Rosso
ML16, 18:30–19:30, Room 33

Petrus Peregrinus Medal
Jean-Pierre Valet
ML18, 19:00–20:00, Room 42

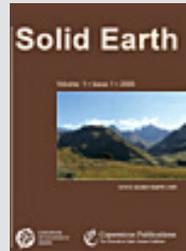
David Bates Medal
Thérèse Encrenaz
ML23, 13:30–14:15, Room 28

Runcorn-Florensky Medal
James W. Head, III
ML24, 10:30–11:15, Room 28

Interactive Open Access Publications



EGU publications are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and free accessibility of scientific publications in the geosciences for the benefit of science, scientists and society. EGU is the world leader in interactive open access publishing offering public peer review and discussion. The 15 EGU open access journals cover all fields of geosciences. These journals offer top quality and visibility at low cost, and they demonstrate the financial viability of open access publishing as well as the effectiveness of transparency and self-regulation in scientific exchange. With ten years of experience in open access publishing, over 2000 papers and 25000 pages of peer-reviewed scientific papers, and top citation statistics and impact factors, EGU is among the world's first and most successful proponents of open access publishing across and beyond the geosciences. Building on the rapid growth and highly successful development of the past years, EGU publications will continue to lead science towards open access and improved quality assurance. This year, two new EGU interactive open access journals were launched entitled Solid Earth (www.solid-earth.net) and Earth System Dynamics (www.earth-system-dynamics.net). More information is available on the web pages of EGU and its journals: www.egu.eu. **TM6, 17:30–19:00, Room 1, Conveners: Thies Martin Rasmussen, Ulrich Pöschl**



Lecture of Jan Smit

“The end of the dinosaurs: mega-volcanism or giant impact? The way to Chixculub.”
The lecture is in German.
18:00–19:00, Naturhistorisches Museum, Burggring 7, Wien.

DIVISION BUSINESS MEETINGS

Today's are: AS, BG, CR, GMPV, GI, MPRG, NH, OS, SSS, ST, 12.15–13.15. See Meeting Programme Online (towards bottom) for location.

Sustainable participative societies

Humankind requires stable conditions of the Earth system and continuous supply of natural resources. Non-sustainable human activities can drive the Earth system processes outside their buffer or resilience capacities and to the rapid and drastic erosion and degradation of natural resources. Non-sustainable development can lead at worst to the extinction of humankind. Global environmental changes and their potential catastrophic

consequences trigger risks, fear and feelings of powerlessness within the public at large, leading to inertia of our societies. The objective of this session is to explore how Geoscientists can provide citizens and decision makers with new knowledge and tools to empower them in managing natural resources and the environment with tools and systems based on co-decision. **EG6, 15:30 – 17:00, Room 29, Convener: Carine Petit**

Science under Fire

We all carry an innate desire to understand, feeding our search for the answers that seem to elude us. Consequently, we look to the scientific community to fill the gaps in our knowledge. Yet, by the same token, we have a distinct tendency to swallow the kind of quick fix so frequently pushed upon us by those, for example in the media, who stroke the egos of Big Business and others with vested interests in pacifying the ignorant masses.

Why is it so much simpler to accept the authority disseminated by the popular press with its strategy of dumbing down, TV programmes with answers to everything and nothing, and the countless know-it-all websites that serve as breeding grounds for charlatans?

Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that as much as we wish to place our trust in bona fide scientists, we often feel belittled and beset by their methods and mannerisms. Too often the scientific community comes across as an alien species that is intent on stupefying us with its trusted brand of scientese. Surely it's high time for the learned community to start fighting fire with fire in order to create a level playing field. When all is said and done, the only thing that truly matters is getting the right message across. For some, this will mean resorting to tactics that seem to contradict everything they stand for.

*Andrew Gilman,
Assistant Press Officer, EGU*



Illustration: Lies Kindl

The European Network for Earth System Modelling (ENES) Strategy and Resource Centre

The meeting will discuss the strategy of the European Network for Earth System Modelling, and services being offered to the climate modelling and climate impacts communities under the umbrella of the virtual resource centre being developed by the IS-ENES project. The resource centre will provide a unified access to pre-existing services, as well as adding some new functionality. The data portal will provide access to the climate projections of the CMIP5 experiment: the input to the next IPCC assessment round. Following presentations, there will be a panel discussion. **TM3, 19:00 – 20:00, Room 15, Convener: Martin Juckes**

Getting Real About Energy

In the context of climate change, the discussion of energy provision is focused increasingly on renewables, but how realistic a proposition is it for renewables to provide the energy we need? Nuclear energy is touted by many as an alternative, yet the problem of waste is far from being solved. So when and how are we to come up with a rational energy policy for the next fifty years? What are the real issues and how do we overcome the barriers we face today? Three excellent speakers with a background in energy resources and climate, will debate these issues in today's Great Debate. **GDG1, 15:30 – 17:15, Room D, Convener: Caspar Hewett; Moderator: Paul Quinn.**

Alexander Barth to receive Outstanding Young Scientist Award.

In recognition of his already impressive resume, the 31-year-old Dr Alexander Barth will receive this year's Outstanding Young Scientist Award for his fundamental improvements to data assimilation. He has developed a multitude of new ideas, of which his combined nesting techniques with data assimilation are of most interest. His scientific ideas have led to a great many presentations at science meetings and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

ML33, 11:45 – 12:15, Room 6, Convener: Bernard Barnier

The EGU is Multilogue

Official blog:
<http://egu2010.wordpress.com>. Twitter feed: @egu2010. Please use #egu2010 in your tweets. Webstream:
<http://www.cntv.at/EGU2010/>

Climate and Geo-hazard Risk

There are opportunities to harness innovative research and methods from academic, public policy and commercial stakeholders to further improve the confidence and appropriateness of models and methods for natural hazard risk management. Developments in natural hazard risk assessments have also led to a significant augmentation and improvement of the quantitative analysis of geo-hazard, weather and climate models used by each discipline. This session intends to highlight risk assessment challenges common to all risk practitioners. **NH9.1/EG3, 10:30 – 17:00, Room 4, Conveners: Rashmin Gunasekera & Matthew Foote**

Penck Lecture by Dimitri Lagou

19:00–20:00, Room: 21,
Convener: Niels Hovius

Splinter Meeting and Union Session on the Eyjafjallajökull

The Splinter Meeting is open to the public. The theme is: "Responding vs Reacting: Understanding the Impacts and Implications to Public and Private Risk Communities from the Eyjafjallajökull Volcanic Eruption." **SPM2.61, 12.15-13.15, Room 1, Rashmin Gunasekera.**

The second Union Session on "Eyjafjallajökull - eruption, plume, and consequences." **US7, Room 36, 18:30 – 20:00, Conveners: Euan Nisbet, Charlotte Bay Hasager, Bruce D. Malamud.**

History, Culture, Art and Religion in the Geosciences

This union symposium, sponsored by Epsilon Energy Ltd., aims to provide a platform for the communication, comparison and study of the historical, cultural, artistic and religious manifestations of the geosciences and their interactions. It is intended to place the role of the geoscientist in the context of the wider cultural environment. Additionally, there will be a public panel and audience discussion (SPM1.57) later in the afternoon. **US4, 13:30 – 15:15, Room D, Convener: Paul Glover. SPM1.57, 18:00 - 19:00, Room 6, Convener: Paul Glover.**

Tectonics of the lower mantle II: mineral physics constraints

The last decade has seen significant advances in the seismological observation of the lowermost mantle, with our understanding of the D region significantly increasing in complexity. At the same time, mineral physics con-

straints on this region have vastly improved. In this Keynote Lecture, David Dobson will discuss the implications of weakening for the dynamics in, and seismic observations of, the D region. This will then be followed by a discussion.

KL2, 17:30 – 19:00, Room 12, Convener: Michael Kendall

COLOPHON

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You can reach us in the Press Centre of the Austria Center Vienna. Any comments or contributions are more than welcome.

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In Today's Geocinema:

Lilli Freda and Piergiorgio Scarlato - The 2007 Stromboli eruption (15')
10:00–10:30

PEAT News Network 1-5 (30')
10:30–11:00

Science@ESA, Episode 8: The Sun, our Local Star (25')
12:15–12:45

Lilli Freda and Piergiorgio Scarlato - The 2002-2003 Stromboli eruption (18')
13:30–14:00

IODP Expedition 4 (10')
14:00–14:15

ICE, The historian of the Earth (27')
15:00–15:30

Roland Schlich: 365 days under Antarctic Ice (60')
17:00–18:00