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Welcome to the symposium SM11

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Last time I came to Vienna was in 1991 for an IUGG union symposium called the Jeffreys symposium on Interrelation between Geophysical Structures and Processes, which I organized in response to the request of the then IUGG president Keilis-Borok.

The papers presented at the symposium were published in an AGU monograph. At that time the contribution to the subject from Seismology was restricted to global interrelations, although my original intension for organizing the symposium was to find finer-scale interrelations that may be relevant for earthquake prediction; the subject of my life-time interest. My first paper in English published in a 1954 issue of JPE was on the application of the Wiener prediction to earthquakes and my last paper, so far, published in a 2004 issue of the EPS, the successor of the JPE, was on monitoring the earthquake loading process by plate-driving forces at the brittle-ductile transition zone for prediction.

In the 15 years or so after the Jeffreys symposium, we have seen great developments in the fine-scale studies of both the seismogenic structures and the earthquake rupture processes, as exemplified by papers to be presented to this symposium. Both the deterministic and stochastic approaches are used in these studies to complement each other. I am happy to see new developments in both approaches and general maturity of Seismology attained in recent years and encouraged by the prospect that they may eventually lead us to my ultimate goal of earthquake prediction.