



Paleozoic Extinctions

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The Paleozoic Era includes several of the most significant extinction events in the history of life, including three of the classic ‘Big Five’ mass extinctions, but also numerous other significant biotic turnover events. These events were not only devastating in the magnitude of diversity reduction, but they also demonstrate variety in driving mechanisms including links to volcanism, climate change, anoxia and other fluxes in ocean chemistry, and depressed origination rates, among numerous others. Further, the tools to investigate these global events are equally diverse and becoming more and more sophisticated. This Special Issue will examine the causes and consequences of Paleozoic extinctions through the exploration of their uniqueness and commonality through a diverse range of proxies. The drive to understand the biological responses to perturbations in the Earth’s systems is pressing in light of the rate of modern biodiversity loss, and the Paleozoic provides the opportunity to explore a sensational range of biotic catastrophes.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Understanding the Earth's origin and its bio-geological evolution, the multiple implications of the geosciences (as a coherent set of interconnected disciplines), and the sociocultural and ethical interdisciplinary approaches, will be crucial for a better understanding of Nature, and also for undertaking scientifically based political decisions.

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