Special Issue

Timing, Duration, and Causes of Mass Extinctions

Message from the Guest Editors

The significance of mass extinctions for reconstructing the past, understanding the present, and preparing for future environmental change is of utmost interest throughout the sciences. Biological reductions characterizing mass extinctions in the sedimentary record often coincide with prominent geochemical variations in paleo-environments. Understanding the triggers and the global unfolding of mass extinctions requires the reconstruction of complex interactions and multiple feedbacks between organic and inorganic constituents in the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Just as importantly, we ask what processes are responsible for the Earth's return to life-enhancing conditions. Geochemical signatures held in the rock record rarely provide unambiguous answers, but collectively, they form an increasing base of knowledge from which we can better understand both triggers and consequences associated with life-altering processes on Earth.

Guest Editors

Dr. Svetoslav V. Georgiev

Department of Geosciences, College of Petroleum Engineering and Geosciences, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia

Prof. Dr. Holly J. Stein

AIRIE Program, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
minerals@mdpi.com

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Minerals welcomes submissions that report basic and applied research in mineralogy. Research areas of traditional interest are mineral deposits, mining, mineral processing and environmental mineralogy. The journal footprint also includes novel uses of elemental and isotopic analyses of minerals for petrology, geochronology and thermochronology, thermobarometry, ore genesis and sedimentary provenance. Contributions are encouraged in emerging research areas such as applications of quantitative mineralogy to the oil and gas, manufacturing, forensic science, climate change, geohazard and health sectors.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Leonid Dubrovinsky
Bayerisches Geoinstitut, University Bayreuth, D-95440 Bayreuth, Germany

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