

Special Issue

Preparation and Application of Silica Polymer-Based Composite Coatings

Message from the Guest Editors

Hybrid silica sol–gel materials have attracted a great amount of interest in the area of functional materials and protective coatings. Their unique chemical and physical bonding allows for a strong adhesion at the coating/metal interfaces. Moreover, the good chemical stability in strongly corrosive media, abrasive resistance, transparency, and favorable electrochemical properties are additional interesting properties of these hybrid materials. They can also be functionalized with certain additives such as inhibitors, biocides, and fillers that can induce advantageous desired mechanical, anticorrosion, and antimicrobial properties to the base silica coating. This collection covers all topics related to the science and technology of silica composite coatings, including synthesis, characterization, functionalization, and final applications, among others. Research on various synthetic methodologies for hybrid sol–gel polymeric materials, as well as their (nano)composites, is considered in this topic collection with the aim of sharing knowledge related to the latest advances in hybrid silica-based materials.

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Since its foundation in 2009, *Polymers* has developed into an internationally renowned, extremely successful open access journal. The editorial team and the editorial board dedicatedly combine open-access publishing and high-quality rigorous peer reviewing. The performance of the journal has proven this strategy to be well-suited and highly successful. This is reflected in the increasing impact factor of *Polymers*, the most recent one being 4.9.

I would like to invite you to contribute to the success of the journal by sending us your high quality research papers. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker

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