

Special Issue

Advancing Sustainability in Rock Mechanics and Underground Engineering

Message from the Guest Editors

Underground infrastructures are increasingly in demand as a solution to cope with the growing development of transport infrastructures, industrial facilities and urban sprawl. Occupying underground space frees up surface space, which is of greater economic, social and environmental value. On the other hand, the productive sector requires the mining sector to extract and process raw materials in an economically profitable way, while at the same time being subject to greater environmental and social pressures. The growing demand for underground space and the pressures on the mining sector require innovative tools and processes that contribute to greater sustainability. The industry must achieve greater economic efficiencies and lower environmental costs, as well as consider the suitability and reuse of existing underground spaces. The scope of this Special Issue is to gather original fundamental and applied research concerning experimental, theoretical, computational, and case studies that contribute towards sustainable underground construction and mining.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Martina Inmaculada Álvarez Fernández
Mining Exploitation Department, EIMEM, University of Oviedo, 33003 Oviedo, Spain

Dr. Víctor Martínez-Ibáñez
Department of Geotechnical and Geological Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de València, 46022 Valencia, Spain

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in *Sustainability*, an international Open Access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. *Sustainability* publishes original research articles, review articles and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Ontario
Institute of Technology, Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

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