

New frontiers in the study of hazardous raw and man-processed minerals, characterization and methods for the mitigation of the environmental and health risks

Proposers:

Alessandro F. Gualtieri (Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy)

Paolo Ballirano (La Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy)

Alessandro Pacella (La Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy)

Laurie Glossop (Glossp Consultancy, Australia)

Session description:

Natural and man-processed materials like asbestos and asbestos containing materials, elongate mineral particles, crystalline silica, and many more as well as the soils and rocks containing them, may represent an environmental and health hazard. Due to natural causes (weathering and erosion) or anthropic factors (mining activity or activities related to landscape modification), such phases may be dispersed in the living environment, resulting in contamination of soil, water, air media. This process may take place directly in the site of natural occurrence or in the sites where such minerals are processed at industrial scale.

This session welcomes contributions aimed at the identification, characterization, bio-chemistry, assessment of toxicity and pathogenicity and methods for the mitigation of the environmental and health risks of raw and man-processed natural materials. Contributions dealing with hazard assessment strategies and geo-engineering mitigation procedures are strongly encouraged. The main goal is to provide a space to share experiences, new methodologies and knowledge, but also to identify critical issues and establish new international cooperation.