



**Swiss Geological Society**

<https://geolsoc.ch>

“Critical Raw Materials for the Energy Transition” on Thursday. The culminating plenary was delivered by Chip Fletcher (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) on “Multiple Overlapping Planetary Emergencies – A Human Inflection Point.” All five plenary lectures can be viewed online at [t.ly/vX29](https://t.ly/vX29).



Professor Xiang-dong Li of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University received the Clair Patterson Award from GS President Sumit Chakraborty during the conference.

Goldschmidt offered many opportunities for early career scientists to expand their knowledge and networks. These included the popular conference mentoring program, career development workshops, and Meet the Plenary lunches. Special recognition goes to the outstanding student helper team, which contributed to the smooth running of events throughout the week.

The 2022 conference offered early career grants to participants in several categories. These included students and recently graduated scientists from countries with low or lower-middle income economies. With support from the U.S. National Science Foundation, geoscience diversity grants supported students from underrepresented groups in the U.S. In total, 70 grants were awarded.



Professor Lenny Winkel of ETH Zürich, Switzerland, receives the 2022 Science Innovation Award from EAG President Derek Vance.



A new group of Geochemistry Fellows received their awards and traditional Hawaiian leis during the conference.

A successful Goldschmidt would not be possible without the support of generous sponsors. The GS and LOC wish to thank our platinum sponsor, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and our principal co-sponsor, the Geochemical Society of Japan. Thank you to the many in-person and virtual exhibitors who shared their expertise with delegates throughout the week.

One of the great privileges of being in academia is to work on a daily basis with motivated and talented young scientists. It is important that the excellent work of these young scientists be recognized and awarded. The “Best Masters Thesis Award” from the Swiss Geological Society and the “Paul Niggly Medal” are two prizes that are awarded annually during the Swiss Geoscience Meeting. Since the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Paul Niggli in 1988, the “Paul Niggly Medal” has been awarded by the Paul Niggli Foundation. This medal is Switzerland’s most prestigious “young scientist award” in Earth Sciences; it is open to researchers that are up to 35 years old or have received their doctorate in the last six years, and work in the field of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, resource geology, or solid-earth geophysics. For further information, visit

<https://geolsoc.ch/en/awards/>

I have the pleasure to briefly present the winners of 2021 below. The committees of the two awards are looking forward to again receiving nominations of outstanding young scientists for these prizes.

With best wishes,

**Jörg Hermann** (President of the Swiss Geological Society)

### **Best Master Price of the Swiss Geological Society**



The 2021 Best MSc Thesis Award was given to **Markus Rast** (ETH Zürich, Switzerland) for the thesis: “Geology, geochronology and rock magnetism along Bedretto tunnel (Gotthard Massif, Central Alps) and numerical modelling of quartz-biotite aggregates”. This thesis involved fieldwork in the Bedretto Lab tunnel, investigating the magnetism of quartz-biotite shear zones, detailed structural analyses and modelling, as well as zircon dating from the shear zones and host granite. The jury was particularly impressed by the large range of topics that were covered during this MSc research project. Markus Rast successfully combined all of these different approaches into a well-rounded thesis that truly helps in understanding the thermal, temporal, and tectonic evolution of the Gotthard massif in the context of the Alpine orogeny.

### **Paul Niggli Medal**



The Board of the Paul Niggli Foundation has awarded the Paul Niggli Medal 2021 to **Arya Udry** (University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA), in recognition of her innovative research in the field of igneous petrology, geochemistry, and thermodynamic modelling of Martian meteorites to understand planetary igneous differentiation processes. Prof. Arya Udry completed her undergraduate and master studies at the University of Lausanne,

Switzerland, working with Prof. O. Müntener on the petrology and geochronology of Archean gneisses in the Lewisian in Northern Scotland. She finished her PhD in 2014 in Knoxville, USA, on “exploring Martian magmas from the mantle to the regolith”, before taking up an assistant and then associate professorship at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA, with a focus on the petrology and geochemistry of meteorites and the geology of Mars.

The citation from Prof. O. Müntener and the response of the awardee are published in the *Swiss Journal of Geosciences* and are available at: <https://sjg.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s00015-021-00402-9>.