



European Association of Geochemistry



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OUTREACH IN AFRICA: PROF. HASNAA CHENNAOUI AOUDJEHANE VISITS MAURITANIA AND EGYPT

It was a great pleasure for me to be offered the opportunity to participate in the prestigious Outreach Program run by the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG) and the Geochemical Society (GS) in 2019. I selected institutions to visit based on the wishes of the EAG and GS to select countries located in northern Africa, notably institutes that hadn't previously welcomed a researcher as part of the program or those where I have personal contacts.

My first destination was Nouakchott (Islamic Republic of Mauritania), and my second was Cairo (Egypt). My talks focused on meteorites in Morocco in conjunction with meteorites from the country or region that I was visiting, in particular because so many meteorites are collected in the Sahara. Each talk began with a definition of meteorites, meteoritics and planetary science, followed by a discussion of where meteorites come from and how to identify them. I then introduced the importance of geochemistry for classifying meteorites and learning about the history of formation and evolution of the universe and terrestrial bodies in the solar system, including Earth. The geochemical analytical techniques used to study meteorites were also presented. The talks were a great opportunity to connect with local researchers and students who are interested in the topic and would like to develop it in their home countries.

The Outreach Program was a wonderful support for the Africa Initiative for Planetary and Space Sciences (AFIPS), launched in 2017 (<https://africapss.org/>), and the ATTARIK Foundation for Meteoritics and Planetary Science (www.attarikfoundation.org), two initiatives dedicated to the promotion of meteoritics and planetary science in Africa and the Arab world. Support for AFIPS has also come from the EAG-GS Outreach Program for the organization of two workshops in Africa in 2019 (read about AFIPS in *Elements* v14n1).

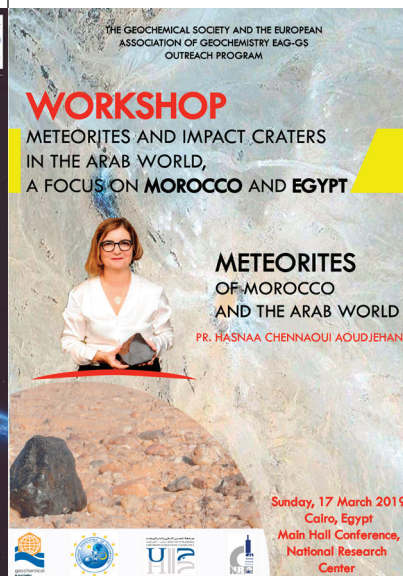
MAURITANIA: Mauritania was chosen as my first destination thanks to a Mauritanian PhD student of mine who is working on impact craters in the country and who helped me establish links with the Geology Department at the University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya (UNA). In January 2019, we organized a workshop in the university's Faculty of Science. The workshop program included my plenary talk, followed by lectures from David Baratoux (University of Toulouse and the Institut de recherche pour le développement, both in France) and Ludovic Ferrière (Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria). The talks were followed by a practical session on the observation of meteorite samples, shatter cones and meteorite thin sections under the microscope. The activities, which

lasted the full day, were very well attended, and the amphitheatre was full not only of students but also of professors and administrative staff, including the vice-president of the UNA in charge of research. The attendees all showed great interest in the topic and asked many questions. A poster was prepared especially for the event and was distributed at the university and on social media. Two local newspapers also featured articles about the workshop.

EGYPT: In March 2019, I took the opportunity of my participation in the Women in Science International meeting in Cairo to organize a one-day workshop as part of the EAG-GS Outreach Program at the National Research Centre (NRC) of Cairo. I invited a number of Egyptian researchers to give oral presentations at the workshop. I gave the plenary talk, which was followed by many questions and then the invited speakers. The meeting took place in the NRC's big amphitheatre and, like the event in Mauritania, was very well attended by students and researchers, as well as officials from various organisations.

After successful trips to Mauritania and Egypt, I am now making plans to visit the University of Tunis (Tunisia) and the University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) for the second part of the 2019 Outreach Program. I look forward to reporting on those visits in the near future.

Professor Hasnaa Chennaoui (Hassan II University of Casablanca, Faculty of Science Ain Chock, Morocco, President ATTARIK Foundation for Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences); 2019 EAG-GS outreach lecturer.



At the University Nouakchott Al Aasriya (Islamic Republic of Mauritania).



At the National Research Centre in Cairo (Egypt).

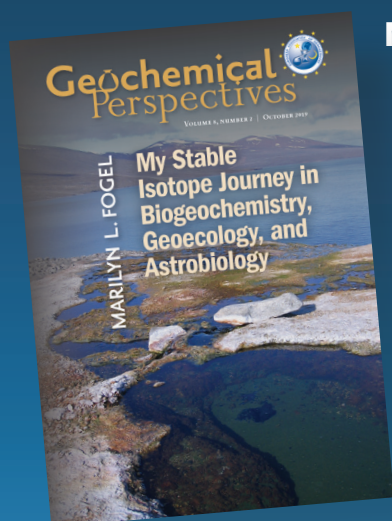
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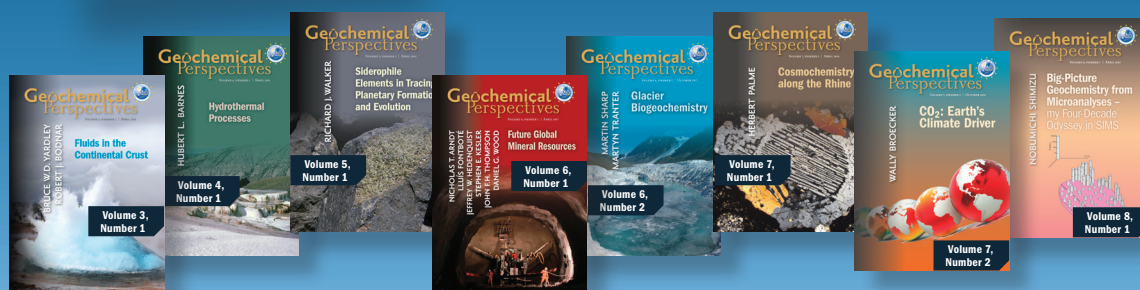
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My Stable Isotope Journey in Biogeochemistry, Geoecology and Astrobiology by Marilyn L. Fogel

Marilyn Fogel's article describes her career in stable isotope biogeochemistry and ecology and how she has studied carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, and oxygen isotopes as tracers for chemical and biological processes. She's studied both modern, fossil, and astrobiological materials to understand how biogeochemical cycles have changed over time, in particular how humans might be shaping ecosystems around the globe.



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