



Timing, Duration, and Causes of Mass Extinctions

Guest Editors:

Dr. Svetoslav V. Georgiev

Department of Geosciences,
College of Petroleum Engineering
and Geosciences, King Fahd
University of Petroleum and
Minerals, Dhahran 31261, Saudi
Arabia

Prof. Dr. Holly J. Stein

AIRIE Program, Colorado State
University, Fort Collins, CO 80523,
USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The significance of mass extinctions for reconstructing the past, understanding the present, and preparing for future environmental change is of utmost interest throughout the sciences. Biological reductions characterizing mass extinctions in the sedimentary record often coincide with prominent geochemical variations in paleo-environments. Understanding the triggers and the global unfolding of mass extinctions requires the reconstruction of complex interactions and multiple feedbacks between organic and inorganic constituents in the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Just as importantly, we ask what processes are responsible for the Earth's return to life-enhancing conditions. Geochemical signatures held in the rock record rarely provide unambiguous answers, but collectively, they form an increasing base of knowledge from which we can better understand both triggers and consequences associated with life-altering processes on Earth.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Leonid Dubrovinsky

Bayerisches Geoinstitut,
University Bayreuth, D-95440
Bayreuth, Germany

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Minerals Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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