



Symposium: Forensic soil science and geology: 5th International Conference on Criminal & Environmental Soil Forensics Soil Forensic International (SFI-2016)

**35th International Geological Congress,
Cape Town, South Africa 27 August – 4 September 2016**

Call for abstract and full-paper

Dear Colleagues involved in criminal & environmental forensic soil science / geology

Background: Four successful Soil Forensics International (SFI) conferences (International Conferences on Criminal and Environmental Soil Forensics) were held in Perth Australia (2004), Edinburgh Scotland (2007), Long Beach USA (2010) and The Hague Netherlands (2012). In addition, a successful symposium on “Forensic Geoscience: Criminal and Environmental” was organized by the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) at the 34th International Geological Congress (34IGC) in Brisbane (2012). In the past five years, IUGS-IFG has also held numerous forensic geology conferences, outreach, knowledge transfer and training events throughout the world.

A joint SFI and IFG organizing committee is happy to announce that a Symposium “Forensic Soil Science and Geology: held in association with the 5th SFI Conference” (<http://www.35igc.org/Themes/6/Soil-Science>) will be held at the 35IGC in Cape Town, South Africa 27 August–4 September, 2016.

Forensic soil science and geology is a growing area of relevance in providing critical forensic information ranging from the landscape, crime scene through to the microscopic scale, to help solve both criminal and environmental investigations, and to assist in the search for buried targets related to homicide, terrorism and organized crime. The 35th IGC symposium on Forensic Soil Science and Geology will provide a forum for geologists/earth scientists to showcase development of new sophisticated field and laboratory methods and strategies; and explore their experiences through case study analysis.

Convenor

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The symposium aims to gather together a wide range of expertise to discuss the latest information on and innovation in forensic soil science and geology. The requirement for interdisciplinary knowledge exchange will be highlighted, where soil science, geology, mineralogy, geochemistry, forensic science, policing, law enforcement, and ground search methods are essential to a full understanding and application of soil science and geology to forensic science and the justice system. We look forward to receiving your submission reporting your latest work on criminal and environmental soil science and geology at the 35IGC.

To submit abstracts: please read information on the website (<http://www.35igc.org/Verso/211/Submit-an-Abstract>) and follow the instructions. Abstracts can be submitted for Papers and Posters with the current closing date for submissions being **Monday 29th February 2016**. Acceptances of papers will be sent out by **31st March 2016**. Only electronic submissions will be accepted via the IGC Abstract Submission Portal links.

To submit full papers: Contributions presented at this symposium are also invited to be submitted in the form of full papers for publication in an international “geoscience or soil science journal to be decided upon” (e.g. *Geoderma*) in a thematic issue that will reflect the content of the Symposium. In this case all submitted manuscripts will go through the standard peer-review process of the journal. The **full paper must be submitted no later than 1st December 2016**. Once the journal has been decided upon we will send out a **guide for authors**. If you are unable to attend the 35th IGC but have exciting related research or a review on new developments in forensic soil Science and geology, your full-paper manuscript on this topic will be welcome for consideration by the editors for inclusion in the thematic issue.

To attend: registration will be for the 35IGC as a whole (including excursions and the social program) and is now open (<http://www.35igc.org/Verso/60/Registration>).

Thank you for your kind support in advance. Please forward this flier to your colleagues and friends who may interested in participating in the conference and in submitting a manuscript for publication.

Your prompt response is highly appreciated.

If, in the mean time, you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let us know and we will be happy to help.

Sincerely,



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