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Macleay Museum Invitation



Dietmar Müller is Professor of Geophysics at the University of Sydney. He is an earth scientist with interests in the evolution of planet Earth, particularly tectonic plate motions, dynamics of the deep Earth, past climate and sea level fluctuations. In 2009 he was awarded an Australian Laureate Fellowship.

Planet Earth

Professor Dietmar Müller, School of Geosciences

Celebrating the International Year of Astronomy

In 1915, Alfred Wegener proposed that all continents might once have existed as a single supercontinent. Many decades later the theory of plate tectonics was developed. If we compare Wegener's with a modern supercontinent reconstruction, there are many similarities.

So what remains to be discovered in deciphering planet Earth's history? Prof. Müller will discuss the recently funded "Virtual Geological Observatory", dubbed VIRGO. It will put a vast amount of geological information into the hands of any PC user, allowing researchers, explorers, policy makers and the general public to reconstruct planet Earth themselves. Just one possible discovery through VIRGO will be deciphering the role deep Earth processes may have played in driving climate change and sea level change through geological time and to unravel fundamental evolutionary cycles on Earth.

Free entry

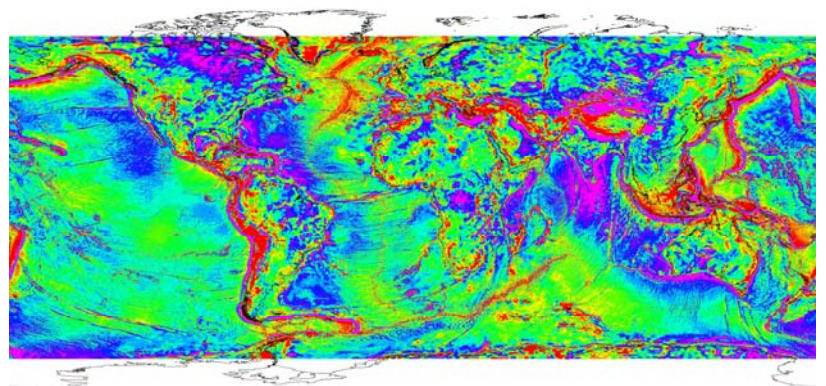
Wednesday 16 September, 6pm

Macleay Museum (Gosper Lane off Science Road), University of Sydney.

RSVP macleaymuseum@usyd.edu.au or 9036 5253

Above: Dietmar Müller

Right: Free Air Gravity Anomaly Map from GPlates dataset. Ups and downs in the Earth's gravity field allow us to see the deep structure of the continents and the ocean crust. The gravity map reveals ancient continental structures, oceanic fracture zones and the past trajectories of tectonic plate motions.



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