

Thematic Session 16

Teaching clay science

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The complex nature of clay minerals as well as the innumerable uses and applications of clays demand that clay scientists from different universities and countries establish educational subjects and techniques that are at least minimally standardized. Teachers, researchers, engineers, users of clay materials, and politicians responsible for establishing education curricula in each country, need to recognize the importance of multidisciplinary education in clay science. Analogous education curricula and teaching techniques do not exist across the full spectrum of clay science. The sooner basic clay mineralogy is introduced into a university curriculum, the better students will be able to understand the properties of these unique materials and the reasons behind many applications such as the medicinal value of some clays, even for trees protection against specific illness, or cosmetic effectiveness of other clays.

Keywords: Clay mineral identification, Binary mixed systems, Individual clay layers, Layer type, Clay family.

Journals: Journal of Research in Science Teaching, Journal of Science Education, Clays and Clay Minerals.

