

**An International Workshop**

# **“Boost your Scientific Career – Building Research Vision and Impact”**

**Bergische University of Wuppertal, Germany**

**Thursday, June-12-2025, 2 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**

This workshop is particularly designed for early career scientists, master and PhD students, post-Docs, assistance and associate professors. However, senior scientists and professors are also welcome. A group of international academicians from Belgium, United States, Germany, Hong Kong, and South Korea will enlighten you on various aspects that will help you to become more proficient in researching, building expertise and communicating your research. The ultimate goal of this workshop series is to encourage, mentor and guide beginning researchers to grow an impact-full career into the future.

The workshop starts with more efficiently building your knowledge through effective note-taking. Next, practical tips and advice to successfully launch into a scientific career is given. The subsequent contributions focus on a major deliverable of researchers: the scientific publication. The overall principles of setting out for effective scientific communication are highlighted, also, with the view what editors of leading scientific journals look for. Then, there will be contributions about peer-reviewed research papers for early-career researchers followed by building international collaboration and global networking.

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**Programme**

- 14:00 – 14:30 Professor Filip Tack, Ghent University (Belgium)  
“From scattered notes to superpower: build your second brain with effective note-taking”
- 14:30 – 15:00 Professor Daniel Alessi, University of Alberta (United States)  
“Setting yourself up for success: practical tips and advice for students for a career in academia”
- 15:00 – 15:30 Professor Jörg Rinklebe, Bergische University of Wuppertal (Germany)  
“Effective scientific communications through scientific publications”
- 15:30 – 16:00 *Break*
- 16:00 – 16:30 Professor Dan Tsang, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong)  
“Publishing peer-reviewed articles for early-career researchers”
- 16:30 – 17:00 Professor Yong Sik Ok (Korea University, Seoul, South Korea)  
“Building international collaboration and recognition: how to develop and maintain that global network”
- 17:00 – 17.30 Q&A, round table discussion
- 17:30 Concluding

**Registration**

The workshop is open for all students and all members of the Bergische University of Wuppertal. The entrance is free. Registration is not required.

## Info's about the Lecturers



### **Professor Dr Filip M. G. Tack** **Ghent University, Belgium**

Prof. Dr. ir. Filip Tack is professor in biogeochemistry of trace elements at the Department of Green Chemistry and Technology, Ghent University. He teaches in topics related to analytical chemistry, environmental and soil chemistry, and soil remediation. Research topics include the study of the occurrence, chemical speciation and behaviour of trace metals in riparian zones and dredged sediment disposal sites, treatment of waste water using plant-based systems, and management/remediation of moderate metal contamination using phytoremediation and phytostabilisation.

From 2008 to 2013, Prof. Dr. ir. Filip Tack chaired the Centre of Environmental Sanitation at Ghent University, overseeing the Master in Environmental Sanitation and the Master in Milieusanering en Milieubeheer. Between 2009 and 2011, he represented Ghent University in developing a joint Dutch/Flemish framework for environmental learning outcomes. From 2010 to 2014, he was a partner in the European CIBELES project, which aimed to professionalize higher education in Central Asia. He initiated and coordinated the Erasmus Mundus International Master in Environmental Science and Engineering (2011–2019), continuing as institutional coordinator after 2019. Since 2013, he has taught at Ghent University Global Campus in South Korea and is a guest professor at China Jiliang University. Additionally, he has lectured at institutions in South Africa, China, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Suriname.

Prof. Tack has extensive research experience in the occurrence and behaviour of trace elements in the environment. He is currently author of 274 publications that are indexed in the Web of Science with a H-Index 66. He has hosted the first WETPOL conference (Wetland Pollution and Control) in Ghent from 4-8 September 2005, Ghent, Belgium, and the 18th Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment (ICHMET2016), also in Ghent from 12 - 15 September 2016. He has served in the international boards of the ICHMET conference series, the Asia Pacific Biochar Conferences, the International Conference on Contaminated Land, Ecological Assessment and Remediation (CLEAR), the International Conference on Biological Waste as Resource, the International Conference on Geochemistry in the Tropics & Sub-tropics and the International Conference on Bioresources, Energy, Environment and Materials Technology (BEEM).



**Professor Dr Daniel S. Alessi**  
**University of Texas at Austin, U.S.**

Dr. Daniel S. Alessi is a professor and the Getty Centennial Chair in Geological Sciences in the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin, who specializes in environmental geochemistry and geomicrobiology. His research group focuses on developing technologies for critical minerals extraction, on understanding the surface chemistry and reactivity of environmental materials such as biochar, iron oxides, bacteria, and clays, and on improving our knowledge of the water cycle in natural catchments and industrial operations. The Editor-in-Chief of *Geochemical Transactions*, he was inducted as a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada in 2022 and named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 2023.



**Professor Dr. Jörg Rinklebe**  
**Bergische University of Wuppertal, Germany**

**Jörg Rinklebe** is Professor for Soil- and Groundwater-Management at the University of Wuppertal, Germany. He has been selected as ISI Web of Science Highly Cited Researcher in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. Prof. Rinklebe was elected as Vize-President, President and now Past-President of the International Society of Trace Element Biogeochemistry (ISTEB). His academic background covers environmental science, bioavailability of emerging contaminants, and remediation of contaminated sites. His main research is on soils, sediments, waters, plants, and their pollutions and linked biogeochemical issues.

Prof. Rinklebe published plenty of scientific papers in leading international and national journals. According to SCOPUS data base (25.11.2024), he published 573 articles, which have been cited 40,575.0 times with  $h$ -index = 104. Also, he published five books entitled "*Trace Elements in Waterlogged Soils and Sediments*" (2016), "*Nickel in Soils and Plants*" (2018), "*Soil and Groundwater Remediation Technologies*" (2020), "*Vanadium in soils and plants*" (2022), "*Methylmercury Accumulation in Rice*" (2024), as well as numerous book chapters. Prof. Rinklebe is serving as Editor in Chief for *Environmental Pollution*, and he was Editor of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*; Co-Editor in Chief of the international journal *Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology (CREST)* and guest editor of the international journals *Environment International*, *Chemical Engineering Journal*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Chemosphere* and others. Prof. Rinklebe was the chair of the first joint international conferences of Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements" (ICOBTE) and "International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment" (ICHMET) in September 2023. He was an invited speaker (plenary and keynote) at many international conferences.

Prof. Rinklebe got an appointment as Honorable Ambassador for Gangwon Province, South-Korea which. Also, he got an appointment as Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern Queensland, Australia, Visiting Professor at the Sejong University, Seoul, South Korea and Guest Professor at the China Jiliang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China. He got the awards for internationalisation of research and teaching: Weltlöwe at the BUW, the JIOMICS & Proteomass Scientific Society Career Awards as well as the IESGA Fellowship Award 2023.



**Professor Dr. Dan Tsang**  
**Hong Kong University**

Prof. Dan Tsang is a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Pao Yue-Kong Chair Professor in the State Key Laboratory of Clean Energy Utilization at Zhejiang University in China. Dan was a Professor and MSc Programme Leader at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Visiting Professor at the University of Queensland in Australia and Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, Visiting Scholar at Stanford University in the US and IMETE Scholar at Ghent University in Belgium, and postdoctoral fellow at Imperial College London in the UK. He has more than 20 years of R&D experience, published more than 600 articles in the top 10% journals, and was selected as Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists and Clarivate's Highly Cited Researchers in the academic fields of Engineering as well as Environment & Ecology. Dan's team aspires to develop green technologies for long-term decarbonization and promote resource circularity and sustainable development. Dan also serves as the founding Editor-in-Chief of npj Materials Sustainability (Nature Portfolio), Chairman of the Hong Kong Waste Management Association (HKWMA), and Chairman of Waste Management Subcommittee of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) of the Hong Kong SAR Government.



**Yong Sik Ok, HCR Professor, Korea University, Seoul**  
**President, International ESG Association**  
**President, International Society of Trace Element Biogeochemistry (ISTEB)**  
**Editor-in-Chief, Resources Chemicals and Materials & Wiley CleanMat**

Professor Yong Sik Ok serves as the President of the International Society of Trace Element Biogeochemistry (ISTEB) and also the President of the International ESG Association (IESGA). Professor Ok was recognized as a Highly Cited Researcher (HCR) in three distinct fields: Environment and Ecology, Engineering, and Biology and Biochemistry for the year 2022. Moreover, Professor Ok was the first Korean scientist to receive HCR recognition in the field of Environment and Ecology in 2019. Adding to his remarkable achievements, Professor Ok was honored by ranking first in Asia in the field of Environmental Sciences by Research.com in 2024.

He has an impressive h-index of 173, accompanied by over 20,000 annual citations (over 110,000 citations in total, according to Google Scholar) and a portfolio boasting more than 110 highly cited papers. Professor Ok stands as the most cited scientist in Korea across various disciplines, showcasing his exceptional contributions to research. He maintains an extensive global professional network and currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of Resources Chemicals and Materials and CleanMat (Wiley). His research and innovations are focused on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ESG principles to create a more sustainable future.