**Session Proposal**

# Session Title: Geophagic clays as a focus of interdisciplinary research

# Session Organizers:

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# Session Description

Geophagia is the deliberate consumption of earth, soil, or clay. The key point of the session is to better understand the geophagia phenomena: reasons of the wide spread in the world; the cultural, social, and economic aspects, including its prevalence and practices in different societies towards education and social norms; the potential health risks of infection and nutrient deficiencies as well as benefits associated with consuming earth materials, including their mineral content, texture, and potential toxicity; environmental factors that may contribute to geophagia, such as soil pollution, nutrient deficiencies, and climate change. The special attention will be given to mineralogy of geophagic clay; methods and approaches of composition of geophagia clay study are also in the focus of session.

# Format

Oral and poster presentations and workshop “**Geophagia and Mankind: history and modernity**”, workshop moderator – Professor Georges-Ivo Ekosse