



«ETTORE MAJORANA» FOUNDATION AND CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC CULTURE  
TO PAY A PERMANENT TRIBUTE TO GALILEO GALILEI, FOUNDER OF MODERN SCIENCE  
AND TO ENRICO FERMI, THE "ITALIAN NAVIGATOR", FATHER OF THE WEAK FORCES



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF GEOPHYSICS

## 29th Course: EURO-CONFERENCE OF ROCK PHYSICS AND GEOMECHANICS ON NATURAL HAZARD: THERMO-HYDRO-MECHANICAL PROCESSES IN ROCKS

ERICE-SICILY: 25 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

Sponsored by the: • National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, Italy (INGV)  
• Italian Ministry of Education, University and Scientific Research (MUR)  
• Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) • ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company

### TOPICS AND LECTURERS

<i>Fault healing, sealing and rupture process: observations and modelling</i>	<i>Rock deformation and coupled processes in rocks: observations and modelling</i>
<i>Fault structure and mechanics: from laboratory to exploratory drilling of major faults</i>	<i>Fracture and flow in volcanic and geothermal areas and physical properties of volcanic rocks</i>
<i>Reservoir characterisation and stimulation</i>	<i>Scaling laws: applications to rupture mechanics and fluid flow</i>
• L. BURLINI, ETH Zürich, CH	• R. HOLT, Sintef Petroleum Research, Trondheim, NO
• C. DAVID, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, FR	• C. KILBURN, University College London, UK
• G. DI TORO, Università degli Studi di Padova, IT	• T. KOHL, Geowatt, Zürich, CH
• J.-P. GRATIER, LGIT, Grenoble, FR	• I. MAIN, University of Edinburgh, UK
• S. HICKMAN, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA, USA	• P.G. MEREDITH, University College London, UK
	• D.L. OLGAARD, ExxonMobil, Houston, TX, USA

### PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

Following the example of earlier, highly successful Euroconferences on Rock Physics and Geomechanics (held most recently in Kijkduin, The Netherlands, 2003; Potsdam, Germany, 2004; Oleron, France 2005), our aim will be to bring together scientists from different academic and industrial environments. The theme of the 2007 Euro-Conference will be focussed on applying Rock Physics and Geomechanics to the coupled thermo-hydro-mechanical processes controlling natural hazard events, with particular emphasis on earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The program will include a mixture of keynote lectures on theoretical models, laboratory experiments and field applications.

### APPLICATIONS

Persons wishing to attend the Workshop should visit the following URL:

[http://www.ingv.it/%7eerice/29Euro\\_conf/indice.html](http://www.ingv.it/%7eerice/29Euro_conf/indice.html)

where updated information and application forms will be posted. It is also possible to apply by writing a letter to:

- Dr Sergio VINCIGUERRA  
Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia  
Via di Vigna Murata, 605 – 00143 ROMA, Italy  
Tel ++39.06.51860386 – Fax ++39.06.51860565  
e-mail: [vinciguerra@ingv.it](mailto:vinciguerra@ingv.it)

**Closing date for application: June 30, 2007**

specifying:

- date and place of birth together with present nationality;
- degree and other academic qualifications;
- present position and place of work;
- postal and e-mail addresses.

- PLEASE NOTE

Participants must arrive in Erice on September 25, 2007, not later than 7 pm.

### POETIC TOUCH

According to legend, Erice, son of Venus and Neptune, founded a small town on top of a mountain (750 metres above sea level) more than three thousand years ago. The founder of modern history — i.e. the recording of events in a methodic and chronological sequence as they really happened without reference to mythical causes — the great Thucydides (~500 B.C.), writing about events connected with the conquest of Troy (1183 B.C.) said: «After the fall of Troy some Trojans on their escape from the Achaei arrived in Sicily by boat and as they settled near the border with the Sicilians all together they were named Elymi: their towns were Segesta and Erice.» This inspired Virgil to describe the arrival of the Trojan royal family in Erice and the burial of Anchise, by his son Enea, on the coast below Erice. Homer (~1000 B.C.), Theocritus (~300 B.C.), Polybius (~200 B.C.), Virgil (~50 B.C.), Horace (~20 B.C.), and others have celebrated this magnificent spot in Sicily in their poems. During seven centuries (XIII-XIX) the town of Erice was under the leadership of a local oligarchy, whose wisdom assured a long period of cultural development and economic prosperity which in turn gave rise to the many churches, monasteries and private palaces which you see today.

In Erice you can admire the Castle of Venus, the Cyclopean Walls (~800 B.C.) and the Gothic Cathedral (~1300 A.D.). Erice is at present a mixture of ancient and medieval architecture. Other masterpieces of ancient civilization are to be found in the neighbourhood: at Motya (Phoenician), Segesta (Elymian), and Selinunte (Greek). On the Aegadian Islands — theatre of the decisive naval battle of the first Punic War (264-241 B.C.) — suggestive neolithic and paleolithic vestiges are still visible: the grottoes of Favignana, the carvings and murals of Levanzo.

Splendid beaches are to be found at San Vito Lo Capo, Scopello, and Cornino, and a wild and rocky coast around Monte Cofano: all at less than one hour's drive from Erice.

**More information about the «Ettore Majorana» Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture can be found on the WWW at the following address:**

<http://www.ccsem.infn.it>