

# Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

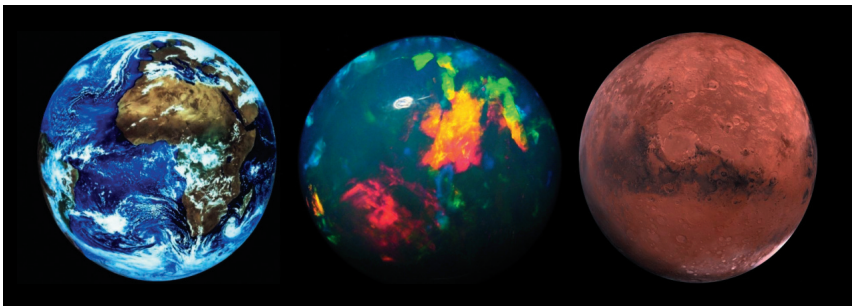
## *Opal, a little-known mineral from Earth and Mars*

Donnerstag, 15. Mai 2014 - 16.15 Uhr

**Benjamin Rondeau**

(Laboratoire de Planétologie et Géodynamique, Université de Nantes)

Opal is a mineral that most often occurs as an amorphous mass of the common variety, a discrete mineral. By contrast the very rare play-of-color variety is spectacular. It forms in a context of continental weathering of volcano-clastic sediments (ashes and silicates).



Opal has been detected on Mars by infra-red measurements. Better understanding the precise conditions of opal formation on Earth could let to better draw the geological history of Mars.

**Dr. Benjamin Rondeau** studied geology and gemmology at the University Nantes. Then he worked for 9 years as a curator-assistant at the National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France, where he also prepared his PhD on the key role of mineral collections for scientific research. He is now assistant professor at the University of Nantes, where he teaches geology and gemmology. His research focuses on the geology of gems, in particular opal. He also works on the characterization of gemstones in order to help experts correctly identify gemstones available on the market.



Layout: FUB Geopal Medienbüro, Jan Evers 20140511

**Institut für Geologische Wissenschaften**

Großer Hörsaal (C.011), Haus C  
Malteserstrasse 74-100  
12249 Berlin



<http://tinyurl.com/geokolloquium>