

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

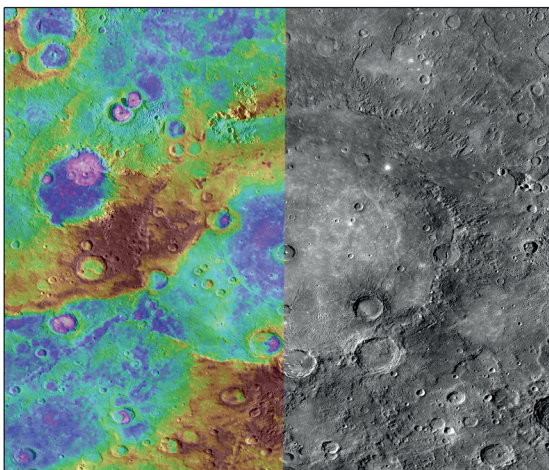
Mercury: The Elusive Iron Planet

Einmalig (wegen Feiertag) Mittwoch, 28. Mai 2014 - 16.15 Uhr

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In 2003 Robert J. Strom and Ann L. Sprague (University of Arizona) published a comprehensive workon “Exploring Mercury: the Iron planet” reviewing our knowledge of this planet, mostly based on the Mariner 10 observations of the early 1970’s. Ten years afterwards, our vision of the surface composition and tectonics of Mercury has completely



changed thanks to the new findings of the NASA MESSENGER mission, now orbiting around the planet. Recalling the history of science exploration on planet Mercury, this presentation aims to highlight the elusive character of its surface geology and some consequent major objectives of the ESA Bepi Colombo mission, which will be launched in July 2016.

Dr. Matteo Massironi is a lecturer in “Field mapping”, „Remote-Sensing“ and “Planetary geology” at Padua University, where he also obtained his master degree in Geology (1994) and PhD in “Space Science

and Technology” (1998). He has been involved in several structural and geological mapping projects in orogenic belts such as the Italian Alps, Anti Atlas, Andes and Caucasus. He is team member of the following instruments mounted on ESA space missions: SIMBIOSYS-Bepi-Colombo for the exploration of Mercury, (project scientist of the Stereo-Camera and coordinator of the Surface and Composition Working Group); CASSIS-Exo Mars (Co-Investigator); OSIRIS-WAC of the Rosetta mission to the 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko comet (Associate Scientist) and JANUS-Juice mission to Jovian satellites (Co-Investigator). His research interests include geology of planetary surfaces, and tectonics and faulting of orogenic belts.



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