

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

Natural geophysical laboratory South Africa: Insights into 4 billion years of geodynamic evolution

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Southern Africa is an ideal natural laboratory to study the tectonic evolution of continents. While the Barberton Greenstone Belt is still discussed as being an Archean suture zone, subsequent continental collisions and breakups have formed a mosaic of continental blocks which shape Southern Africa today. Tectonic processes also led to the generation of numerous mineral and diamond deposits. We can image imprints of these past processes with geophysical methods. Particularly the electrical conductivity can help us to understand the role of shear zones as pathways for fluids, for the development of deposits and as zones of concentrated deformation.



Dr. Ute Weckmann studied Geophysics at the University of Frankfurt and received her doctoral degree at the Freie Universität in Berlin. After she was an Emmy Noether fellow at the DIAS in Ireland, she led a junior research group at the GFZ Potsdam. Since 2007 she has given lectures at the University of Potsdam and in 2013 she became head of the research group “Magnetotellurics” at GFZ. Her main interest is to image continental collision and fault zones to understand their relevance for the architecture of continents.

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