Freie Universität Berlin

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

Silicon in the aquatic environment: from the lithosphere into the biosphere

Donnerstag, 28. Mai 2015 - 16.15 Uhr

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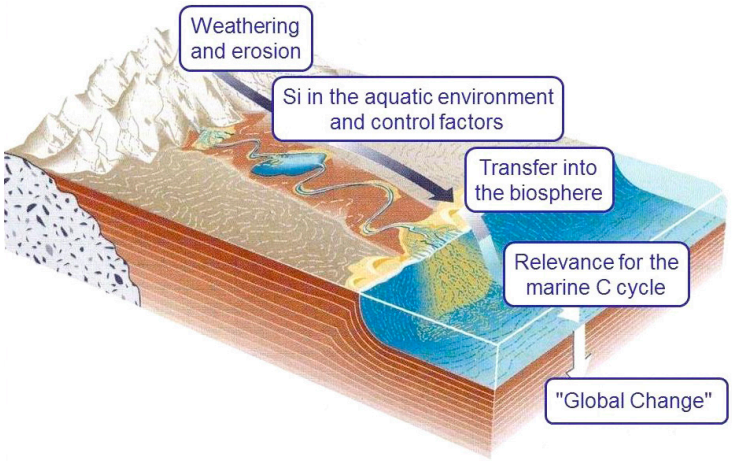
Silicon is a ubiquitous element in our daily life. We find it in smartphones, skin cream, solar panels and even use it as a dietary supplement. However, it originates from the lithosphere and it is the second-most abundant element. In the form of silicate minerals it contributes to forming mountains on land and new crust at mid-ocean ridges. Weathering and erosion transfer it into forms that make silicon an important factor in element cycling on land and in the aquatic environment. Although inorganic in nature it becomes important for life, for the formation of organic matter, and thus it affects ecology and foodwebs as well as climate. This presentation will take you on a silicon journey from the highest mountains to the deep ocean.



Dr. Tim Jennerjahn is the head of the working group "Ecological Biogeochemistry" at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology in Bremen. He is trained in geology and biogeochemistry at the University of Hamburg where he also obtained his PhD at the Institute of Biogeochemistry and Marine Chemistry. He completed his habilitation in the Faculty of Geosciences at the University of Bremen. His research focuses on the biogeochemical response of coastal aquatic systems to environmental change in tropical regions at present and in the past, for example, the impact of inputs of nutrients, organic matter, organic pollutants and suspended sediments on mangroves, seagrasses and coastal seas.

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