

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

The origin of inherited zircons in mantle-derived magmatic rocks of the Caribbean

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Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

There is increasing recognition in recent years of old, xenocrystic (inherited) zircons in juvenile igneous rocks, and reports on their occurrence are no longer considered with scepticism. The origin of such zircons is controversially discussed, but there seems to be no doubt that in most cases they are continent-derived, and their presence in mantle melts suggests variable contamination of the upper mantle with crustally-derived material. In this talk, I will present and discuss our findings of inherited zircons in the Caribbean (Cuba and Grenada).



Dr. Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte studied Geology in Cuba and obtained her Dr. rer. nat. degree at Salzburg University, Austria. She is a postdoc in Mainz and came to Germany for the first time in 2004 as a Humboldt fellow. Her research focusses on zircon geochronology of arc rocks and metamorphic complexes, sedimentary provenance studies, comparison of accretion tectonic processes in orogenic belts of different ages and the problem of zircon inheritance in igneous rocks.

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Institut für Geologische Wissenschaften

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



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