How wide was the Alpine Ocean?

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Eline Le Breton
Freie Universität Berlin

The Alpine-Mediterranean belt is remarkable for its tectonic complexity, i.e. strong arcuation of plate boundaries, switch of subduction/collision polarity around the Adriatic plate and abundance of extensional basins in an overall compressional setting. This talk will discuss the challenges of reconstructing the tectonic evolution of this complex region and provide some recent advances focusing on the opening of the Alpine Ocean in early Mesozoic time and implications for the subsequent formation of the Alps.

Eline Le Breton received a PhD at the University of Rennes 1, France and moved to the Freie Universität Berlin first as a post-doc, then as a Junior Professor since April 2018. Her research focuses on the tectonic evolution of sedimentary basins, oceans and mountain chains, to better understand the processes that link the motions/deformations of the Earth’s mantle and crust.