

Analysing the Practices of Geochemistry: Philosophical and Historical Insights

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From the early metallurgy developed by alchemists to isotope geochronology, from the studies carried out in order to understand the kinetics and thermodynamics of weathering within the critical zone to very up-to-date chemical oceanography, from petrochemistry to organic geochemistry and biogeochemistry, from the scrutiny of the stratosphere to the cosmogeochemistry, geochemists have always been connecting and transforming experimental procedures, methods and principles coming from different scientific domains.

Involving philosophy of science, and especially philosophy of chemistry, as well as historical issues, this paper investigates the ways geochemists actually work and take part in the understanding of environmental issues.

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