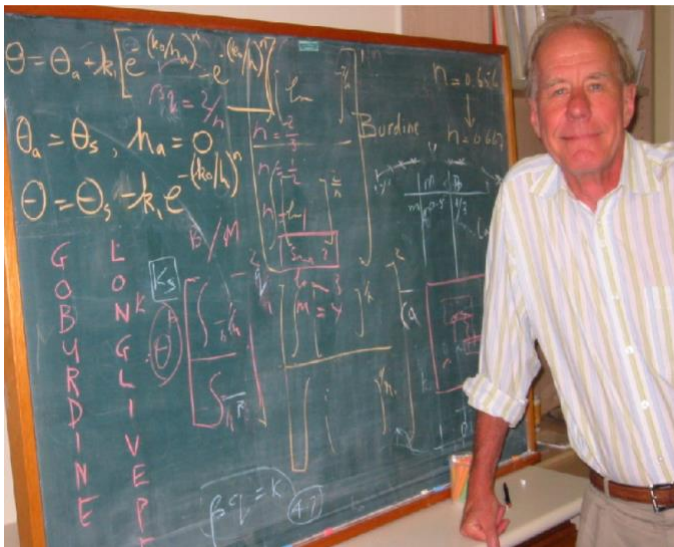


José Dörner

In the present ISTRO INFO we inform several meetings and events during 2023 and 2024, as well as about new Books. We invite all ISTRO Members to send us relevant information to be included in the next Newsletters.

⌘ Obituary

Vale Professor Emeritus Pieter Hendrik Groenevelt (8 Aug 1937 – 10 Feb 2023)



Pieter was born shortly before the outbreak of World War 2 on the island of Java in Dutch Indonesia to parents who emigrated from Holland (his father was an agricultural engineering consultant). Pieter had a very happy childhood on Java until the Japanese entered the war in December 1941. His father was sent to a labour camp in Japan (never seen again), and the women and children were interned on Java in concentration camps. The years of cruel incarceration, starvation, death and disease shaped and influenced Pieter for the rest of his life (later in life he wrote an account of his experiences as a prisoner). His mother took him and his three sisters back to Holland by boat in 1946, where they lived in a depressed post-War Europe with his grandparents until his mother remarried.

Pieter worked hard to catch up academically (he loved science and mathematics) and graduated at the top of his high school class. He went to the University of Wageningen where he first completed a Bachelor of Science in Tropical Land and Water Management

(1961), then a Master of Science in Irrigation and Drainage (1963), then a PhD in Soil Physics (1969) under the mentorship of Gerry H Bolt (Pieter was his first student). His thesis (available through the University of Wageningen's online library) was on "Coupling phenomena in soil transport processes", which resulted in his first publication ([https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694\(69\)90092-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694(69)90092-4)).

On the strength of his early research, Pieter was awarded a CSIRO Postdoctoral Fellowship to work in the Pye Lab in Canberra, Australia (CSIRO Division of Environmental Mechanics) under the direction of the infamous John R Philip ("Never explain, never apologize!"). These were happy days with his wife, Anke, and their two young daughters, Hester and Marjolein, and they made lifelong friendships with the families of colleagues, John Knight, Calvin Rose, Tjaard Talsma, Yves Parlange and David Smiles. During this period, Pieter continued to push theoretical advances in non-equilibrium thermodynamics, despite resistance from John Philip who did not appreciate the subject. Fatefully, Pieter was invited by Gerry Bolt to co-author a paper with him for a special issue of *Soil Science* to commemorate the "Father of Soil Physics", LA Richards. When Pieter's manuscript, on "*Water Retention in Soil*" (<https://doi.org/10.1097/00010694-197204000-00003>), crossed the desk of John R Philip (Editor of the special issue), he was fired on the spot for a) not asking Philip's permission to write the paper and b) refusing to withdraw it from the Special Issue. At this point, Pieter became a "scientific refugee" (Philip arranged for his temporary Australian visa to be revoked), wherein he had to quickly leave the country to find alternative employment to support his young family.

Colleagues in Guelph (David Elrick and Ken King) learned of Pieter's predicament and immediately offered him a job at the University of Guelph, Canada, where he and his family moved in May 1973. Here, while taking on increasing responsibility for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, he applied his love of fundamental thermodynamics to new problems in frozen soils alongside David Elrick and Bev Kay, who were well-versed in thermodynamics, and encouraged his work.

With Jack Ketcheson (an early member of ISTRO) and Bev Kay's guidance, Pieter became interested in the physics of soil tillage. He chaired the 10th ISTRO

Conference in Guelph, where he impressed upon delegates the need to bring greater mathematical rigour into tillage research. To this end (and in his inimitable fashion), he created a logo to describe the 'infinite' cyclical relationship between humans and soil tillage. The logo inscribed the words "From Myth To Math" within a lemniscate. He also became Editor-in-Chief of the organization's journal *Soil and Tillage Research* for several years.

Pieter was a great research student supervisor and became famous for (patiently) asking people to explain their ideas, and if they got muddled up along the way, he would patiently lead them to the chalkboard (later whiteboard) and say: "Let's start from first principles". This would invariably lead to development of a rigorous mathematical expression that could be checked for correct dimensions and units.

In the lead-up to (and following) his obligatory retirement in 2002, Pieter returned as Professor Emeritus and focussed on his original work on clays and soil-hydraulic properties. This involved re-establishing collaborations in Australia, where his previous student, Cameron Grant (University of Adelaide) welcomed him enthusiastically. This collaboration resulted in several key papers, including one in 2002 where Pieter had the final word over his dismissive CSIRO boss, John R Philip (<https://doi.org/10.1029/129GM10>).

Pieter loved to play soccer and he organized an annual departmental soccer match between Staff and Students at University of Guelph, for which the winning team received a special old soccer boot. He enjoyed cross-country skiing and hosted an annual winter skiing event starting from his home in Rockwood, Ontario. He loved to travel and teach (in Australia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and China), to garden, and to listen to (and play) classical music. He played darts, collected stamps, and loved a good pint of beer or a fine glass of wine. He particularly enjoyed hosting his family and friends at his cottage on the Trent-Severn waterway of southern Ontario. He wanted to make the world a better place for others, and he felt deeply for people living in poverty, or struggling with mental health or other hardships, which he had experienced himself. He was an empathetic listener and many found in him a generous, faithful and

lifelong friend. We extend our sympathies to Pieter's family, which is establishing a perpetual annual bursary at the University of Guelph in his name to assist postgraduate students of Soil Science in financial need (<https://alumni.uoguelph.ca/give-to-guelph/how-to-give>). He and his family also gave generously to the World Central Kitchen (<https://www.worldcentralkitchen.org>), an international not-for-profit NGO devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters.

The obituary was prepared by Prof. Cameron Grant.

☞ Upcoming Meetings and Events

2023

March-December

March

17th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis-ISSPA. Analytics for a sustainable agriculture under climatic change. Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 2023. Concepción, Chile. Webpage: <https://isspa2023.cl/>

Workshop Archaeological Soil Micromorphology 2023. Thursday, 30. March 2023 to Friday, 31. March 2023. Location: Reading, UK. Read more: <https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/integrated-microscopy-approaches-in-archaeobotany/wasm-2023/>

Intersol 2023 - Soil: a springboard for the transition of territories. Tuesday, 28. March 2023 to Thursday, 30. March 2023. Location Lille, France. Deadline for submission of papers: December 12, 2022. Webpage: <https://www.webs-event.com/en/event/intersol/>

April

International scientific and practical conference "Integrated management and reclamation of degraded soils to ensure food security: new approaches and innovative solutions". Wednesday, 19. April 2023 to Friday, 21. April 2023. Location: National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent city, Uzbekistan. Applications must be sent to the email address t-07072007@mail.ru

EGU General Assembly 2023. Sunday, 23. April 2023 to Friday, 28. April 2023. Location. Vienna, Austria & online. Abstract submission by 10 January 2023, 13:00 CET. Website: <https://www.egu23.eu/>

4th Virtual Micromorphology Meeting (ViMi4). Wednesday, 26. April 2023 to Thursday, 27. April 2023. Proposals for break-out room topics or live microscopy sessions can be sent to vimimeeting4faro@gmail.com until April, 10, 2023. Registration:

<https://sites.google.com/view/vimi4/registration>.

Read more: <https://sites.google.com/view/vimi4>

May

BONARES Conference 2023 - Soil as a Sustainable Resource. 15-17 May 2023. Berlin, Germany. Abstract submission deadline: January 10, 2023. Webpage: www.bonares2023.de

InterPore2023. Monday, 22. May 2023 to Thursday, 25. May 2023. Location Edinburgh, Scotland. Deadline for submitting abstracts: Monday, 12 December 2022. Webpage: www.interpore.org/2023

June

Global Conference on Sandy Soils. Sunday, 4. June 2023 to Thursday, 8. June 2023. Location: Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Webpage: <https://sandysoils.org/>

5th WASWAC World Conference - Adaptation strategies for soil and water conservation in a changing world. 19 - 23 June 2023. Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic. First announcement: https://www.iuss.org/media/waswac_conference.pdf. The second announcement will be made in early January 2023.

Soil and Water Health. Tuesday, 20. June 2023 to Thursday, 22. June 2023. Location: Palazzo Sersanti, Imola, Italy. Registration opens February 1, 2023, <https://www.geolab-aps.it/events/>. Deadline for abstracts submission: April 30, 2023. Contact: geolab@geolab-aps.it

4th Global Soil Security Conference (GSS2023) - Global Soil Security: Beyond the Soil. Monday, 26. June 2023 to Thursday, 29. June 2023. Location Seoul, Korea. Deadline for Abstract submission: March 31, 2023. Deadline for registration: June 16, 2023. Webpage: <https://www.gss2023.org>

Workshop Archaeological Soil Micromorphology 2023. Tuesday, 27. June 2023 to Friday, 30. June 2023. Location: Utrecht, NL. Contact Hans Huisman for further details and application: hans.huisman@rug.nl

July

28th IUGG General Assembly. 11-20 July 2023 Berlin, Germany. Webpage: <https://www.iugg2023berlin.org/>

XXIII Latin-American Congress of Soil Sciences (XXIII CLACS). Sunday, 30. July 2023 to Friday, 4. August 2023. Location: Florianópolis, Brasil. Webpage: <https://www.slcs.org.mx/>

August

Wageningen Soil Conference 2023 - working together on solutions for a sustainable world. Tuesday, 29. August 2023 to Friday, 1. September 2023. Wageningen, the Netherlands. Deadline for abstracts: April 17, 2023. Webpage: <https://wageningensoilconference.eu/2023/>

September

SUITMA 12 Conference. Monday, 4. September 2023 to Thursday, 7. September 2023. Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Abstract submission: 15 March 2023. Early bird registration: 15 May 2023. Webpage: <https://www.suitma12.com/>

1st International Scientific Conference „Agricultural Challenges to Climate Change“. Tuesday, 19. September 2023 to Friday, 22. 2023. Contributions should be sent electronically to the e-mail address: agriclimate@fazos.hr by 21st June 2023 at the latest. Webpage: <https://fazos.hr/~agriclimate/>

2024

January-December

ISTRO Conference. Location: Virginia Tech, Virginia, USA. Date have not been settled yet. More information soon in <https://istro.org/>

May

Centennial Celebration and Congress of the IUSS 100 years of soil science - past achievements and future challenges. Sunday, 19. May 2024 to Tuesday, 21.

May 2024. Location: Florence, Italy. Webpage:
<https://centennialius2024.org/>

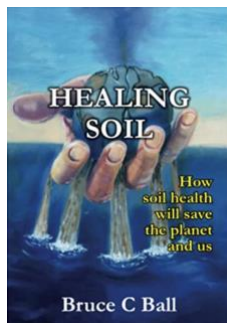
October

ISMOM 2024 - 9th International Symposium of Interactions of Soil Minerals with Organic Components and Microorganisms. Thursday, 10. October 2024 to Monday, 14. October 2024. Tsukuba, Japan. Webpage:
<http://web.agr.ehime-u.ac.jp/~soil/ISMOM2024.html>

☞ New Books

Healing soil: How soil health will save the planet and us

Editors: Bruce C. Ball

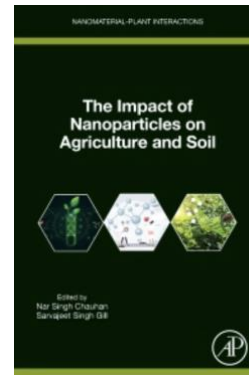


Connecting people to soil for a better future. Using his own artworks and drawing on his soil science research, Bruce Ball reveals the importance of soil to humanity. Structured in three main parts, his book takes us on a journey from the nature of healthy soil, through the influence of soil on our health and food to its hidden contributions to our society and our planet. Contributions are also included from farmers, former students, scientists, a theologian and a community worker who the author encountered in his esteemed 35-year career in soil science.

More information on the following [Link](#).

The Impact of Nanoparticles on Agriculture and Soil.

Editors: Nar Chauhan, Sarvajeet Gill

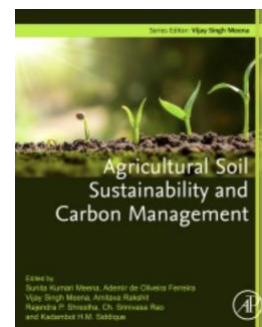


The Impact of Nanoparticles on Agriculture and Soil, part of the Nanomaterials-Plant Interaction series, contributes the most recent insights into understanding the cellular interactions of nanoparticles in an agricultural setting, focusing on current applications and means of evaluating future prospects. In order to ensure and improve the biosafety of nanoparticles, it is a primary concern to understand cellular bioprocess like nanomaterial's cellular uptake and their influence on cellular structural, functional and genetic components. This book addresses these and other important aspects in detail along with showcasing their applications in the area of agriculture.

More information on the following [Link](#).

Agricultural Soil Sustainability and Carbon Management

Editors: Sunita Kumari Meena, Ademir de Oliveira Ferreira, Vijay Singh Meena, Amitava Rakshit, Rajendra Shrestha, Ch. Srinivasa Rao.



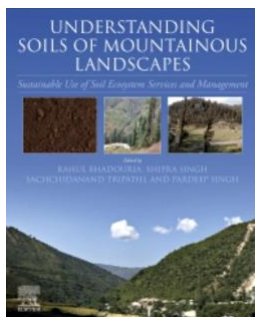
Agricultural Soil Sustainability and Carbon Management presents long-term research in the field of sustainable soil use and management to guide in the prioritizing the multifunctional value of soil health and addressing interdisciplinary links between major issues such as biodiversity and climate change. As soil is the largest terrestrial

carbon pool and a significant contributor of greenhouse gases, much progress can be made toward curtailing the climate crisis by sustainable soil management practices. The book provides valuable insight into soil and carbon management, research gaps, and the methodological challenges for research into soil carbon management that will be important over the decades.

More information on following this [Link](#).

Understanding Soils of Mountainous Landscapes. Sustainable Use of Soil Ecosystem Services and Management

Editors: Rahul Bhadouria, Shipra Singh, Sachchidanand Tripathi, Pardeep Singh.

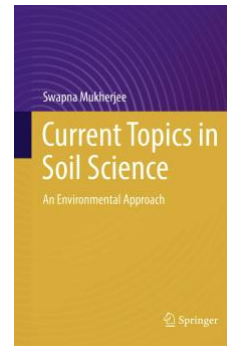


This book includes threats due to the fragile nature of mountain ecosystems, and the conservation and management of soil ecosystem services and restoration processes. The book covers a balanced approach to land and resource management, ensuring that environmentally and socio-culturally sound interventions are developed and applied in the complex geophysical, ecological, and social landscapes of the world's mountain systems.

More information on following this [Link](#).

Current Topics in Soil Science. An Environmental Approach.

Editor: Swapna Mukherjee.

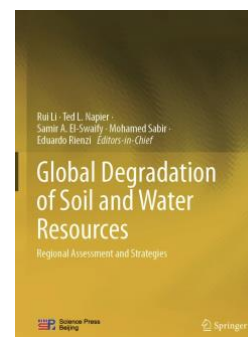


Addresses current environmental issues and its remedy with soil. Discusses the increasing concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Suggests possible remedies that can be done to mitigate the issues that our planet is facing.

More information on following this [Link](#).

Global Degradation of Soil and Water Resources. Regional Assessment and Strategies.

Editors: Rui Li, Ted L. Napier, Samir A. El-Swaify, Mohamed Sabir, Eduardo Rienzi.



Enriches understanding of soil and water conservation at global scale. Presents an overview of global soil erosion, current status and trend. Summarizes the practice, opportunities and challenges of soil and water conservation-

More information on following this [Link](#).

ISTRO INFO is the newsletter of the **International Soil Tillage Research Organisation** (www.istro.org).

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