

Vredefort, South Africa ? World?s Largest and Oldest Known Impact Structure and Natural World Heritage Area

[Seminario](#)

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Aula: [Aula 2H](#)

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Abstract:

The Vredefort impact structure in South Africa is unique in a number of ways: Not only is it the oldest and largest impact structure known on this planet, but it also encompasses the Witwatersrand basin, from which some 50% of all mined gold has been recovered. In addition, the well-exposed structure provides a rare perspective of the geology along a continuous section through upper and middle crust. In 2005 a representative part of this geologically, environmentally, historically and archaeologically unique area was proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This presentation will focus on the fundamental importance of the impact cratering process ? not only in the planetological sense, but particularly regarding evolution on planet Earth ? and the lessons learnt from multidisciplinary exploration of the Vredefort Structure.

Attachment	Size
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