

Keynote lecture

Scientific drilling in the South America oceans in the origin of paradigms

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Scientific drilling began in the 1960s, with projects like MOHOLE and the Deep-Sea Drilling Project, in the environs of the South American oceans. The material extracted and the data generated allowed us to test seafloor spreading. Later, in the equatorial Pacific, the orbital theory of Milankovich was determined from the sedimentary record via new initiatives, such as the Ocean Drilling Program. These are two of the outstanding paradigms tracked today in geology. To carry out these discoveries, the development of new biostratigraphical scales were determinant, particularly those developed using calcareous nannofossils. This is a small tribute to those pioneers of the study of our beloved coccoliths and their seas.