

Candidate for IUGS Nominating Committee

Name: Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte

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Biography:

Since I was 9 years old it was clear to me that I wanted to be an Earth scientist. That is why I feel very fortunate to be able to work in a field for which I truly have a passion.

I study geology at the University of Pinar del Río, Cuba and after finishing my degree, I trained as a stratigrapher/sedimentologist at the Institute of Geology and Paleontology in Havana (Cuba) followed by a period of training in Geological mapping and GIS at the ITC-Enschede (the Netherlands). I continued my Ph.D. studies in Salzburg (Austria) on the tectonic evolution of the Sierra Maestra mountain, eastern Cuba. After completing my Ph.D., I moved to Mainz in Germany as a post-Doc Humboldt fellow. In the last years, however, I have focused my research on quantitative understanding of sediment recycling processes in subduction zones, mantle compositional heterogeneities, and the evolution through time of mantle plumes, hotspot-related islands, and associated Large Igneous Provinces. Due to my research in this field I recently won a position as DFG-funded Heisenberg Research Fellow at the University of Kiel (2024-2029).

My research has resulted in a productive academic record that includes more than 60 well-cited papers (3378 citations; H-index = 32) and many invited lectures, and talks at international conferences. As a result, I am internationally well recognized, as shown by the prestigious appointment as Fellow of the Geological Society of America (Nov. 2018).

Moreover, I have teaching experience at the BSc and MSc levels in Germany (Mainz, Kiel), Latin America (Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador), Africa (Namibia), and China (Beijing SHRIMP Center), and I take pride in knowing the positive impact I have on my students. For many, I am a role model they do not often see because I am a Black, female, Cuban field geologist with international experience. I try to set an example for, and help students, particularly from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as female students in their career pursuits.

My origin, training, and extensive experience working and collaborating with students and professionals around the world translates into having a broad network and reputation to represent IUGS (especially in Latin America). Being part of the

IUGS Executive Committee has been an excellent opportunity to promote the establishment of international collaboration projects and the promotion of initiatives such as that of the IUGS young reporters.