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Five questions with Agathe Lise-Pronovost



Agathe Lise-Pronovost

Agathe Lise-Pronovost is a sedimentologist and paleomagnetist who started with us in January working as a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Archaeology.

She completed her graduate studies in Rimouski (Quebec, Canada) studying marine sediment from the Arctic Ocean and lake sediment from Patagonia.

But what brought someone interested in Earth's magnetic field to work with

archaeologists in Australia?

The reason is that both sediments and burned archaeological artefacts can record the evolution of Earth's magnetic field through time. This is due to the extraordinary capacity of magnetic grains to align their magnetic moments in the ambient geomagnetic field force lines and preserve a record of past magnetic field.

Agathe's research with Dr Andy Herries aims at studying the magnetic properties of Australian archaeological artefacts and sediments to document past changes in the Earth's magnetic field in Australia, a region of the globe that is crucially under-documented. She ultimately aims at building a paleomagnetic dating reference curve that will be much useful to date archaeological sites in Australia.

Dr Lise-Pronovost research is supported jointly by the *Transforming Human Societies* Research Focus Area, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science and the *Fonds de recherche du Quebec - Nature et technologies* (FRQNT).

- 1. What was your first job?** I was working for a dance school offering flamenco, tango, baladi and African dance courses, but I was not a teacher. I was sketching the performers for making their promotional material. It was a great summer job for me as I was studying fine arts together with natural sciences as part of a double collegial degree that is called CEGEP in Quebec.
- 2. When I was a child I wanted to...** be a visual artist and visit Egypt. Although I do spend some time making nice graphs of magnetic data, I still have to do these two things!
- 3. What's the greatest lesson your parents taught you?** I am grateful to my parents for teaching me to *enjoy* hard work. Because motivation really is the key to achievement.
- 4. You're stuck on a desert island, what would you take?** An airplane.
- 5. For breakfast I have...** the best chance to see online those of my family and friends who are in Eastern Canada! I also enjoy cappuccinos very much.

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07 April 2014

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