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# Obtainment, Characterization, and Applications of Organophilic Clays

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. Francisco Rolando Valenzuela-Díaz**
Departamento de Engenharia Metalúrgica e de Materiais da Escola Politécnica, Universidade de São Paulo, Sao Paulo 05508-030, Brazil

**Dr. Lucilene Betega de Paiva**
Instituto de Pesquisas Tecnológicas do Estado de São Paulo, Laboratório de Processos Químicos e Tecnologia de Partículas, São Paulo 05508901, Brazil

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## Message from the Guest Editors

Clays have accompanied humanity from its beginnings to the present, helping to satisfy its various types of needs such as food, shelter, communication, energy, health, and aesthetics. Currently, in practically all industrial sectors, clays can be used to provide products such as pottery, bricks, tiles, tableware, sanitary ware, additives for drilling fluids, binders for metal casting molds, fillers for rubber and plastics, and as components of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. This enormous variety of uses is mainly due to clay minerals having small dimensions, cation exchange capacities, and surfaces with hydrophilic characteristics.

The study of the interaction between clays and organic substances, as well as the applications of the products obtained, has been increasingly carried out since the beginning of the 20th century. Organophilic clays, obtained mainly from bentonites and quaternary ammonium salts, stand out among the products obtained. They possess properties such as swelling in various organic liquids and providing thixotropic organic dispersions with high viscosities at low clay concentrations.

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**Prof. Dr. Leonid Dubrovinsky**
Bayerisches Geoinstitut,
University Bayreuth, D-95440
Bayreuth, Germany


## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*Minerals* Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
www.mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/minerals
minerals@mdpi.com
𝕏@Minerals_MDPI/