


# Dr SAM POPPE BSc MSc PhD

Researcher – Geoscience – Planetary Volcanology



## Contact

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## Personal

**Birth Date & Nationality:** 3 May 1989, Belgium

### Online presence

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## Education & Career History

- 2007-2010 BSc Science in Geology**, Ghent University (Belgium) Grade: *Distinction*
- 2010-2012 MSc Science in Geology** – Major Basin Dynamics, Ghent University (Belgium) Grade: *Greatest Distinction* (2010-2011 Erasmus, University of Tromsø, Norway)
- 2012-2014 Scientific Staff / Researcher** – Geologist, Dept. Geography, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium) Project: Geo-Risk in Central-Africa
- 2014–2019\* FWO-Flanders Ph.D. Aspirant**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium) *\*including 1-yr extension after 3-month parental leave in 2017*
- 11/2019-07/2020 Fulbright** – B.A.E.F. **postdoctoral scholar**, Dept. Geosciences, The Pennsylvania State University (U.S.A.) Project: Lab Volcano Geodesy
- 10/2020-(interrupted) frs-FNRS postdoctoral researcher**, Dept. Geosciences, Environment & Society, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) Project: MagmaTect-4D
- 08/2021-recent ULAM scholar (NAWA) and Principle Investigator (NCN Poland)**, Space Research Centre – Polish Academy of Sciences [SRC PAS] (Poland) Project: DeMo-Planet

## Publications

**15 Papers** **265 Citations** (Scopus)  
375 cfr. Google Scholar

**9 H index** (Scopus)  
11 cfr. Google Scholar

### 1-st Author 6 Papers 3 Data sets

- Poppe et al. (2015)** Sinkholes, pit craters, and small calderas: Analog models of depletion-induced collapse analyzed by computed X-ray microtomography. *GSA Bull.*
- Poppe et al. (2016)** Holocene phreatomagmatic eruptions alongside the densely populated northern shoreline of Lake Kivu, East African Rift: timing and hazard implications. *Bull. Volcanol.*
- Poppe et al. (2019)** An inside perspective on magma intrusion: Quantifying 3D displacement and strain in laboratory experiments by dynamic X-ray Computed Tomography. *Frontiers Earth Scie.* [+ Zenodo.org data set]
- Poppe et al. (2020)** Structural and geochemical interactions between magma and sedimentary host rock: the Hovedøya case, Oslo Rift, Norway. *Geochemistry Geophysics Geosystems* [+ Zenodo.org data set]
- Poppe et al. (2021)** Mechanical properties of quartz sand and gypsum powder (plaster) mixtures: implications for laboratory model analogues for the Earth's upper crust. *Tectonophysics* [+ GFZ Data Services data set]
- Poppe et al. (2022)** Analog experiments in volcanology: towards quantitative, upscaled and integrated models. *Bull. Volcanol.*

### 2 Dissertations

- Poppe (2012)**. Collapse calderas on basaltic shield volcanoes. *M.Sc. thesis, Ghent University* (18/20).
- Poppe (2019)**. Magma intrusion and related deformation of the Earth's upper crust in nature and analogue experiments. *Ph.D. thesis, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.*

Conference abstracts: **29** 1<sup>st</sup>-author

### Co-author 9 Papers 2 Data sets

- Smets, ... **Poppe et al. (2016)** The role of inherited crustal structures and magmatism in the development of rift segments... *Tectonophysics*.
- Mossoux, ... **Poppe et al. (2016)** Hazagora: will you survive the next disaster? – A serious game to raise awareness... *Nat. Haz. Earth Sys.*
- Mossoux, ... **Poppe et al. (2016)** Q-LAVHA: A flexible GIS plugin... *Comput. Geoscience*.
- Barette, **Poppe et al. (2017)** Spatial variation of volcanic rock geochemistry in the Virunga Volcanic Province... *J. Afr. Earth Scie.*
- Grosse, **Poppe et al. (2020)** Volcano growth versus deformation by strike-slip faults: morphometric characterization through... *Tectonophysics*.
- Dille, **Poppe et al. (2020)** Modeling lahars on a poorly eroded basaltic shield:... *Frontiers Earth Scie.*
- Walker, ... **Poppe (2021)** Segment tip geometry of sheet intrusions I. *Volcanica*
- Smittarello, ... **Poppe, ... (2022)** Precursor-free eruption triggered by edifice failure at Nyiragongo volcano. *Nature*
- Holohan, **Poppe, ... (2023)** Transition from volcano-sagging to volcano-spreading. *Earth Planet. Scie. Lett.*

### 1 Chapter

- Delcamp, **Poppe et al. (2018)**. Destroying a volcanic edifice - interactions between edifice instabilities and the volcanic plumbing system. In S. Burchardt (Ed.), Elsevier.

### 1 Map

- Smets, **Poppe** (2016). Volcanological map of Nyamulagira and Nyiragongo, Virunga Volcanic Province, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Tervuren, Belgium


➤ See an up-to-date list at <https://samppoppevolcano.wixsite.com/samppoppe/publications>

## Scientific grants and prizes **9 grants (> € 300 000)** **1 Prize**

**2012 IAVCEI Travel grant** for attending the Collapse Caldera workshop in Bolsena, Italy  
**2014** Personal grant of the Belgian foundation Vocatio (€10.000)  
**2014** Personal Ph.D. aspirant grant from the Flemish Science Foundation (FWO-Flanders)  
**2014** Personal ‘VLADOC’ Ph.D. fellowship from VLIR-UOS (refused due to FWO grant)  
**2014** Ranked first for Ph.D. fellowship at University of Oslo, Norway (refused due to FWO grant)  
**2018 Science Communication Year Prize** of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium (RFAB)  
**2018 Travel grant** from FWO-Flanders for attending the AGU 2018 Fall Meeting, Washington D.C.  
**2019** Fellowships from Fulbright (\$11 000) and Belgian-American Educational Foundation (B.A.E.F.) (\$45 000) for one-year postdoctoral stay at Pennsylvania State University, U.S.A.  
**2020 frs-FNRS** Postdoctoral fellowship, Belgium, (3 years, €15,000), interrupted after 06/2021  
**2021 ULAM visiting scholar** fellowship (NAWA, Poland) at Space Research Centre, PAS  
**2021 POLS project** (~€202,700) from Polish National Science Centre NCN at SRC PAS

## #SciComm and Scientific Outreach

*Overarching Science Communication strategy about volcanoes and their eruptions towards the public and journalists awarded with 2018 SciComm RFAB (KVAB) Year Prize*

 **@SamPVolcano**  
**1368 followers**

- Explaining and fact-checking volcano news and advocating for human working conditions in academia

 **YouTube**  
**9 movies**

- Helped producing and presenting “Hazagora” hazard movies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6zv8ITZ5-s>
- “Universiteit van Vlaanderen” seminars (incl. National TV web-stream): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voxeO1cAJpU>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVFDpQXjUo8>

**#SciComm**

- Opinion pieces posted on personal blog website <https://samppoppevolcano.wixsite.com/samppoppe/research-blog>; science blog [wtenschp.be](https://www.wtnschp.be) <https://www.wtnschp.be/wetenschap/natuur/geo/alles-over-vulkanen/>; popular magazine Knack.be: “How dangerous are volcanoes?” <https://www.knack.be/nieuws/wetenschap/hoer-gevaarlijk-zijn-vulkanen/article-opinion-977199.html>; SKEPP magazine “Wonder en is gheen wonder”; Interviewee in 2022 documentary “Science Friction” <https://sciencefriction.tv/>



**>25 questions**

- Scientific expert answering scientific questions on [www.ikhebeenvraag.be](http://www.ikhebeenvraag.be) (including 10 000<sup>th</sup> response publicly advertised)

**>30 mentions**

- Interactions with school students via e-mail and class visits

- Interactions with (Flemish) print media, radio and TV: BBC, The Weather Channel, Flanders Today, Het Nieuwsblad, De Standaard, P-Magazine, Radio 1, VRT Nieuws, VTM Nieuws, Bruzz.be



**>10 workshops**

- Part of development team for serious game “Hazagora” (winner of Innoviris Brussels grant (€5.000), 2016 SciComm RFAB Year Prize).

## Research summary

I am a geologist focusing on **structural deformation** of volcanic edifices on **terrestrial planetary bodies**. My research aims to understand **how volcano-tectonic processes deform** the shallow crust and ultimately a rocky planet’s surface, to better inform volcanic eruption forecasts on Earth and the reconstruction of volcanic history of terrestrial planetary bodies in our Solar System. I use a **multi-method approach** that combines field work using **structural geology** techniques and **Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles** (“drones”) at active volcanoes in the broader **East African Rift** and inactive eroded systems in **Norway** and **Poland**; remote observations on terrestrial planetary bodies (**the Moon, Mars**); **laboratory modelling** where I pioneered 4D monitoring with medical and micro- X-ray Computed Tomography; **geochemical and mechanical** rock sample analysis; and **analytical and numerical modelling**. I am currently the **PI of the DeMo-Planet project** that aims to numerically model magma-induced dynamic fracturing in the shallow crust of the Moon and Mars. I am also member of the **science team for the Lunar Geology Orbiter** (LUGO), currently in Phase 0 study funded by ESA (OSIP).

## Experiences

### Science Team

**2012-2014** **Geo-Risk in Central Africa (GeoRisCA)** – employed researcher – funding: BELSPO  
**2022-current** **Lunar Geology Orbiter (LUGO)** – scientific advisor, science justification – funding: ESA

### Teaching

**2012-2018** (16hrs/sem) 4 practical sessions “**Global Geomorphology**”, 2<sup>nd</sup> B.Sc. in Geography, Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
**2013-2018** (12hrs/sem) 1 lecture and 2 practical sessions “**Volcanology**”, M.Sc. in Geology, Ghent University  
**2018** (2 hrs) Guest lecture and forum “**People and volcanoes**” for Studium Generale public lecture series “Unrest and discomfort”, Antwerp University  
**2020 Spring** (40hr/sem) Graduate Course “**How to model a volcano in the lab and numerically**”, the Pennsylvania State University  
**Since 2022** (1hr bi-weekly) Moderator of Mars Exploration Lab paper discussion group, SRC PAS

### Supervision of students and young scientists

**2012 – 2019** Mentor/supervising assistant: 4 MSc students, 6 BSc students (VUB, Belgium)  
**2012 – 2014** Mentor of 2 young scientists during field work (Goma Volcano Observatory, DRC)  
**2015** Mentor of 2 BSc students during field work (Observatoire Volcanologique du Karthala, Comoros)  
**2021 – 2022** Co-supervisor: 1 MSc student (VUB, Belgium)  
**2022 – 2023** Supervisor (P.I.) of 1 Postdoc, 1 MSc internship student; Mentor of 2 PhD students, 1 BSc student; Space Research Centre PAS (CBK PAN), Poland

### Field Experience

**2011** (5 weeks) Structural mapping and monitoring training, Karthala volcano, **Comoros**  
**2013** (2 times 2 weeks) Stratigraphy and morphology of the Virunga Volcanics, **D.R.C. and Rwanda**  
**2015** (6 weeks) Mapping volcanic deposits and structures, **Comoros**  
**2016** (2 weeks) Describing magmatic intrusions on Hovedøya island, **Oslo fjord, Norway**  
**2021** (2 days) Describing magmatic intrusions in the Intra-Sudetic Basin, **Poland**

### Research Visits

**2015** (3 days) Field work preparation and Ph.D. planning, **Oslo University**, Oslo, Norway  
**2015** (2 weeks) Analogue material characterisation, **Helmholtz Centre Potsdam - GFZ**, Germany  
**2016** (3 weeks) Analogue material characterisation, **University of Mainz**, France  
**2017** (1 week) Manuscript co-writing on analogue modeling results, **University College Dublin**, Ireland  
**2018** (1 week) Interpreting tephrochronological results and co-writing, **Cambridge University**, U.K.

### Invited research seminar presentations

GFZ Potsdam (Germany), Oslo University (Norway), University College Dublin (Ireland), Laboratoire Magmas et Volcans, Clermont-Ferrand (France), Belgian Seismological Observatory (Belgium), Cambridge University (U.K.), Bristol University (U.K.), IAVCEI VIPS webinar series (online), University of Liverpool (UK), EGU23 Scientific Assembly solicited talk

### International scientific conferences and workshops

EGU 2012 / 2016, CC Workshop 2012, CoV 2013, AiQAM 2014, Geomod 2015 / 2018, IUGG 2015, IAVCEI 2013 / 2017, AGU 2018, LASI6 2019, VMSG 2021, EGU 2022, EPSC 2022, EGU 2023

### Internships

**2009** (5 weeks) B.Sc. apprenticeship: “The influence of spreading and intrusion on the deformation of elongated volcanoes through analogue modeling, with application on Mt. Cameroon, Cameroon.” Department of Geology and Soil Science, Ghent University, Belgium

## Skills

### Languages

**Dutch** Native tongue.

**English** very good command of reading, speaking and writing

**French** good command of reading, speaking and writing

**German** command of reading, speaking and writing

**Polish** basic command of reading, speaking and writing

### Informatics

**Good command** MS Office, GIS, ENVI, Matlab/Python, Photogrammetric software (MicMac, Metashape), Adobe Illustrator & Photoshop, Inkscape, Gimp, ImageJ, 3D-scanning software (Octopus, VGSStudioMax, 3D-slicer), DaVis Strainmaster (LaVision Ltd.)

**Basic knowledge** statistical software (SPSS), Microsoft Office VBA, Petrel 2010, Promax

## Community service

- **2023-current Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) officer** IAVCEI Commission of Volcanic and Igneous Plumbing Systems (VIPS)
- **2016-2023 Journal reviewer** Nature earth & environment, Geophysical Research Letters, JGR Solid Earth, Bulletin of Volcanology, Tectonophysics, Volcanica, etc.
- **2019 Grant reviewer** National Science Foundation
- **2022-2023 Grant applications evaluation committee** member, Fulbright Commission Poland
- **2021-2022 Grant applications evaluation committee** member, Fulbright Commission Belgium-Luxemburg
- **2012-2019 Analogue Laboratory Responsible** group of Prof. Matthieu Kervyn (**VUB**)
- **2013-2020 Founder, committee member** IAVCEI Early-Career Researchers Network (**ECR-Net**)
- **2012-recent Young Researcher/Donor member** International Association for Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI)
- **2022-recent Europlanet Society** member
- **2018-recent American Geophysical Union** member
- **2012-recent European Geoscience Union** member
- **2013-2017 Teaching assistant representative** B.Sc. Working Group, Dept. Geography, VUB
- **2008-2012 Student representative** Education Commission, Dept. Geology, Ghent University
- **2010 Student member** Evaluation Committee for the Open position in Marine Geology and Geophysics at the Department of Geology and Soil Science, Ghent University