



**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:  
Celebrating Advances in Geoscience-  
Our science, our societal impact, and our unique thought processes**

**Special Session:**

***Tethyan Evolution and Seismotectonics of Southwest Asia: In Honor  
of the 40 Years of Dr. Manuel Berberian's Research Contributions***

We are writing to inform you of an upcoming topical session at the 2013 GSA Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado (27-30 October 2013). We hope you will contribute a paper to this special session. We are also planning to bring out a volume, partly resulting from papers presented in this session. Please let us know if you would be interested in presenting your paper to this session and the proceedings volume.

**Abstract deadline: August 6, 2013**

**Topical Session:**

**Tethyan Evolution and Seismotectonics of Southwest Asia: In Honor of the 40  
Years of Manuel Berberian's Research Contributions**

**Session Type:**

Oral & Poster

**Sponsor(s):**

GSA Structural Geology and Tectonics Division,  
GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division,  
GSA MGPW Division,  
GSA Geophysics Division

**Description:**

This interdisciplinary session focuses on the Late Proterozoic-Quaternary geologic evolution of the Iranian-Anatolian plateaus, Zagros-Caucasus-Bitlis orogens, and Arabian Plate with implications for the active deformation and seismotectonics of the region

**Scope:**

This topical session aims to present the latest knowledge and analytical data on the Tethyan-collisional evolution of Southwest Asia encompassing the Arabian plate, Iranian-Anatolian plateaus, Zagros-Bitlis orogens, and Caspian-Caucasus region. The active seismotectonics and magmatism of this spectacular region make it ideally suited for understanding processes of continental deformation and evolution. Located between the Alps in Europe and the Himalayas in south-central Asia, Southwest Asia has been relatively less studied with modern analytical techniques and concepts although much progress in our geologic understanding of the region has been made in the last 40 years. Southwest Asia reveals a protracted and complex 600-million-year-old geologic history involving episodes of marginal arc magmatism, emergence and demise of oceanic tracts, the Tethyan sedimentary record, crustal extension and continental collision, which have important implications for the tectonic evolution and active deformation of Eurasia-Arabia continental collision.

Given that the 2013 Denver meeting marks the 125th Anniversary of the GSA and is titled "*Celebrating Advances in Geosciences*", this proposed session highlights the geoscience knowledge-base of Southwest Asia over the past four decades during which plate tectonics has provided a unifying framework for understanding and interpreting various data-sets (structural, geophysical, sedimentary, magmatic, metamorphic, and morphotectonic) collected from various part of this vast, actively deforming region.

In so doing, the session honors the 40 years of Dr. Manuel Berberian's research which has contributed significantly to our understanding of the geologic evolution and active tectonics of Southwest Asia. This multidisciplinary session is expected to bring together an international group of researchers, ranging from veteran experts to students, to present and identify frontier avenues of research involving the geology, geophysics, and active tectonics of Southwest Asia.

Dr. Manuel Berberian will kindly give a keynote presentation.

Please encourage your colleagues, students, and friends in the geoscience community to submit abstracts, register, and participate in the wide range of opportunities that are available. Your enthusiasm will make an enormous difference.

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