

Alla Bolotova

**Governing Rocks:
Institutionalization of Geological Science in the USSR**

This talk discusses some specific features of institutionalization and development of geological science in the Soviet Union. I am analyzing rise and extension of institutional infrastructure of geology in country after the revolution 1917 within political, economical and military contexts. The process of institutionalization of geology in the USSR was very fast, in several decades it was developed from academic "gentlemen science" (pre-revolutionary) to mass applied field science with huge institutional and technological infrastructure. The political context of a totalitarian state is especially important for analysis of establishing of Soviet geology. Under the Stalin's regime many geologists became victims of mass repressions (1930s-1950s). Moreover labor of prisoners was actively used in geological field expeditions. Political and especially military purposes of the state always visibly and invisibly shaped the directions of geological science development in the Soviet Union, setting on the requirements for particular minerals and elements.