

# The Chemist's Interactions

Seminars @ the Chemistry Department

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

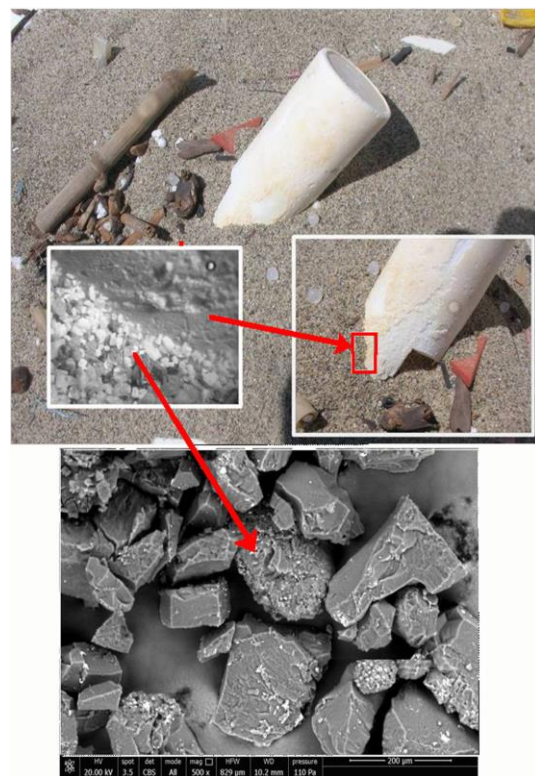


**Valter Castelvetro**  
Università di Pisa (IT)

LIVE  
STREAM  
h 14:30

## Microplastics in our oceans: how to get a realistic picture of the extent and consequences of this emerging form of pollution?

Microplastics are small polymer particles that are found nearly everywhere in the most diverse environments as a result of uncontrolled dispersion and degradation of plastic waste, fragmentation of a myriad of materials (coatings and paints, tires and rubberized asphalt in road pavements to mention some), and of the release in household and industrial wastewaters of as-produced microparticles (synthetic textile fibers, micro- and nano-beads from personal care products and other formulations). Detecting and quantifying such diverse pollutants in a variety of environmental matrices is not an easy task, although a large amount of data has been collected by many investigators over the last 10-15 years. As it is often the case, there is no universal solution to such problem, and a multiplicity of approaches are needed to achieve an accurate and detailed knowledge of the state of our environment. In addition to presenting the methodologies under development at the University of Pisa, some insights on the relevance and implications of this form of pollution for the living organisms, from the vegetal species to the smaller invertebrates and up the food chain until the humans, will be highlighted.



The Virtual Seminar Series will be broadcast with the Zoom software.

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