

***MSSC ZOOM MEETING
The Lithium “Gold Rush”
Friday April 9, 2021
7:30 PM***

Presented by: Dr. Aaron Celestian, Curator, Mineral Sciences Natural History Museum Los Angeles



Dr. Aaron Celestian: Curator, Mineral Sciences NHM: I haven't given this talk on this subject before, so I'm not exactly sure what the main focus will end up being. It should be pretty interesting though! The talk will have plenty of mineral photos (from pegmatites to salars), uses of the metal, a brief history of lithium extraction, and new research directions. I'm working on several lithium projects at the moment.

Dr. Celestian's current research is how minerals interact with their environments and with living things, and how those minerals can be used to solve problems like climate change, pollution, and disease. His on-going research in experimental design, real-time material characterization, mineral discovery & application, and the functionalization of minerals is developing novel nano-crystalline Earth materials into functional materials for a wide variety of demanding applications. Dr. Celestian holds adjunct teaching and research faculty positions at the University of Southern California and is an Affiliate Research Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In addition to research, Dr. Celestian oversees the Gem & Mineral Hall at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and regularly develops mineral science exhibits.