



Electrocatalysis is the cornerstone of the next generation of technologies aiming to convert electrical power collected from intermittent, renewable sources into basic chemicals and fuels or the conversion of the latter in electricity. In this regard, electrocatalytic reactions, such as the electrochemical oxidation and reduction of water, the hydrogen oxidation or the carbon dioxide and oxygen reduction are all of critical importance.

The EcatalytiX symposium aims at taking a look at the current and future techniques, based on X-rays or electron beams, to observe these reactions under conditions as close as possible to operation. Gathering scientists from all Europe, the meeting wishes to shape directions to answer some of the following questions:

- **How is the coupling of X-rays and electron-based techniques to electrocatalysis going to evolve in the near future and what are the main limits,** challenges and solutions that it is currently facing (e.g., time resolution, beam effect, multi-scale analysis)?
- **What can we learn, by operando approaches, from model systems that can be applied to large-scale electrocatalytic systems.** Conversely, how can we mimic applied electrolyzers or fuel cells for large instruments analytical techniques?

This symposium will be the ideal place to meet beamline scientists, microscopists and electrochemists alike, discovering state-of-the-art operando approaches and how the future of the field is shaping up.





Programme

Wednesday, April 3rd

12:00 – 13:00 Welcome registration, coffee

13:00 – 13:30 Introduction

Session #1: State-of-the-art techniques: Where are we standing?

Chair: Jean-Jacques Gallet

13:30 – 14:00 Steps towards understanding the oxygen evolution reaction enigma by operando quick X-ray absorption spectroscopy

Emiliana Fabbri - PSI, Villingen, Switzerland

14:00 – 14:20 Insights from operando QXAFS and PCA for the pulsed eCO₂RR using Cu-based bimetallic catalysts

Martina Ruscher - Fritz-Haber Institute, Germany

14:20 – 14:40 Operando X-ray scattering for electrocatalysis and beyond

Meryem Ennaji - ICGM, Montpellier, France

14:40 – 15:00 Spectroscopic and electrochemical considerations for in situ and operando soft X-ray photon-in–photon-out spectroelectrochemistry

Marc F. Tesch - Max Planck Institute, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:00 Structure of carbon-supported nanoparticle electrocatalysts probed with operando X-ray scattering

Rebecca Pittkowski - Copenhagen University, Denmark

16:00 – 16:20 Mechanistic studies of electrocatalysts for hydrogen economy exploiting X-ray absorption spectroscopy under operating conditions

Raul Garcia-Diez - Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, Germany

16:20 – 16:40 Structural transformations in NiFe layer double hydroxide and Ni (Oxy)hydroxides under operating conditions for oxygen evolution

Fabio Dionigi - Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

16:40 – 17:00 Liquid TEM study of Cu and CuPd thin films for nitrate electroreduction

Maria Letizia De Marco - Institut de physique et de chimie des matériaux de Strasbourg, France

17:00 – 17:45 Round table: Current Challenges in Operando Studies

Chairs: Tristan Asset and Benedikt Lassalle-Kaiser

17:45 – 20:00 Poster Session and Alsatian Cocktail



Thursday, April 4th

Session #2: Model system

Chair : Nathaly Ortiz

- 08:30 – 09:00 Electrochemistry in the light of in situ Bragg coherent diffraction imaging
Marie-Ingrid Richard - CEA, Grenoble, France
- 09:00 – 09:20 Amine-mediated electroreduction of CO₂ to formic acid and CO by COFbpyMn single-site catalyst in aqueous media
Changwei Liu - Institut Català d'Investigació Química, Tarragona, Spain
- 09:20 – 09:40 Spectro-electrochemical examination of Pt electrocatalysis using in-situ NAP-XPS
Hassan Javed - Leiden Institute of Chemistry, The Netherlands
- 09:40 – 10:00 Towards operando transmission electron microscopy in aqueous electrolytes: optimized liquid flow configuration
Marco Fontana - Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Coffee break*
- 10:30 – 11:00 Resolving the gold-electrolyte interface using in situ X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy
Sheena Louisia - Leiden Institute of Chemistry, The Netherlands
- 11:00 – 11:20 The charge distribution at electrochemical interfaces probed with in situ surface resonant X-ray diffraction
Yvonne Soldo-Olivier - Leiden Institute of Chemistry, The Netherlands
- 11:20 – 11:40 Operando XAS study of Fe incorporation effects on Ni-Fe Prussian blue analogue for electrocatalytic water oxidation
Guixiang Huang - Max Planck Institute, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany
- 11:20 – 11:40 Seeing inside palladium hydrides with X-rays
Frédéric Maillard - LEPMI, Gières, France
- 12:00 – 14:30 *Lunch*

Session #3: Emerging techniques and challenges: Where are we going?

Chair: Ovidiu Ersen

- 14:30 – 15:00 Bridging the nanoscale and the ensemble through correlated operando electron and X-ray microscopy experiments
See Wee Chee - Fritz-Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Berlin, Germany
- 15:00 – 15:20 In situ studies of copper catalysts for electrochemical CO₂ reduction by soft X-ray spectro-microscopic characterization
Chunyang Zhang - McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada



- 15:20 – 15:40 In situ hydration study of proton conductor electrolytes using a high-throughput approach
Giulio Cordaro - *Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France*
- 15:40 – 16:00 Unraveling the oxidation behavior of phosphorus impurities in HT-PEMFCs via in situ tender X-ray spectroscopy at the Pt|aqueous H_3PO_3 interface
Romualdus E. Wibowo - *Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, Germany*
- 16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*
- 16:30 – 17:00 Tracking the evolution of Ni-based single atom catalysts for the CO_2 electroreduction reaction: An operando XAS/XES study assisted by machine learning techniques
Andrea Martini - *Fritz-Haber Institute, Berlin, Germany*
- 17:00 – 17:45 Round table: Future Challenges of Operando Studies
Chairs: Elena Savinova and Jakub Drnec
- 19:00 - 22:00 *Conference dinner in downtown Strasbourg*



Friday, April 5th

Session #4: Applied and industrial systems

Chair: Clément Sanchez

- 08:30 – 09:00 Bridging discovery to application: Utilizing Synchrotron techniques in electrocatalysis
Andrea Zitolo - *Synchrotron Soleil, Saint-Aubin, France*
- 09:00 – 09:20 Paradigm shift of platinum oxidation below fuel cell open-circuit voltage
Raphaël Chattot - *Institut Charles Gerhardt, Montpellier, France*
- 09:20 – 09:40 An operando zero-gap MEA cell for combined spectroscopy, diffraction, and imaging, applied to the study of ion effects in CO₂ electrolysis
Matthew Mayer - *Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, Germany*
- 09:40 – 10:00 Operando X-ray studies of gas evolving and consuming electrocatalysts
Andrea Russell - *University of Southampton, United Kingdom*
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Coffee break*
- 10:30 – 11:00 Electrolyte distribution in silver gas diffusion electrodes for electrochemical CO₂ reduction measured by operando Synchrotron tomography
Jens Osiewacz - *Clausthal University of Technology, Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany*
- 11:00 – 11:20 Electrochemical and structural study of NiRux heterofunctional catalysts for the alkaline HER
Marie-Sophie Fernandes-Diaz - *Synchrotron Soleil, Saint-Aubin, France*
- 11:20 – 11:40 Set-ups for in-operando X-ray absorption spectroscopy/electrochemistry in half-cell and fuel-cell configurations: The case study of palladium deactivation in direct alcohol fuel cells
Enrico Berretti - *CNR-ICCOM, Firenze, Italy*
- 11:40 – 12:00 Characterizing microstructure and gas transport properties of electrospun gas diffusion layers in proton exchange membrane fuel cells through high-resolution imagery
Bertrand Roussillo--David de Beaufort - *CEA, Grenoble, France*
- 12:00 – 14:30 *Concluding Remarks, Followed by Lunch*