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Special issue: Preface: 21st European Conference on Fracture in Catania (Italy) in 2016



After the 8th European Conference on Fracture (Turin, 1990) and the 11th International Conference on Fracture (Turin, 2005), the Italian Group of Fracture (IGF) organized in June 2016, in Catania, the 21st European Conference on Fracture (ECF21), under the auspices of the ESIS (European Structural Integrity Society). The event was one of the most successful ECF events ever organized, with about 650 delegates from 44 countries, the publication of a volume in Procedia Structural Integrity with more than 440 papers and the publication of hundreds of videorecorded presentations in the ESIS You Tube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/c/EuropeanStructuralIntegritySociety>). The ECF21 topics were all focused on “Fracture” and “Structural Integrity”, ranging from computational mechanics to failure analysis, from innovative alloys to rocks and concrete, from the analysis of the fracture micromechanisms to probabilistic fracture mechanics.

Among hundreds of contributions, for this special issue published in Theoretical and Applied Fracture Mechanics, the Guest Editors selected a few articles trying to offer a view of the state of the art on different aspects of the theoretical and applied fracture mechanics. Papers contents range from multiaxial fatigue to very high cycle fatigue, from the analysis of fracture in polymer matrix composites to J-A fracture criterion applications. Further selected papers from the conference are published in a Special Issue of Engineering Failure Analysis, Engineering Fracture Mechanics and International Journal of Fatigue.

The Guest Editors of this special issue wish to warmly thank all the authors for the quality of their contributions. We would also like to recognize the efforts of many reviewers who took their valuable time and effort to assist in ensuring the technical quality of the papers.

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