A life with/for powder diffraction

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The first time I became aware of the potential of powder diffraction was in 1986 during a seminar talk at the university of Heidelberg. Since then, I got stuck to the method for more than 40 years. In a retrospective, the key event which had a lasting impact on my future career was the international workshop on the Rietveld method in Petten (Netherlands), 13-15 Jun 1989. Meeting Hugo Rietveld and all the other excellent specialists for Rietveld refinement at that time (Fig. 1) was truly inspiring.



Figure 1. *Participants of the Rietveld Workshop at Petten (from newsletter No. 3 August 1989 of the commission on powder diffraction of the International Union of Crystallography).*

Things which were considered fiction at that time are now standard procedures in many labs across the globe and I am proud to have contributed a little bit to the success story of powder diffraction and in training a new generation of scientists in that field.
During the lecture, I will present a few selected projects which crossed my desk over the last 40 years, where powder diffraction was the key to solve either an interesting scientific or industrial problem.

I would like to acknowledge all the great scientists who influenced and guided my work in powder diffraction, in particular Walter Eysel†, Peter Stephens, Jim Kaduk, Richard Harlow, Bob von Dreele, Sander van Smaalen, Bill David, Juan Rodriguez Carvajal, Hugo Rietveld†, Julius Schneider, Christian Bärlocher, Andy Fitch, Paolo Scardi, Dave Cox, Bob Snyder†, Carmelo Giacovazzo, Alan Coelho, Simon Billinge, John Evans, Rudolf Allmann and many more.