

**SEM MICROSTRUCTURAL STUDIES OF CEMENTITIOUS MATERIALS:
SAMPLE PREPARATION OF POLISHED SECTIONS AND MICROSTRUCTURAL
OBSERVATIONS WITH BACKSCATTERED IMAGES – ARTEFACTS AND
PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

For successful SEM studies of cementitious materials the processes involved in the sample preparation of polished sections need to be carefully considered and applied. Significant artefacts can result from the preparation processes and specific examples of this are given. Some practical considerations are discussed for SEM bse observations of the «real» microstructure and also for reliable EDS microanalyses.