

## *Catalysts Made of Earth-abundant Elements for Making C-C and H-H Bonds*

**Prof. Xile Hu**

**École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)**

**Friday 20th January, 2012. ICIQ Auditorium, 12 p.m.**

### **Professional Career**



Xile Hu was born in 1978 in a small village in Putian, southeastern China. He studied chemistry at Peking University. As an undergraduate research assistant, he worked on the intercalation chemistry of tungsten bronze in the laboratory of Prof. Jianhua Lin. He obtained a B.S. degree in June 2000. Shortly thereafter, he moved to the United States and began his doctoral study under the guidance of Prof. Karsten Meyer at the University of California, San Diego (now at the FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg). His research focused on the coordination chemistry of tripodal N-heterocyclic carbene ligands. In December 2004, after having defended his dissertation "Metal Complexes of Tripodal N-Heterocyclic Carbene Ligands: Synthesis, Structure, Bonding, and Reactivity", he received a Ph.D. degree in inorganic chemistry.

He became a postdoctoral scholar in the group of Prof. Jonas C. Peters at the California Institute of Technology in February 2005. At Caltech, he worked on the development of transition metal complexes for electrocatalytic hydrogen production, in collaboration with Prof. Nathan S. Lewis and Dr. Bruce S. Brunschwig. In 2007, he was appointed as a tenure-track assistant professor of chemistry in the Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. He founded and directs the Laboratory of Inorganic Synthesis and Catalysis. His laboratory is developing catalysts made of earth-abundant elements for chemical transformations pertinent to synthesis, energy, and sustainability. In 2010, he was awarded a [European Research Council \(ERC\) Starting Grant](#). In recognition of his work at EPFL, he received the 2011 [Werner Prize](#) from the Swiss Chemical Society.