



## **TERRIGENOUS SEDIMENTATION PROCESSES ALONG THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN OFF NW AFRICA: IMPLICATIONS FROM GRAIN-SIZE ANALYSES OF SEABED SEDIMENTS**

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The terrigenous fraction of seabed sediments recovered along the Northwest African continental margin illustrates spatial variability in grain size attributed to different transport mechanisms. Three subpopulations are determined from the grain-size analyses (N=78) of the carbonate-free silt fraction applying end-member modelling. The two coarsest end-members are interpreted to represent aeolian dust, and the fine-grained end-member is related to fluvial supply. The end-member model thus allows aeolian fallout to be distinguished from fluvial-sourced mud in this area. The relative contribution of the end-members shows distinct regional variations that can be related to different transport processes and pathways. Understanding present-day sediment dispersal and mixing is important for a better understanding of older sedimentary records and palaeoclimate reconstructions in the region.