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Nicola Seriani is staff scientist at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy. His research is dedicated to the investigation of materials, mostly transition metals and their oxides, of relevance for heterogenous catalysis, energy conversion and storage, by means of atomistic computer simulations based on first principles. In the last years, he has focused on oxygen evolution and reduction reactions in the context of hydrogen production from water and of metal-air batteries. He holds a degree in physics from the University of Trieste and a Ph.D. in materials engineering from the Dresden University of Technology; he worked several years at the University of Vienna. He is chairman of the executive committee of the African School on Electronic Structure Methods and Applications.