

Acknowledgments

In 2010, the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull erupted and grounded transatlantic air traffic. The whole of Europe came to a standstill. I followed the news closely, as I had planned a short trip to France in a few weeks' time. I was fascinated by the images coming out of Iceland; ash turned day into night and the streets hid under a thick layer of soot. Some mentions were made of past volcanic eruptions on the island, including the disastrous flood basalt event of 1783. This event, and this year, held my interest for quite some time. So it was, three years later, when deciding on a topic to tackle for my master's thesis, I landed on Laki. I delved further into the topic for my doctoral thesis. While I scoured the past, new fissure eruptions occurred in the Holuhraun lava field and on the Reykjanes Peninsula. As I read of past eruptions, I witnessed, thankfully from a safe distance, these sublime natural occurrences in real life. I feel privileged to have "experienced" these fissure eruptions from such a perspective.

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