

Shaleology Forum - List of Speakers



Alberto Striolo
University College London

Since 2013 Dr. Striolo is Professor of Molecular Thermodynamics within the Department of Chemical Engineering at University College London, London's global university. Prior to this position, Dr. Striolo was the Lloyd and Joyce Austin Presidential Associate Professor within the School of Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering at the University of Oklahoma, US. During his career, Dr. Striolo has applied an arsenal of modelling and simulation techniques to characterise the structure of fluid at solid-liquid interfaces. He held visiting positions at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA, and at Princeton University, NJ, to verify the theoretical predictions using experimental observables and to correlate the interfacial fluids structure to their transport. Striolo is interested in quantifying interfacial effects, especially those that can be related to practical applications such as water desalination, management of hydrates in flow assurance problems, separations, self- and directed assembly, and many others, including shale gas. Regarding the latter application, Prof. Striolo coordinates the consortium ShaleXenvironment (<http://shalexenvironment.org>), which is supported by the European Commission, via the Horizon 2020 research portfolio.



Adrian Jones
University College London

Adrian Jones is the Hayman Reader in Petrology at UCL, and holds an Associate Research post at the Natural History Museum London. Adrian has wide geological, fieldwork, and analytical geochemical expertise, especially on the behaviour of carbon-rich systems during melting and crystallization at high pressures and temperatures. He has supervised >25 PhD students of whom 5 currently hold academic tenured positions in leading UK institutions. He was a Founder of the Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO) supporting education and research of carbon through multidisciplinary science. His UCL lectures and DCO summer schools and workshops aim to inspire early career scientists to imagine new methods and technologies for measuring carbon in the natural environment including bio-rock interaction.



David Schofield
British Geological Survey

David Schofield is the current BGS Director for Energy Systems and Basin Analysis. He has had a 20-year career as a survey geologist and has spent much of that time surveying and developing architectural model for Lower Palaeozoic mudstone-dominated succession in Central and North Wales, and until recently served as BGS' Chief Geologist for Wales. This latter post involved providing advice to stakeholders and Welsh Government of energy issues including Unconventional Oil and Gas, land contamination and environmental topics. As well as this, David has spent a considerable part of his time working on major institutional reinforcement programs in Africa where he has been responsible for developing new geological datasets for part of Mauritania and parts of Madagascar.



Kevin Taylor
University of Manchester

Professor Taylor Heads up the Mudstone and Shale Reservoir Research Group at the University of Manchester, UK. His research has applied standard petrographic and geochemical analysis (e.g. optical and electron microscopy, XRD, stable isotope analysis) and novel mineralogical analysis (e.g. CL, Raman, synchrotron X-ray analysis) to sediment, shale gas and mudstone systems. He has been instrumental in integrating field- and basin-scale observations with pore-scale analysis, which has had significant implications for predicting shale and sandstone reservoir properties. His recent and current research has been integrating multi-scale sedimentological and diagenetic analysis in major mudstone successions and shale-gas reservoirs (e.g. Carboniferous shales in the UK; the Mancos Shale, Utah; the Marcellus, Woodford and Fayetteville Shales of eastern USA; Cretaceous calcareous shales of the Western Interior Seaway, Ordovician Shales in Canada and the UK; Mesozoic shales and source rocks of Europe).



James Verdon
University of Bristol

James Verdon is a Research Fellow in the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Bristol, U.K. He received a Master's degree in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University in 2006, and in 2010 he completed his PhD at the University of Bristol, for which he was awarded the Keith Runcorn Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis in Geophysics by the U.K.'s Royal Astronomical Society. His research speciality is in the links between geomechanics and geophysics, and particularly in using microseismic monitoring to image geomechanical deformation.



Sophie Nixon
University of Manchester

Dr Sophie Nixon completed her PhD in Geomicrobiology/Astrobiology at the University of Edinburgh in 2014, focusing on microbial iron reduction in extreme environments on Earth, and potentially on Mars. Since moving to the University of Manchester at the start of 2015, her research shifted gear to more applied aspects of Geomicrobiology concerned with shale gas extraction and the disposal of nuclear waste. The interdisciplinary research interests that underpin this PhD and postdoctoral work center on the bioavailability of organic carbon on Earth and beyond.





*Nils Backeberg
University College London*

Nils started his career in field-based structural geology and a M.Sc. in geochemistry at the University of Cape Town. After working on a rare earth element exploration project in southwest Africa, Nils moved to McGill University in Canada for his Ph.D. in structural and economic geology of Archaean gold deposits. Nils is currently a research associate at the University College London combining his expertise with rock mechanics and multidisciplinary shale rock characterisations.



*Peter Lee
University of Manchester*

Professor Peter D. Lee is Acting Director of the Research Complex at Harwell (RCaH), a multi-disciplinary research centre based at the Harwell Campus. The RCaH is joint venture between five of the UK's Research Councils and Diamond Light Source to enable academics to have groups resident on the same site as the UK's central synchrotron, neutron and laser facilities. Prof. Lee's current research focuses on applying multi-scale, multi-modal characterisation of materials to predict their behaviour. Prof. Lee started his career as a Research Scientist at Alcan International's Kingston R&D Laboratory, where he helped established both their X-ray imaging and microstructure-explicit modelling programmes. He then did his D.Phil. at Oxford (1995) and was Professor of Materials Science at Imperial College until he joined Manchester in 2011, where he is currently holds the post of Professor of Materials Imaging.



*John Loughhead
Department of Energy and
Climate Change*

Professor John Loughhead is the Chief Scientific Advisor at the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Prior to joining DECC, John was Executive Director at the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) and Corporate Vice-President of Technology and Intellectual Property at Alstom's head office in Paris. John's professional career has been predominantly in industrial research and development for the electronics and electrical power industries, including advanced, high power industrial gas turbines, new energy conversion systems, spacecraft thermal management, electrical and materials development for electricity generation and transmission equipment, and electronic control systems. He has extensive international experience in both industry and academia. John is a Chartered Engineer, graduating in Mechanical Engineering from Imperial College, London, where he also spent five years in computational fluid dynamics research. He is Past-President of the UK's Institution of Engineering and Technology, Fellow of both the UK and Australian national Academies of Engineering, Professor of Engineering at Cardiff University and Fellow of Queen Mary University of London.



*Pickard Trepess
FracPT FZE*

Pickard has a B.Sc. in Chemistry from UMIST (Manchester UK) and studied Petroleum engineering at Leoben Mining University, Austria. An SPE member since 1977, currently on several committees for stimulation events and earlier on cementing and stimulation standards committees. He worked for four service companies, performing, supervising and managing DST / Gravel Pack / Cementing / Acidizing and Fracturing operations in more than 50 countries for 16 years. Then moved briefly to the proppant industry based in the Middle East, and later for another, high strength proppant manufacturer. He ran a stimulation consultancy for 15 years working in Middle East, Europe, India, etc. Also performing software development and Fracturing consulting in USA, Europe, & Asia. Pickard is currently Managing Director of FracPT FZE, a Dubai based consultancy company teaching stimulation globally, recently in The Middle East, China, Russia and Angola.



*Richard Day
Halliburton*

An experienced professional in the oilfield industry, Mr. Day manages the Technology Solutions Team at Halliburton. He has worked in a range of areas related to unconventional development, including: evaluation and interpretation of EU/UK on-shore shale gas/liquid potential, evaluation and interpretation of Turkey's on-shore unconventional assets, small pools evaluation off-shore Malaysia and evaluation and interpretation of bypassed zones off-shore Africa. Prior to his current role, he has held various positions within Halliburton as a Consultant for Geoscience and a Technical Analyst for Landmark. His earlier career included work with Sosina Exploration Ltd, Pectil Engineering Australia and Advanced Jetting Services. Mr. Day holds a Master of Science degree in Integrated Petroleum Geoscience from the University of Aberdeen, and is the author of several white papers, including, "Exploration and Appraisal of Unconventionals in the U.K. and Central Europe."



*Gary Edwards
UK Environment Agency*

After gaining an engineering degree from the Camborne School of Mines, Gary went on to study Hydrogeology at Birmingham. His area of work focuses on the extractive industries and in particular metal mining and hydrocarbons, with particular interest in fluid transport and geomechanics. Gary joined the Environment Agency in 2003 and worked on implementing the European Mining Waste Directive. Since then he has contributed to the regulation of the oil and gas sector. Gary has just completed a two-month visit to Alberta, where he worked closely with the Alberta Energy Regulator and industry to gain a practical understanding of a full-scale shale gas industry.



*Alastair Fraser
Imperial College London*

Al Fraser currently holds the post of EGI Chair in Petroleum Geoscience at Imperial College, London. He has a BSc from Edinburgh University and a PhD from Glasgow University in the UK, both in Geology. Previously, Al worked for BP as a Petroleum Geologist/Exploration Manager for over 30 years. After an introduction to the oil industry in the early days of the North Sea, his career in petroleum exploration, took him to most corners of the world including N. America, Europe, Africa, Middle East and the Far East. Following the BP Amoco merger, he led the team, which made the significant Plutonio discovery in Block 18, deepwater Angola. He is the author of many papers on the Petroleum Geology of extensional basins most notably on the North Sea Jurassic and northern England Carboniferous.

