

Shell London Lecture Series - Geology in the Age of Man

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Geological Society of London

Sustainability of Groundwater in a Changing World



SPEAKER: *Paul Younger (Newcastle University)*

Groundwater constitutes the overwhelming majority of the freshwater resources available for humankind to use, and yet because it is largely invisible it remains relatively ignored and misunderstood by policy makers. Virtually ubiquitous, groundwater is in many ways a more useful resource than surface water, though natural variations in geology and climate mean that careful planning is necessary if it is to be used sustainably. Connectivity is a keyword in considering the sustainability of groundwater exploitation: connectivity with the atmosphere (just how much of the groundwater we use is "fossil" recharge?); connectivity within and between aquifers; connectivity with surface waters, often transcending surface catchment boundaries; and conceptual connectivity between groundwater use and the consumption of energy and materials. While alarming tales of groundwater over-use are not difficult to find, the extraordinary resilience of many aquifer systems also gives great grounds for hope in many parts of the world. But we do need to begin to make sure those policymakers finally get to grips with the intriguing "connectivities" of groundwater.

Date: *Wednesday 27 June 2012*

Timings: *This lecture will be given at 3pm and 6pm on this day (with tea/coffee served for half an hour before each), so please let us know, when applying for tickets, which talk you would like to attend.*

Venue: *The Geological Society of London, Burlington House*

Entry to this lecture is free to all, but by ticket only. Please call at reception (to your right) or contact the Society by post, phone, fax or email (see below).



For further information, please contact:
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2012 Programme

18 January	Earthquakes and tsunamis in the modern world	<i>James Jackson, University of Cambridge</i>
15 February	Rocks and climate change: How we can stop pulling the carbon trigger	<i>Bryan Lovell, GSL President</i>
28 March	Life at the edge: Sinking deltas	<i>James Syvitski, University of Colorado</i>
18 April	Impacts and Adaptation to Sea-Level Rise	<i>Robert Nicholls, University of Southampton</i>
9 May	Unconventional gas	<i>Melvyn Giles, Shell</i>
27 June	Sustainability of groundwater in a changing world	<i>Paul Younger, Newcastle University</i>
26 September	Volcanoes and man	<i>Sue Loughlin, British Geological Survey</i>
10 October	Pollutants and human health in the age of man	<i>Jane Plant, Imperial College London</i>
14 November	Geological aspects of renewable energy	<i>Bruce Levell, Shell</i>
19 December	Incoming: Learning to love the meteorite	<i>Ted Nield, GSL</i>



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