

# Shell London Lecture Series - Geology in the Age of Man

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Geological Society of London

## Unconventional Gas

SPEAKER: *Melvyn Giles (Shell)*

In the past decade in N. America, the application of modern drilling and completion technology has resulted in an explosion in exploration and development activities in so-called unconventional gas and more recently in light tight oil. These are all examples of hydrocarbons trapped in tight rocks which only a decade ago would have been considered source rocks, waste zones or seals. These accumulations are typically of regional extent and not trapped by buoyancy forces in conventional structural and stratigraphic traps, hence the term unconventional. Indeed many of these hydrocarbons are trapped in synclines, turning our accepted wisdom of petroleum exploration on its head. These resources include basin centre gas/oil, shale gas/oil and coal bed methane. The gas within them may be trapped within the interstitial pore space as in tight and basin centre gas accumulations, adsorbed on the organic matter as in the case of coal bed methane, or a combination of both as in the case of shale gas or purely. In the past few years exploration for unconventional resources has become global, during which time it has become apparent that the range of developable unconventional resources is far wider than previously thought. During the course of this presentation we will examine the origin and range of unconventional resources, their potential for contributing to solving the global energy challenges and the controversies around their exploitation.



Date: *Wednesday 9th May 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:  
Conference Office, The Geological Society,  
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG  
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## 2012 Programme

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



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