



THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY



NEWSLETTER

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The 2022 38th Annual TSOP Meeting



September 12 – 16, 2022
Virtual Meeting

<https://www.tsop.org/TSOP2022/>

2022 38th Annual TSOP Meeting

Due to on-going travel restriction and in the interest of health and safety of all participants, the 38th TSOP Annual Meeting will be organized as a virtual event on 12-13 September 2022. Please join us for exciting technical sessions, short course and a roundtable discussion. Meeting dates in Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST, UTC+10). The meeting is FREE to all TSOP members.

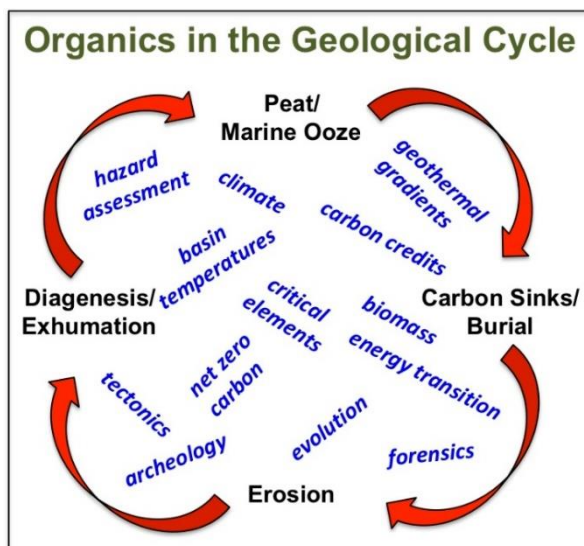
Meeting website: <https://www.tsop.org/TSOP2022/index.html>

Organising committee: Tim Moore, Kaydy Pinetown, Sandra Rodrigues, Tianjiao Yu, Marvin Moroeng, Alex Wheeler, Paul Hackley, Leslie Rupert, Hendra Amijaya, Greg Lis, Jillian Pearse, Carol Sule, Hamed Sanei, Andreas Busch, Shifeng Dai, Pelayo Tomillo Garcia

Abstract deadline – 30 June
12-13 September 2022 – Workshop
14-16 September 2022 – Technical Sessions

For questions and queries email: tsop2022@ciphercoal.com

Join TSOP's growing community of professionals, researchers and students on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12634595/>



The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved in coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students, and publishes a website, Facebook Page, quarterly newsletter, annual meeting program and abstracts and special publications. Members are eligible for discounted subscriptions to Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*.

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GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Photos, graphs and other illustrations are welcomed. Low-resolution images are discouraged, as they cannot be reproduced well in print. Articles are preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

Contact the Editor:

Rachel Walker editor@tsop.org

Membership Information:

Please report any changes in address or contact information to Brett Valentine, TSOP Membership Chair:
bvalentine@usgs.gov

Members can also update their own information by logging into the secure TSOP website:
www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/

The TSOP Newsletter is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership.

Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see: www.tsop.org

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is:

The Society for Organic Petrology
c/o American Geological Institute
4220 King St., Alexandria,
VA 22302-1520 USA

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

June Issue: June 10th, 2022
September Issue: Sept. 10th, 2022
December Issue: Dec. 10th, 2022

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President's Letter

Dear TSOP Members,

I feel that the first quarter of 2022 has been an extension of the surreal time we've experienced since COVID-19 entered our lives. Important things first – to all our family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances currently facing challenging circumstances in eastern Europe, my wish is that you can put these events behind you fast as they were thrust upon you, and for those who have lost much more than we can imagine, may you have the resilience and resources to rebuild a peaceful life for yourself and your loved ones.

Most of you would be aware that Australia had its own challenges of late. For the first time in my sixteen years living in this country I can say with certainty that we had no summer this year. Our home was fortunate enough to only suffer few roof leaks and my key learning in this situation is that I am now skilled at climbing into roofs and positioning buckets to collect leaks. Others have not been as fortunate, and many homes and several lives have been lost in floods. Unpleasant as they are, these disasters are reminders of how very fortunate we are. To the Aussies reading this, I hope you're well and safe.

TSOP Council has embarked on a journey to review and re-energise the society by addressing the challenges posed by the rapidly changing environment we're all working in. We intend to obtain perspectives from the membership through a survey in the coming months and I encourage you to provide suggestions in this regard. We've planned an interesting line up of events, many in the form of online seminars by respected members of the society and our professional community, and our new Student Affairs Committee Chair, Pelayo Tomillo, will restart the student exchange program. Please watch out for announcements. Attendance will be free, and your inputs will be invaluable!

Excitement is building around our 2022 TSOP Annual Meeting and the meeting website is now up and running. Tim Moore and his committee are accommodating broad perspectives in the applications of organic petrology techniques, while still incorporating traditional applications. The conference theme 'Organics in the Geological Cycle' reminds us of how organic petrology is much more than just a tool in used in fossil fuel exploration and production. Many of our members have already been applying their skills within environmental and regulatory frameworks, as well as alternative fuels such as biomass. I urge all members to publicise the expanded scope of the annual meeting and I look forward to innovative technical presentations.

The world has shown resilience in the face of a pandemic as well as manmade and natural disasters; however, it seems that 2020 has decided to keep going for another year, in some way or other. Please take care and make sure that you don't miss the lineup of TSOP events planned for this year.

Best wishes,

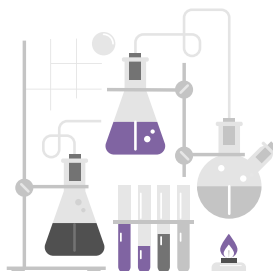
Kaydy Pinetown
TSOP President 2021-2023



TSOP is an AAPG Affiliated Society.
Abstracts from annual meetings are available through [AAPG Datapages](#)



www.facebook.com/OrganicPetrology



TSOP Membership Dues

TSOP dues payments are due on or before **December 31st each year**. We encourage you to check your dues status and make your payment so that you can continue your TSOP membership and support the society and its work.

TSOP dues are currently set at:

Individuals:

- \$25 per year or
- \$100 for 5 years (5 years for the price of 4!)

Students:

- \$15 per year

Institutional/Corporate:

- \$75 per year

Join or Renew Your Membership



You can use our convenient online dues payment system to pay dues by credit card.

You can login at the [Members Only TSOP](#) website and select 'Online dues payment' or go to www.tsop.org/dues and access the online form without logging in.

Thank you for your interest and support of TSOP and we look forward to a renewal of your TSOP membership.

GLOBAL VIRTUAL MEETING
38th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY



12th to 16th of September 2022

THE GLOBAL VIRTUAL MEETING FOR YOU TO ATTEND THIS YEAR

We are excited to announce several updates about the upcoming Virtual TSOP Conference which will be held from the **12th to 16th of September 2022**.

Firstly: it's all FREE for TSOP members! Yes, you heard right. IT. IS. FREE. All you have to do is register.

If you are not yet a member of TSOP, then all you have to do is join TSOP for a year (or more if you want!) and that gains you admission to the conference. Sound like a good deal? You bet it is! Instructions are on the website.

Which brings us to the **second** point: we have a website!

Check it out at: <https://www.tsop.org/TSOP2022/index.html>

All the information you need to know is there. If it's not there, it will be soon, so keep checking back in.

Thirdly, the theme of this year's conference is "**Organics in the Geological Cycle**". We'll explain more about this in the next newsletter, but the goal is to have presentations from all aspects of organics through geological time. By that we mean from the present (issues of carbon credits, pollutants, and economics) to how organics respond to climate, ecology and tectonics in deep time to uses of organics or associated critical elements, for example, that occur in organ-rich sediments. For this we need presentations from all facets of geoscience. Our loyal TSOP members will know what this means and so we encourage all to contact your colleagues who are not yet members of TSOP to come and give a talk. Although we want presentations on hydrocarbons, we are not just limited to those targets.

Fourthly, since this is a going to be *GLOBAL* conference, we've had to set any dates given to a single time zone. That zone, for no particular reason, is the Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) – so think Sydney! But we've tried to arrange the times for presentations to be kind to all presenters over the world. Once we receive your abstract, we'll be conscious of your local time when setting the schedule for your talk or poster.

ABSTRACTS DUE: 30 JUNE 2022 - So get your pens out and be ready to submit!

Fifthly (can we say that?), in addition to the oral presentations that will be delivered online, we will have poster sessions. You can find instructions on how we will structure these on the website. But if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tim A. Moore at tmoore@ciphercoal.com.

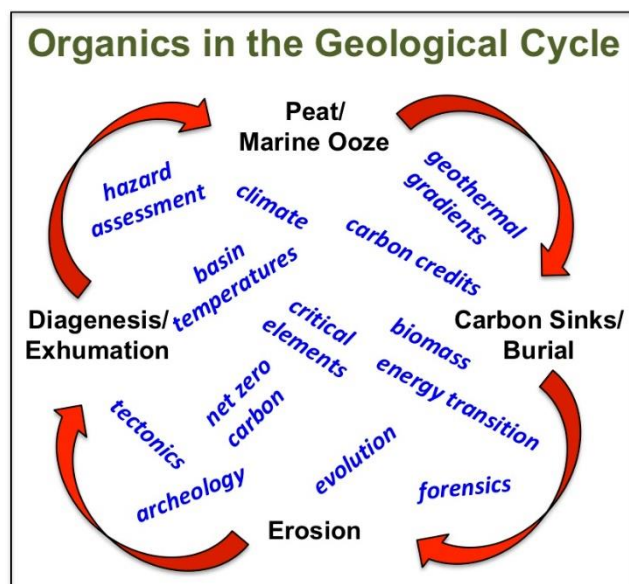
As is often the case, we have a pre-meeting short course; of course, this time its online and its titled “***Spatially resolved techniques and applications of organic petrography in shale petroleum systems***” and will be given by Paul Hackley, Aaron Jubb, Ryan McAleer, Brett Valentine, and Justin Birdwell, all from the U.S. Geological Survey. A description of the workshop was given in the last newsletter and the presenter’s biographies are given on the website.

In addition to the Technical Sessions (held over three 4 hr. days) we will be having a Roundtable Discussion, open to all. The first ever TSOP Roundtable Discussion will take place on Friday, September 16th, 2022, at 6:05am Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST, UTC + 10), and will run for 70 minutes. The discussion aims to provide attendees with regional perspectives on the alignment between industry, policy and the public concerning the energy transition, and the outlook for regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction, along with insights into the roles of geoscience and engineering researchers in this transition.

The session will start with approximately 20 minutes of pre-recorded videos from the panelists in which they address key issues around fossil fuel use and the energy transition for their region, followed by 50 minutes of interactive discussion and questions. The panelists are from all over the world, including South America, Asia, Australia, North America, and Europe. We’ll be highlighting them in the coming Newsletters, but you can also go check them out at https://www.tsop.org/TSOP2022/round_table.html.

Lastly, we have a task for YOU, our outstanding TSOP members. Actually two tasks:

- 1) Put the date of the conference in your calendar now and mark the date when the Abstracts are due, and
- 2) Pass this information on to colleagues who are not yet members of TSOP and get them to come give a talk!



Thank you to Rudi Schwab

TSOP Council and our membership would like to recognize the continued support of a long-standing and cherished member, Rudi Schwab. Rudi has been a TSOP and ICCP member for many years and has attended numerous meetings, often accompanied by his wife, Krystyna. In addition to supporting TSOP through in-person attendance, Rudi and Krystyna have now made several generous financial contributions to the society. These donations have contributed to both TSOP Spackman and Kondla awards, providing students with support to conduct their research and recognizing outstanding student research presented at TSOP annual meetings.

We wish to experience the warmth and enthusiasm, along with the wisdom and expertise, that Rudi and Krystyna bring to TSOP gatherings for a long time to come.



Rudi and Krystyna on the field trip; Bloomington 2019



Rudi is never without his camera; Bloomington 2019



Inspecting some interesting structures; Bloomington 2019



Both Rudi and Krystyna have an appreciation for health and safety while enjoying some geology!



More sedimentary structures and interesting discussions!

John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, Call for nominations, 2022

Deadline: May 31, 2022

TSOP members are invited to nominate the scientist of your choice for the 2022 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, The Society for Organic Petrology's highest honor (www.tsop.org/honmem.htm). The award acknowledges distinction in a scientific discipline of significance to the society, in recognition of contributions in research, service to TSOP, or education. The John Castaño Honorary Membership conveys life membership in the society. It is named in honor of John Castaño, one of our most active Houston-based founding members. John served as inaugural Vice-President, and later, as President of TSOP. He was an organizer of three TSOP meetings in the Houston area and was made an Honorary Member in 1995. John served TSOP in many capacities until his death in 1997; a memorial article was published in the June 1997 issue of the TSOP Newsletter.

If you would like to suggest a candidate for the 2022 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, **please submit a letter of recommendation and a brief vita of the nominee to:** Dr. Lei Zhao at lei.zhao@y7mail.com, Chair of the Committee by May 31, 2022.

It is suggested that supporting letters of recommendation from colleagues and other scientists accompany the package. Emphasis should be placed on the significance of the nominee's work.

Nominations will be reviewed by the John Castaño Award Committee and results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. The selection process is confidential, and nominees do not have to be former or current TSOP members.

The committee evaluates research, service and educational impact on the following criteria:

- Research contributions include work that demonstrates a high degree of originality and serves to advance the science of organic petrology or related disciplines. Nominees must possess a sustained international record of professional publication and achievement.
- Nominees recommended for service must demonstrate significance contributions to TSOP in a leadership role. Their service must have enabled the society to stimulate interest and promote innovative research in coal geology. Contributions include educational activities, administrative duties, or the development of the society.
- Nominees recommended for education must demonstrate a high degree of dedication and significant impact as a teacher of organic petrology or related disciplines.

Dr. Lei Zhao

TSOP Vice President and
Chair of the Honorary Member Selection Committee

DEVELOPING METHODOLOGY FOR PETROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF SOLID BIOMASS IN REFLECTED LIGHT

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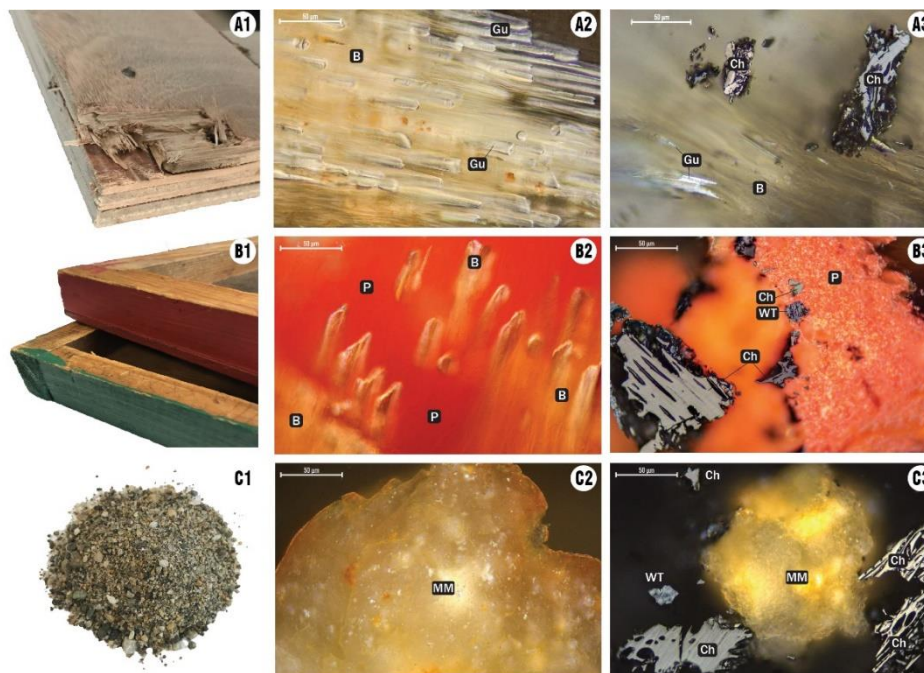
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ABSTRACT

As concerns about climate change and sustainability rise, biomass utilization has a potential to become one of the pillars of the future energy market. It is therefore critical to assure that solid biomass fuels are of the highest quality and do not contribute to avoidable air pollution. Our research has shown that petrographic analysis of solid biomass in reflected light can quickly and reliably provide information on fuel composition and contamination. As such, this technique has a potential to improve our understanding of raw fuel properties and, in some instances, even predict parameters of their combustion emissions.

This paper provides guidelines for conducting microscopic analysis of wood pellets and charcoal-based fuels in reflected light. It presents two preliminary microscopic classifications of solid biomass components and emphasizes the need for training materials, exemplified by recently published photomicrograph atlases. Our research indicates that pairing reflected light microscopy with the currently used standard testing would enhance the quality assessment of solid biomass. To achieve this, the methodology must be promoted, tested for interlaboratory reproducibility, and finally standardized.



Call for Participation in the ICCP Accreditation Programs 2022-2023 Exercise

The International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP) is pleased to invite you to participate in the 2022-2023 Accreditation round. The ICCP provides three Accreditation Programs:

- **Single Coal Accreditation Program (SCAP)** for both maceral group and vitrinite random reflectance analyses. In this program, the ability of an analyst to identify and quantify the maceral groups and to measure the vitrinite reflectance of coal samples according to ISO standards is tested.
Organizer: Kimon Christanis (christan@upatras.gr)
- **Dispersed Organic Matter Vitrinite Reflectance Accreditation Program (DOMVR)**. In this program, the ability of an analyst to identify and measure the reflectance of vitrinite occurring as dispersed vitrinite in rocks such as carbonaceous shales or hydrocarbon source rocks is tested.
Organizer: Joao Graciano Mendonca Filho (graciano@geologia.ufrj.br)
- **Coal Blends Accreditation Program (CBAP)**. In this Program, the ability of an analyst to identify the number of coals in a blend and their petrographic characteristics such as vitrinite reflectance and maceral group composition according to ISO standards is tested. Organic petrology is the only technique able to yield information of the individual component coals within a coal blend.
Organizer: Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi (mwojtaszek@ichpw.pl)

The ICCP has established a procedure to facilitate payments, in which a single invoice will be produced. This requires that participants fill in the **registration form** available in the following link www.iccop.org/accreditation/accreditation-form before **April 30, 2022** in order to expedite the procedures. In addition, the detailed schedule of the Accreditation Programs has been established to provide reasonable distribution of workload from all activities and to accommodate the timelines for the evaluation process. The expected schedule is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. General schedule proposed for 2022-2023 ICCP Accreditation Programs.

	SCAP	DOMVR	CBAP
Announcement and call for participation	February to April 30, 2022	February to April 30, 2022	February to April 30 2022
Invoicing	till May 31 2022	till May 31 2022	till May 31 2022
Sample distribution	May to June 2022	May to June 2022	January - February 2023
Reception of results	October to December 2022	October to December 2022	March-July 2023
Evaluation, Certificates and Web	January to February 2023	January to February 2023	August to September 2023
Certificates Validity	01.03.2023 to 31.12.2024	01.03.2023 to 31.12.2024	01.10.2023 to 30.06.2025

Different number of samples are to be analysed in the Accreditation Programs depending on your previous participation. Participants entering SCAP or DOMVR Accreditation Programs or having lapsed for a round, must analyse six samples, whereas continuation in the Accreditation Program requires the analysis of two samples. For CBAP, new entrants are expected to analyse two samples and continuation requires the analysis of a single sample. No participation of automated systems will be allowed in any of the Accreditation Programs.

The samples for the Accreditation Programs will be distributed shortly after registration. The evaluation of results and certificate of accreditation will be issued upon the reception of the corresponding fee. The fee structure for the 2022-2023 Accreditation Round is summarized in Table 2. In addition, for participation in CBAP Accreditation Program and any other of the Programs, there will be a **20% discount for CBAP Accreditation Program only**. No additional discounts are applied to any other combination of the Accreditation Programs.

Table 2. Fee structure for the 2022-2023 ICCP Accreditation Programs.

	SCAP		DOMVR		CBAP	
	Entry	Continuation	Entry	Continuation	Entry	Continuation
Non-Members, €	126	84	100	66	200	168
Members, €	63	42	50	33	100	84

Further details on the Accreditation Programs, evaluation procedures, and screening method to limit outliers in the accreditation database can be found on the ICCP website (www.iccop.org) and can be also received by contacting the respective program organizers.

The ICCP Accreditation Programs have grown up and consolidated over the years and are an efficient instrument for validating the ability and method of an analyst for petrographic analysis. If you are interested in joining the programs, please contact the corresponding organizers.

Magdalena Misz-Kennan
Chair of the Accreditation Subcommittee

**14th ICCP Course
General Coal and Organic Petrology
Patras, Greece
October 24-28, 2022**

ICCP is delighted to welcome you to the 14th ICCP Course in General Organic Petrology to be held in Patras, Greece, from 24–28th October 2022.

The course is organised by ICCP in conjunction with the Department of Geology, University of Patras, and is designed for professionals and students, and is not exclusively targeting organic petrologists but also those, who rather deal with petrographic data. Instructors will be Dr Walter Pickel and Dr Stavros Kalaitzidis.

Please visit the Course webpage for more information or contact Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis (skalait@upatras.gr)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

Please send in meeting, short course and special event announcements to the Editor
<http://www.tsop.org/events.html>



July 10-15, 2022

[Goldschmidt Conference](#) - Chicago, IL, USA



September 12-16, 2022

[38th TSOP Annual Meeting](#) – Global Online Meeting



September 19-25, 2022

[73rd ICCP Annual Meeting](#) - New Delhi, INDIA



October 9-12, 2022

[GSA Annual Meeting](#) - Denver, CO, USA



October 24-28, 2022

[14th ICCP Course](#) – Patras, Greece