



**THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY**



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39, No. 2

June 2022

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**The 2022 38<sup>th</sup> Annual TSOP Meeting**



**September 12 – 16, 2022**  
**Virtual Meeting**

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

## 2022 38<sup>th</sup> 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.

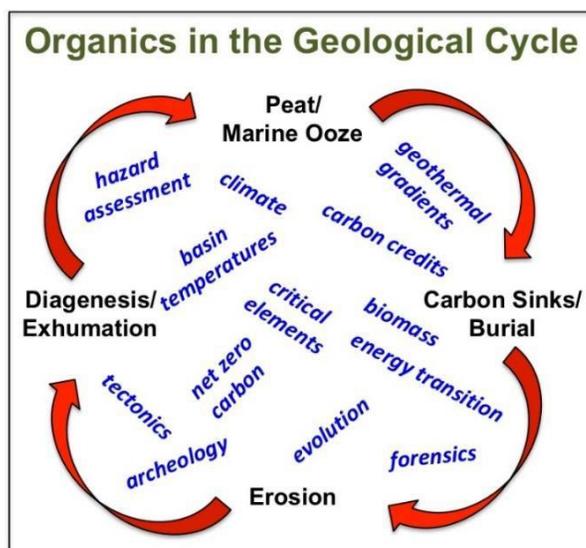
Meeting website: <https://www.tsop.org/TSOP2022/index.html>

**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 – July 8th**  
**12-13 September 2022 – Workshop**  
**14-16 September 2022 – Technical Sessions**

For questions and queries email: [tsop2022@ciphercoal.com](mailto: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](mailto:editor@tsop.org)

#### **Membership Information:**

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

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

September Issue: Sept. 10th, 2022  
December Issue: Dec. 10th, 2022  
March Issue: March 10th, 2023  
June Issue: June 10th, 2023

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Dear TSOP Members,

Warm greetings from Australia where a cold (by Australian standards) and rainy winter provides the perfect backdrop for the seasonal influenza and covid to deliver an onslaught.

I am grateful to say that I have recently returned from a short visit to South Africa to see my family and friends after more than four years. I was also to meet some colleagues from my De Beers and Sasol days in addition to having exposure to the infamous experience called "load-shedding". I am, however, pleased to note that despite this and other economic and social challenges the human spirit remains remarkable in the face of adversity and Africa is still a beautiful continent. I did this trip on my own and was grateful to have returned to Abou and Cyrus, and the house, all in one piece. Then, as luck would have it, after a mostly illness-free pandemic, we all succumbed to the flu during my second week back in Australia. I look forward to many uneventful weeks ahead.

Earlier this month the organic petrology and geoscience community lost an internationally recognised and well-loved colleague and friend, Dr Walter Pickel. Walter was a friend to many, and he touched the lives of people in his work and personal life in remarkable ways. He had a unique sense of humour expressed with a level of seriousness and candour that very few can pull off, while being hilariously funny. He was an expert in his field and made numerous and significant scientific contributions to the field of organic petrology, and his love for the discipline was evident throughout his professional career. This is a loss for both TSOP and the ICCP, and my condolences go out especially to those who will always hold him dear.

In some exciting news, TSOP Treasurer, Dr Agnieszka Drobniak and colleagues at the University of Silesia have now established their Centre for Biomass Energy Research and Education in Poland, expanding the application of organic petrology expertise and skills. On behalf of TSOP Council and membership, I wish to express a big congratulations and best wishes for a successful initiative, and I strongly encourage research collaborations between our members and the Centre.

We are now only twelve weeks out from the 2022 TSOP Annual Meeting and I look forward to seeing full support from TSOP members and the geoscience community for the event. The marketing team within the organising committee have invested huge effort into advertising the annual meeting events through social media, setting up a LinkedIn page that will serve as ongoing TSOP LinkedIn page – please visit the page, get connected and share some posts and pics! Given the no or very low registration fees for the annual meeting, I wish to see many familiar and new faces join us for an interesting line up of events. See you all in September!

Best wishes,

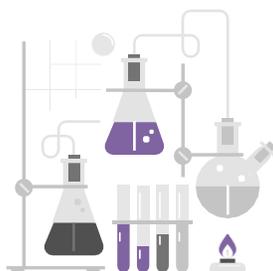
Kaydy Pinetown, TSOP President 2021-2023



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



[www.facebook.com/OrganicPetrology](http://www.facebook.com/OrganicPetrology)



## TSOP Membership Dues

TSOP dues payments are due on or before **December 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 **12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 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: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:tmoore@ciphercoal.com).

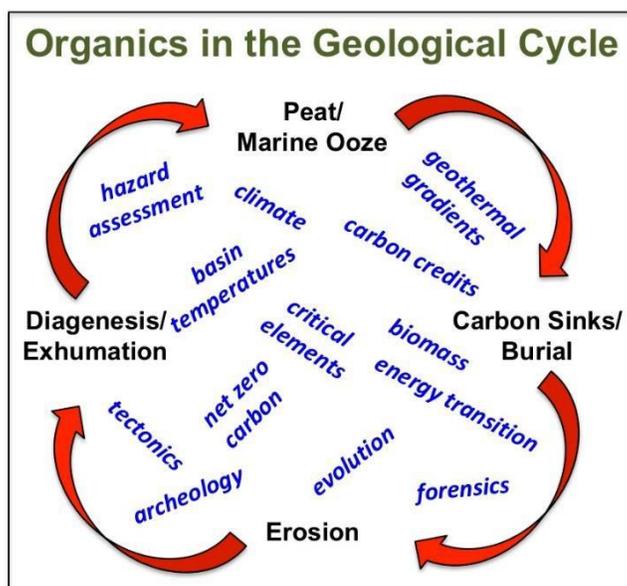
As is often the case, we have a pre-meeting short course; of course, this time its online and its titled “***Spatially resolved techniques and applications of organic petrography in shale petroleum systems***” and will be given by Paul Hackley, Aaron Jubb, Ryan McAleer, Brett Valentine, and Justin Birdwell, 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](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!



## **IMAGE will include the AAPG meeting again this year**

**Joe Curiale, Chair, TSOP Liaison Committee**

The International Meeting for Applied Geoscience and Energy (IMAGE) meeting will occur from 28 August to 1 September this year, held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. This is the second IMAGE meeting held (the first was in 2021). It is a multi-society conference organized by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) and the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM). Many TSOP members are also members of AAPG, and some are also members of SEPM. More information about IMAGE is available at <https://www.imageevent.org/>, and an overview of the technical program is at <https://www.imageevent.org/technical-program-at-a-glance>.

Back when the AAPG convention was a standalone meeting, it was held in various venues throughout North America. For financial reasons it combined with SEG and SEPM last year to form the IMAGE conference, and has chosen Houston as its location each year going forward.

Because TSOP is an Associated Society of AAPG, based on an arrangement negotiated between the two societies years ago, TSOP members who were not also AAPG members received (among other benefits) the discounted AAPG-member fee for registration to the annual meeting. However, I was recently informed by Dave Curtiss of AAPG that, now that AAPG, SEG and SEPM have combined to create the IMAGE conference, this discounted fee is no longer available to non-AAPG members who hold membership in an Associated Society like TSOP. This is unfortunate, as the discount was significant for most registration tiers – e.g., the difference between AAPG membership and non-membership fees is \$200 for this year's IMAGE meeting.

Even without this registration discount, TSOP members may still wish to add IMAGE to their conference list for this year. It offers a great deal -- technical sessions, short courses, technical breakfasts and luncheons, as well as workshops – all of which will undoubtedly be of interest to TSOP members. The meeting has a very large exhibits floor, and hundreds of exhibitors in all the geologic, geophysical and geochemical sub-disciplines have already committed to be there -- more are being added daily. I encourage you to attend, and I hope to see you there.

### Reconstructing the pattern of the Upper Cretaceous marine upwelling system in the Southern Tethys



Open PhD/MSc position

Geological Survey of Israel and the Earth Science Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



One of the most intensive and prolonged marine upwelling systems within the geological record operated across the Middle East during the Upper Cretaceous. This highly productive ecosystem left behind organic-rich sediments, which hold the key to reconstructing its spatial and temporal pattern. In turn, this reconstructed system can be compared to modern upwelling systems and their role in the carbon cycle.

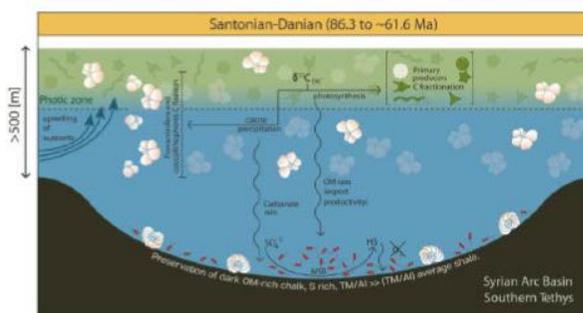
We have an open Ph.D./MSc position to explore this rock, using conventional biomarkers as well as state-of-the-art carbon and sulfur compound-specific isotope analysis.

We seek a motivated and hard-working student with a solid background in Earth Sciences or Chemistry.

Appropriate candidates will receive a scholarship and tuition.

For more details contact Dr. Yoav Rosenberg at the Geological Survey of Israel and Prof. Alon Amrani at the Hebrew University:

Email: [yoavr@gsi.gov.il](mailto:yoavr@gsi.gov.il) and [alon.amrani@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:alon.amrani@mail.huji.ac.il)



A conceptual figure for the environmental conditions that persisted in the upwelling belt of the southern Tethys (from Rosenberg et al., 2021).

### Unraveling the paleo-environment across Israel in the deep-time Permian Wuchiapingian age using organic-rich sediments



Open PhD/MSc position

Geological Survey of Israel and the Earth Science Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



About 260 My ago, when the ancient Tethys ocean was in its early opening stages, organic-rich sediments were deposited and preserved within the Permian (Wuchiapingian) strata in Israel.

These sediments hold the key to fundamental geological, biogeochemical, and paleo-environment questions in an ancient Earth, that changed completely some 2 My later at the great mass extinction, ending the Permian.

We are seeking an enthusiastic student with a solid background in Earth Sciences or Chemistry for a PhD/MSc position, which will focus on studying these organic sediments using conventional biomarkers as well as state-of-the-art carbon and sulfur compound-specific isotope analysis.

Appropriate candidates will receive a scholarship and tuition.

For more details contact Dr. Yoav Rosenberg at the Geological Survey of Israel and Prof. Alon Amrani at the Hebrew University:

Email: [yoavr@gsi.gov.il](mailto:yoavr@gsi.gov.il) and [alon.amrani@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:alon.amrani@mail.huji.ac.il)



The Lush Equatorial Ecosystem of the Late Permian, ~ 260 My ago. Credit: Drawing by Davide Bonadonna.

**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 Stavros Kalaitzidis.

The following items will be covered in the course:

**Theory:**

Coal and other organic sediments genesis (geology, petrology and geochemistry), composition, type, rank/maturity and rank parameters.

Petrographic analyses: fundamentals of the optical microscope and sample preparation, maceral and microlithotype analyses, vitrinite reflectance analysis and the use of fluorescence mode.

Basic factors controlling quality and technological behaviour of coal, oil shales, source rocks.

Overview of industrial and environmental applications of organic petrology.

**Practical:**

Practical exercises constitute a significant part of the course. They include macroscopic and microscopic characterisation of components of fossil and modern particulate organic matter, their quantification and the assessment and the interpretation of data.

The exercise will be held on microscopic identification of fossil organic matter components, point-counting analysis, reflectance analysis, the use of fluorescence mode on various samples of different type and rank/maturity and grade. For this purpose, images of pre-scanned samples on screen with the group or on the participant's individual laptops will be used – Windows only. Analysis software will be provided to the participants.

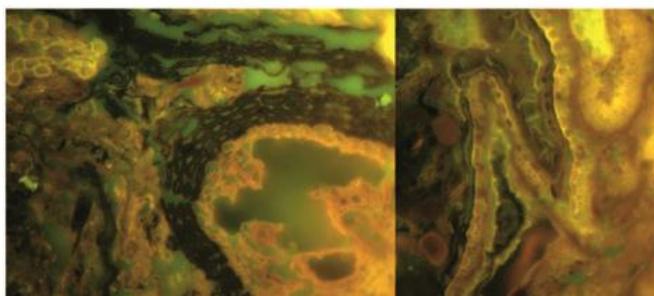
A practical session on the use of an incident light microscope will be held with at a research microscope.

**Field Trip:** A one-day field trip is scheduled for Friday, 28th October to visit the active mire of Keri on Zakynthos Island. More details will follow after registration.

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



14<sup>th</sup> ICCP Training Course – General Organic Petrology  
Patras, October 24 – 28, 2022





## 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

SEG | AAPG

'22

**August 28 – September 1, 2022**

[IMAGE Conference](#) – Houston, TX, 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