

Simon George
Professor
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
MQ Centre for Energy and Environmental Contaminants
Macquarie University Marine Research Centre
Email: simon.george@mq.edu.au
Phone: +61 2 9850 4424



Biography

BSc (Hons), St Andrews, Scotland
PhD, Newcastle upon Tyne, England

Professor Simon George is the leader of the organic geochemistry group at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. He is also the Director of the Macquarie University Marine Research Centre. He was the Acting Head of the EPS Department from Jan 2014 until 1st February 2015 and was Deputy Head of the EPS Department, 2018-2019.

Simon George has more than 30 years experience in organic geochemistry, including 15 years specialising in petroleum geochemistry at CSIRO. Organic geochemistry involves the study of the chemical and isotopic signatures in rocks and sediments, which tell us information about the past. We can reconstruct the nature and timing of important events in the evolution of life. Biomarkers are hydrocarbons that retain the structural information from the original lipids from which they were derived. Biomarkers and other hydrocarbons in oils, rocks and sediments provide us the ability to understand source inputs, subsequent burial and heating history (thermal maturity) and alteration events (such as oil biodegradation). The chemistry of insoluble fractions of organic matter, such as kerogen and asphaltenes, provides further useful information.

Employment

Professor

Professor
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Macquarie University
1 Feb 2015 → present

MQ Centre for Energy and Environmental Contaminants

Macquarie University
1 Jan 2015 → present

Macquarie University Marine Research Centre

Macquarie University
1 Jan 2015 → present

Research outputs

Ancient DNA from marine sediments: precautions and considerations for seafloor coring, sample handling and data generation

Ambrecht, L. H., Coolen, M. J. L., Lejzerowicz, F., George, S. C., Negandhi, K., Suzuki, Y., Young, J., Foster, N. R., Armand, L. K., Cooper, A., Ostrowski, M., Focardi, A., Stat, M., Moreau, J. W. & Weyrich, L. S., Sep 2019, In : Earth-Science Reviews. 196, 13 p., 102887.

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Andò, S., Aharonovich, S., Hahn, A., George, S. C., Clift, P. D. & Garzanti, E., 14 Aug 2019, In : Geological Magazine.

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Baydjanova, S. & George, S. C., May 2019, In : Organic Geochemistry. 131, p. 60-75 16 p.

Relationship between the fluorescence colour of oil inclusions and thermal maturity in the Dongying Depression, Bohai Bay Basin, China: part 2. fluorescence evolution of oil in the context of petroleum generation, expulsion and cracking under geological conditions

Ping, H., Chen, H., George, S. C., Li, C. & Hu, S., May 2019, In : Marine and Petroleum Geology. 103, p. 306-319 14 p.

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Li, L., Liu, Z., George, S. C., Sun, P., Xu, Y., Meng, Q., Wang, K. & Wang, J., Apr 2019, In : Chemie der Erde. 79, 1, p. 162-177 16 p.

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The occurrence of isorenieratane and 24-n-propylcholestanes in Paleogene lacustrine source rocks from the Dongying Depression, Bohai Bay Basin: implications for bacterial sulfate reduction, photic zone euxinia and seawater incursions

Xu, H., George, S. C. & Hou, D., Jan 2019, In : Organic Geochemistry. 127, p. 59-80 22 p.

Sediment microfabric records mass sedimentation of colonial cyanobacteria and extensive syndepositional metazoan reworking in Pliocene sapropels

Löhr, S. C., Kennedy, M. J., George, S. C., Williamson, R. J. & Xu, H., Dec 2018, In : The Depositional Record. 4, 2, p. 293-317 25 p.

Origin, source, mixing, and thermal maturity of natural gases in the Panyu lower uplift and the Baiyun depression, Pearl river Mouth basin, northern South China sea

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Hydrocarbon biomarkers preserved in carbonate veins of potentially Paleoproterozoic age, and implications for the early biosphere

Peters, C. A. & George, S. C., Nov 2018, In : Geobiology. 16, 6, p. 577-596 20 p.

Biomarker signatures of Upper Cretaceous Latrobe Group hydrocarbon source rocks, Gippsland Basin, Australia: distribution and palaeoenvironment significance of aliphatic hydrocarbons

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Hydrocarbons and hot springs; looking at analogues in the quest for life on Mars

Teece, B. L., George, S. C., Djokic, T., Campbell, K. A., Ruff, S. W. & van Kranendonk, M. J., 2018, *Organic Geochemistry Conference: origins of oil, old organics and organisms: program and abstracts: 3 – 7 December, 2018*. Edwards, D. S., Grosjean, E., Brocks, J. J. & van Maldegem, L. (eds.). Canberra: Geoscience Australia, p. 87-88 2 p.

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Teece, B., George, S. C. & Brock, G. A., 2018, *International Conference on Ediacaran and Cambrian Sciences: Joint meeting of International Subcommission on Cambrian Stratigraphy (ISCS), International Subcommission on Ediacaran Stratigraphy (ISES), 12th-16th August 2018, Xi'an : programme abstract*. p. 56-57 2 p.

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Organic geochemistry of Pliocene sapropels from ODP Sites 964 and 967, eastern Mediterranean Basin

George, S. C., Xu, H., Loehr, S. C. & Kennedy, M. J., 2017. 2 p.

Phenolic compounds in oil-bearing fluid inclusions: implications for water-washing and oil migration

Peters, C. A., Hallmann, C. & George, S. C., 2017. 5 p.

The fate and bioavailability of fuel spills in polar marine environments: effect of evaporation and dissolution

Kotzakoulakis, K., Harrison, P. L., King, C. K., Brown, K. & George, S. C., 2017. 2 p.

The transformation of sediment into rock: insights from IODP site U1352, Canterbury Basin, New Zealand

Marsaglia, K. M., Browne, G. H., George, S. C., Kemp, D. B., Jaeger, J. M., Carson, D., Richaud, M. & IODP Expedition 317 Scientific Party, 2017, In : Journal of Sedimentary Research. 87, 3, p. 272-287 16 p.

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Petroleum potential and kinetic models for hydrocarbon generation from the Upper Cretaceous to Paleogene Latrobe Group coals and shales in the Gippsland Basin, Australia

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Applications of oil-bearing fluid inclusions in petroleum exploration, and advances in the techniques for their analysis

George, S. C., 2016, *Asian Current Research On Fluid Inclusions: Abstract volume*. Mumbai: Indian Institute of Technology, p. 10-13 4 p.

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Clarke, J. D. A., Cooper, M., George, S., Hobbs, S., Houlahan, S., Murphy, G. M., Silburn, K., Sprigg, D., Sprigg, M. & Waldie, J., 2016, *Proceedings of the 15th Australian Space Research Conference*. Short, W. & Caprarelli, G. (eds.). Sydney, Australia: National Space Society of Australia, p. 159-172 14 p. (Australian Space Research Conference Series).

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Reappraisal of hydrocarbon biomarkers in Archean rocks
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Assessing the syngeneity and indigeneity of hydrocarbons in the ~1.4 Ga Velkerri Formation, McArthur Basin, using slice experiments

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Crude oil in Archean carbonates

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George, S. C., Eadington, P. J. & Hamilton, P. J., 1995, *Organic Geochemistry: Developments and Applications to Energy, Climate, Environment and Human History: Selected papers from the 17th International meeting on Organic Geochemistry*. Grimalt, J. O. & Dorronsoro, C. (eds.). Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain: A.I.G.O.A., p. 282-283 2 p.

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George, S. C. & Smith, J. W., 1995, *Coal Science and Technology: Proceedings of the Eight International Conference on Coal Science*. Pajares, J. A. & Tascon, J. M. D. (eds.). Elsevier, Amsterdam, Vol. 24. p. 287-290 4 p.

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George, S. C., Llorca, S. M. & Hamilton, P. J., 1994, In : Organic Geochemistry. 21, 3-4, p. 235-248 14 p.

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Ketones in a Proterozoic dolerite sill

George, S. C. & Jardine, D. R., 1994, In : Organic Geochemistry. 21, 8-9, p. 829-839 11 p.

Pyrolysis of aromatic compounds as a guide to synthetic reactions in sediments

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Vitrinite reflectance suppression in coal due to a marine transgression: case study of the organic geochemistry of the Greta Seam, Sydney Basin

George, S. C., Smith, J. W. & Jardine, D. R., 1994, In : The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association Journal. 34, 1, p. 241-255 14 p.

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Analytical approaches for determining the origin of solid bitumens: an integrated review

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An integrated analytical approach for determining the origin of solid bitumens

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Effect of igneous intrusion on the organic geochemistry of a siltstone and an oil shale horizon in the Midland Valley of Scotland

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The influence of igneous activity on the generation and accumulation of petroleum in the central area of the Midland Valley of Scotland

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The organic geochemistry of some heat-affected samples from the Midland Valley of Scotland

George, S. C., 1989.

Diagenesis of a Carboniferous sandstone from the Midland Valley of Scotland

George, S. C., 1988.

Activities

Australian and New Zealand International Ocean Discovery Program Consortium (ANZIC)

Simon George (Visiting researcher)

14 Oct 2018 → 14 Dec 2018

Deputy Head of Department, EPS

Simon George (Participant)

Mar 2018 → ...

Reviewer of grant submitted to Petroleum Research Fund

Simon George (Participant)

Mar 2018

China University of Petroleum - Beijing

Simon George (Visiting researcher)
Nov 2017

Jilin University

Simon George (Visiting researcher)
Nov 2017

Australian Geoscience Council Convention 2018

Simon George (Participant)
Aug 2017 → Oct 2018

Invited keynote plenary speaker for the Asian Current Research On Fluid Inclusions (ACROFI-VI), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, 25th to 27th November, 2016.

Simon George (Speaker)
Nov 2016

Zhaojun Liu

Simon George (Host)
Nov 2016

China University of Geoscience Beijing

Simon George (Visiting researcher)
Jun 2016

Invited keynote speaker for the Geofluids conference, Wuhan, China, June 2016.

Simon George (Speaker)
Jun 2016

Jilin University

Simon George (Visiting researcher)
Jun 2016

Jilin University

Simon George (Visiting researcher)
2016 → 2021

Oral presentation at the Big History Anthropocene Conference, Macquarie University, December 2015. "Geology of the Anthropocene"

Simon George (Speaker)
Dec 2015

CAS - Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry

Simon George (Visiting researcher)
Jul 2015

Yangtze University

Simon George (Visiting researcher)
Jul 2015

Member of the EPS Learning and Teaching committee

Simon George (Participant)
2015 → ...

Macquarie University Marine Research Centre (Organisational unit)

Simon George (Chair)

2014 → 2018

Projects

Australian Drilling Program: Biomarkers, Oxygen and Geobiology

George, S.

7/09/11 → 31/12/16

Australian Membership of the International Ocean Discovery Program

George, S., Arculus, R., Cohen, D., Gallagher, S., Vasconcelos, P., Elders, C., Foden, J., Coffin, M., Nebel, O., McGregor, H., Sloss, C., Webster, J. & Kemp, A.

29/06/16 → ...

Australian Membership of the International Ocean Discovery Program (2014-2015)

George, S., Arculus, R., Rohling, E., Roberts, A., Exon, N., O'Reilly, S., Aitchison, J., Webster, J. C. U., Coffin, M., Vasconcelos, P., Welsh, K., McCuaig, T., George, A., Skilbeck, C., Baxter, A., Hergt, J., Gallagher, S., Fergusson, C., Sloss, C., Heap, A., Schellart, W., Stilwell, J., Foden, J., Kershaw, A., Clennell, M. & Müller, D.

9/07/14 → 31/12/15

Biodegradation and ecotoxicology of spilled fuel oils in polar soils

George, S.

5/03/07 → 4/03/08

CL Monochromator for Scanning Electron Microscopy

Zakoshanski, I., O'Reilly, S., Griffin, B., Pearson, N., Belousova, E., Jacob, D., Piazzolo, S., Clark, S., Daczko, N., Foley, S., George, S., Rushmer, T., Turner, S., Dadd, K., Schaefer, B., Handley, H., Downes, J., Lang, C. & Brock, G.

1/01/15 → 31/12/15

Constraining the impact of benthic meiofaunal activity on organic carbon burial in ancient oxygen-depleted sedimentary environments

Loehr, S., Kennedy, M., George, S. & Schaefer, B.

1/01/16 → ...

Deciphering the organic geochemical record of metazoans during the 'Cambrian Explosion' bioevent

George, S.

1/07/07 → 30/06/09

Diatom lipids: the key to past sea-ice history in remote Antarctic regions

Armand, L., George, S., Belt, S., Heraud, P., Bowler, C., Beardall, J. & MQRES, M.

28/02/17 → 23/08/17

Ecological Risks from Oil Products used in Antarctica: Characterising hydrocarbon behaviour and assessing toxicity on sensitive early life stages of Antarctic marine invertebrates

George, S.

5/12/11 → 30/06/12

Facility for large lipid analysis of geological and environmental samples, including new ability to derive important palaeothermometers

George, S., Goodwin, I., Lolas, A., Jacob, D., Westaway, K. & Leefmann, T.

1/01/14 → 31/12/14

Facility for long term preservation and storage of biological, chemical, environmental and geological samples

Nevalainen, H., Packer, N., Karuso, P., Jamie, J., Molloy, M., Brown, L., Liu, F., Herbert, B., George, S. & Vemulapad, S.

1/01/11 → 31/12/11

Femtosecond laser micropyrolysis gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer

George, S., Paterson, J., Van Kranendonk, M., Brocks, J., Sherwood, N., Jacob, D., Fuerbach, A., Brock, G., Loehr, S. & Sestak, S.

1/01/18 → 31/12/18

Fossils, fuels and ancient molecules: a multidisciplinary study investigating early animal and hydrocarbon evolution in the Cambrian of central Australia

Brock, G. & George, S.

1/01/10 → 31/12/10

Funds to aid with start-up of Produced Water Research Centre, Faculty of Science

George, S.

22/05/12 → 31/12/12

Geochemical changes during coal biodegradation to methane

George, S., Campbell, B. & Loehr, S.

5/03/18 → 5/03/21

Geochemistry Lab - ASE 300 Accelerated Solvent Extractor

George, S., Walter, M., Brock, G., Jamie, J., Gore, D. & McRae, C.

1/01/07 → 31/12/07

Hybrid fourier transform dispersive raman micro-spectrometer

George, S., Kannangara, G., Kennedy, E., McNevin, D., Chen, Y. & Wilson, M.

1/01/09 → 31/12/09

LECO comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography (GCxGC) with flame ionization detection system

George, S., Nelson, P., Brock, G. & Jamie, J.

1/01/08 → 31/12/08

Luminescence dating facility - dosimetry and detection

Westaway, K., Goodwin, I., Fryirs, K., Hesse, P., George, S., Choat, M., Fanning, P. & Cohen, T.

1/01/10 → 31/12/10

Macquarie University Energy and Environmental Contaminants Research Centre

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Rates of depletion of lubricant and fuel contaminants during natural attenuation from Antarctic marine environments, and ecosystem response to exposure to complex mixtures

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