

Hybrid Conference

21 - 22 September 2026

What Makes a Geoscience Model Useful?

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



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Monday 21 September		
0900 - 0930	Registration opens, tea & coffee	
0930 - 1000	Welcome address	
Session one: Purpose value and predictive power of models		
1000 - 1040	Keynote: <i>title tbc</i>	Alisa Bokulich, <i>Boston University</i>
1040 - 1100	Back-to-Basics Understanding Supporting Effective Models & Decisions	Lee Watts, <i>Shell</i>
1100 - 1120	More than a Database: Insightful Ground Models for Offshore Wind Farms	Sean Pearce, <i>East Point Geo (OWC)</i>
1120 - 1150	Tea & coffee break	
1150 - 1210	Seismic modelling of dolomite bodies in the subsurface: making a geological model useful	Cathy Hollis, <i>University of Manchester</i>
1210 - 1230	How useful are numerical models of volcanic and igneous plumbing systems (VIPS)?	Catherine Annen, <i>Institute of Geophysics of the Czech Academy of Sciences</i> (Virtual)
1230 - 1300	Discussion and debate	
1300 - 1400	Lunch and posters	
Session two: Simplicitu, complexity and fitness for purpose		
1400 - 1420	Simple Rules, Complex Outcomes: Modelling as a Tool for Discovery in Geoscience	Thomas Poulet, <i>CSIRO Mineral Resources</i> (virtual)
1420 - 1440	Building the “Right” Models at the Appropriate Scale	Charlotte Martin, <i>Shell International E&P</i>
1440 - 1500	AvaFan: Designing an analogue modelling project to study autogenic and allogenic processes	Yvonne Spychala, <i>RWTH Aachen University</i>
1500 - 1550	Tea & coffee break	
1550 - 1610	When is a geomodel ready to be sent to flow simulation?	Thomas Jerome
1610 - 1630	Conceptual bias in exploration targeting: an example of adaptive reasoning	Helen B. McFarlane, <i>CSIRO, MinEx CRC</i> (Virtual)
1630 - 1700	Discussion and debate	
1700 - 1710	Wrap up of day one	
1710 -1810	Drinks Reception & Poster session	

Tuesday 22 September		
0900 - 0930	Registration opens, tea & coffee	
0930 - 0940	Welcome address	
Session three: Useful modelling approaches		
0940 - 1020	Keynote: <i>title tbc</i>	Chris Paola, <i>University of Minnesota</i>
1020 - 1040	Useful models start and end with geology: Surface-based modelling and simulation for realistic flow	Carl Jacquemyn, <i>Imperial College London</i>
1040 - 1100	Representative Elementary Volumes: incorporating small scale heterogeneities and their impact on subsurface flow in Geo-models.	Jesse Marinus Steinvoot, <i>Delft University of Technology</i>
1100 - 1130	Tea & coffee break	
1130 - 1150	Don't Force the Forcing: Useful quantification of basin-scale allogenic controls.	Valentin Zuchuat, <i>CSIRO</i> (Virtual)
1150 - 1210	Testing the influence of allogenic influences (sediment concentration and grain size composition) on sediment transport by turbidity currents and depositional patterns of lobe deposits	Lealem Beza Zerihun, <i>RWTH Aachen University</i>
1210 - 1230	Understanding surface deformation driven by magmatism using scaled analogue models	Kate Williams, <i>University of Leeds</i>
1230 - 1300	Discussion and debate	
1300 - 1400	Lunch and posters	
1400 - 1420	Iterative Development of 3D Geological Model for Tunnelling in Heterogenous Quaternary Deposits and Faulted Bedrock: Integrating Ground Investigation, Geophysics, and Legacy Data	Edward Cox, <i>WSP</i>
1420 - 1440	Fracture Prediction from Structure Driven Deep Learning	Jean-Christophe Wrobel-Daveau, <i>Halliburton</i>
1440 - 1510	Tea & coffee break	
Session four: Integrating models and developing new approaches		
1510 - 1530	Modelling Risk and Uncertainty using Multipoint Statistics	Barrier Wells, <i>Conwy Valley Systems Limited</i>
1530 - 1550	Matching Subsurface Reservoirs to Outcrop Analogues: An Automated Analogue Finder Tool Using Synthetic Well Logs	Guillermo Bello, <i>University of Aberdeen</i>
1550 - 1610	Integrating Analogue and Geophysical Models: From Qualitative Insight to Quantitative Prediction	Chris Willacy, <i>Shell Research Ltd</i>
1610 - 1630	Making Digital Outcrops FAIR: A Community Platform for Preservation, Discovery, and Collaboration	Brian Burnham, <i>VRGeoscience Ltd</i>
1630 - 1700	Discussion, debate and wrap up	

Poster Title	Author(s)
Combined controls of basal detachment configuration and shortening rate on the geometry and kinematics of salt-bearing fold-and-thrust belts: New insights from scaled analogue experiments with dynamic digital strain analysis	Giumin Feng, <i>China University of Geosciences</i>
Rapid Reservoir Modelling: Sketch-based geological modelling with flow diagnostics	Carl Jacquemyn, <i>Imperial College London</i>
Sandbox Modelling of Thrust-Related Geometries in Dunga Gali–Kuza Gali Area, Southern Hazara Basin, Lesser Himalayas, Pakistan	Muhammad Armaghan Faisal Miraj, <i>University of the Punjab</i>
Identifying numerical model limitations from blind inversion of analogue and small-scale experiments	Janine Birnbaum, <i>Ludwig-Maxmilians-Universität München</i>
From inertial routing to preserved stratigraphy: Assessing pyDeltaRCM’s ability to model fluvial architectures	Batbileg Tegshjargal, <i>Delft University of Technology</i>
Modelling magma ascent – a quantitative analogue setup	Saskia Willar-Sheehan, <i>University of Liverpool</i>
Spatio-temporal analysis of hydro-climatic vulnerability in the Mandoto watershed (Madagascar): impacts on water resources within a One Health framework	Miora Harivony Rakotondrabe, <i>University of Vakinankaratra</i>
Shifting paradigms or just shifting dogma? Small actions and paths to mineral discovery	Mark Lindsay, CSIRO (Virtual)
Integrating Conceptual, Physical, and Data-Driven Models for Bypassed Pay Detection and Artificial Lift Diagnostics	Keith Holdaway
Check your footsteps - a model can only be useful when it honours the available data	John Marshall, <i>Skrinkle Reservoir Geology</i>

Convenors:

- Prof. Peter Burgess - University of Liverpool
- Dr Brian Burnham - VRGeoscience
- Prof. Tim Dooley - Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin
- Prof. Cathy Hollis - University of Manchester
- Prof. Janine Kavanagh - University of Liverpool
- Prof. Yvonne Spychala - RWTH Aachen University
- Dr Georg Warrlich - Shell

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