

First century of Geochronology, from Holmes to EARTHTIME

Locations	Palaeo Lab - Aston Webb Building G21
Date(s)	Monday 11th February 2013 (17:00-18:00)
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Part of the Lapworth Lecture Series

Speaker: Dr Daniel Condon. NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory

Abstract:

In 1913, Frederick Soddy's research on the fundamentals of radioactivity led to the discovery of "isotopes." Later that same year, Arthur Holmes published his now famous book *The Age of the Earth*, in which he applied this new science of radioactivity to the quantification of geologic time. Combined, these two landmark events did much to establish the field of "isotope geochronology" – the science that underpins our knowledge of the absolute age of most Earth (and extra-terrestrial) materials. This talk brings together modern perspectives on the continually evolving field of isotope geochronology, highlighting the continuing development analytical methods, and a range of applications, from the early evolution of the Solar System to our understanding of Quaternary climate change, and from the 4.5 billion years in between.

