EGI Energy & Geoscience Institute
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Since 1972

Rasoul Sorkhabi, PhD

Research Professor

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Research Interests

- Regional Geology
- Tectonics & Structural Geology
- Petroleum Systems & Plays
- Trap and Seal Analysis
- Geochronology & Thermochronology
- Well Logging & Formation Evaluation

Rasoul joined EGI as a Research Professor in 2003. Prior to EGI, he worked for Japan National Oil Corporation and Arizona State University. Rasoul holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in geology from India and a Ph.D. in geology from Japan. A native of Iran, he has lived most of his life in the United States, Japan, and India, and is multi-lingual. Rasoul is a member of AAPG, AGU, GSA, EAGE, etc. He has served as a contributing editor for *GeoExPro* and *Earth*, is a member of editorial board for *Journal of Earth Systems Science*, a member of AAPG History of Petroleum Geology Committee, a member of the GSA Academic & Applied Geoscience Relations Committee, and a member of the Advisory Board on Springer Publisher's Global Energy Program. Rasoul has published and presented hundreds of papers, is co-editor and co-author of *GSA Special Paper 328* (1999), *AAPG Memoir 85* (2005), *Tectonophysics Special Issue Volume 451* (2008), *Geological Excursions Around Miri, Sarawak* (2011), *GSA Special Paper 525* (2017) and *Geological Society London Special Publication 465* (2018).

Professional Philosophy: Regional Geology & Basin Evolution

Rasoul believes that the need to understand geologic processes and records in their evolutionary contexts calls for a holistic approach to basin analysis. Towards this end, his research focuses on constructing regional databases, integrative tectonostratigraphic records, play fairway maps, and paleofacies maps through time. Moreover, he investigates the impact of basement tectonics and plate settings on the distribution or destruction of plays.

Structures & Fluid Flow

An important application of structural investigation is to better understand fluid flows in rocks. Fault seals compartmentalize reservoirs, thus dismembering and localizing pools; leaking faults are risk factors in exploration. Fractures play critical roles in fluid flow on basin to prospect scales, and the significance for very low-permeability rocks is amplified in view of a major industry shift toward unconventional resources.

Back to the Source

After conducting a large number of regional geology projects, Rasoul is currently Principal Investigator for EGI's new research initiative "Source Rocks Consortium: Source Rocks in Space & through Time." This is essentially motivated by the recent convergence of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources at the source-rock level and the question of why rich source rocks are located where they are in time and space.

Global Experience

Rasoul has over two decades of academic and industry experience, and has worked on projects in various parts of the world, from the fold-and-thrust belts through Tethys and Gondwana to deepwater toe-thrusts. Focus regions include: Asia and the Middle East, Africa, and North America.

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