



## Darren Cheah

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### Brief Summary

I was trained as a geologist with particular interests in the application of biomarkers and microbial genomics to the biogeochemical study of ancient and modern environments. My current project deals with the taxonomy and metabolic diversity of microbes in subsurface petroleum reservoirs and their relation with the degradation of hydrocarbons. I use a combination of techniques involving organic geochemistry, compound-specific isotope analysis, environmental DNA and RNA analysis, and culture experiments to assess microbial diversity and function across varying extreme and petroleum-rich conditions in the deep subsurface.

### Education:

B.Sc. Earth Sciences, University of Minnesota (USA)

M.Sc. Earth Sciences, University of Notre Dame (Indiana, USA)

### Research interests:

Organic geochemistry, isotope geochemistry, biogeochemistry, subsurface geobiology, paleoclimate, paleoenvironments, metagenomics, metatranscriptomics.

### Thesis title:

Diversity, function, and biogeochemistry of petroleum-metabolizing microbes in the North Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia

Supervisors: Associate Professor Marco Coolen & Professor Kliti Grice

### Links:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Western Australian Organic & Isotope Geochemistry Centre \(WA-OIGC\)](#)