

**Richard Davies, Director of Durham Energy Institute, Durham University**

Professor Richard Davies is a petroleum geologist who worked in Mobil and ExxonMobil for 8 years and has spent 8 years in academia, most recently as Professor of Energy and Dean of Knowledge Exchange and Impact. From 2006-2011 he led an international team that worked on the Lusi mud volcano in Indonesia, which caused 13,000 homes to be destroyed and 13 fatalities. Although this was attributed by company drilling a nearby gas well to be caused by an earthquake, Professor Davies and his colleagues demonstrated it was a subsurface blowout. Most recently he has been researching the risks associated with shale exploitation and the hydraulic fracturing process including a ground breaking paper this year that looked at the probability that hydraulic fractures can cause contamination of aquifers.