

# Gary D. Acton

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**Education:**

Ph.D. (Geophysics), Northwestern University, 1990  
M.S. (Geophysics), University of Arizona, Tucson, 1986  
B.S. (Geology), Indiana University, Bloomington, 1984

**Professional Experience:**

Faculty at Sam Houston State University, 2013-present  
Consultant/Chief Scientist, 2012, Siem Offshore and Overseas Drilling Limited  
Associate Research Scientist, 2005-2013, University of California, Davis  
Paleomagnetism Lab Manager, 2003-2006, University of California, Davis  
Project Manager/Staff Scientist, 1995-2003, Ocean Drilling Program, Texas A&M  
Lecturer in Geophysics, 1994-1995, University of New England  
Caswell Silver Research Professorship, 1992-1994, University of New Mexico  
Postdoctoral Fellow, 1990-1991, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute  
Research/Teaching Assistant, 1986-1990, Northwestern University  
Geological Intern, Summer 1985, Sohio Petroleum Company  
Research/Teaching Assistant, 1984-1986, University of Arizona  
Geological Field Assistant, Summer 1984, U.S.G.S. in Denver

**Research Interests:**

Marine Geology and Geophysics, Scientific Ocean Drilling, Chronostratigraphy,  
Plate Tectonics, Geodynamics, Paleomagnetism, Geomagnetism, Paleoclimatology,  
Exploration Geophysics, and Data Analysis

**Teaching:**

Annually at SHSU, I typically teach 8 courses and give about 250 lectures in:  
*Physical Geology* (GEOL-1403)  
*Plate Tectonics* (GEOL-4337)  
*Methods in Applied Geophysics* (GEOL-4337)  
*Independent Studies in Geology* (Undergraduate Research; GEOL-4095)

**Scientific Cruises & Field Expeditions:**

Chief Scientist on the Baffin Bay Scientific Coring Program, a 9-week expedition on the *R/V JOIDES Resolution* funded by a consortium of petroleum companies (2012)

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program: Expedition 339, Mediterranean Outflow (2011-2012)

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program: Expedition 320, Equatorial Pacific Transect (2009)

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program: Readiness Assessment Cruise (2009)

ANDRILL: Chronostratigraphy Team Leader, Southern McMurdo Sound Project (2007)

*D/V Chikyu* Shakedown Cruise (2006)

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program: Expedition 306, N. Atlantic Paleoclimate (2005)

Ocean Drilling Program: Legs 165, 172, 178, 186, 200, and 206 (1995-2004)

Lake Baikal Field Expedition (1993)

Western Interior Seaway Paleomagnetism (1987, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1993)

Afar, Africa GPS and Paleomagnetism Campaign (1992)

New Madrid GPS Campaign (1991)

Mojave Desert Paleomagnetism (1985, 1986)

**Awards and Service:**

IODP Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) (2017-)

Elected as a Fellow in the Geological Society of America (2016)

U.S. Science Support Program's IODP Distinguished Lecturer (2014-2015)

U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Drilling (USAC) (2009-2012)

Secretary of the Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism Section of AGU (2009-2010)

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Site Survey Panel (2006-2009)

Society of Exploration Geophysicists Scholarship 1985-1989.

Allan V. Cox Student Research Award 1988 from the Geological Society of America.

Best student paper, Tectonophysics Section, Spring 1987 AGU meeting.

Phi Beta Kappa National Honorary Society.

**Thesis & Dissertation:**

Acton, G.D., Kinematic Studies of Propagating Rifts and Rotating Microplates, and Paleomagnetic Tests of Plate Reconstructions with Implications for Motion Between Hotspots, *Ph.D. Dissertation*, Northwestern University, Evanston, 1990.

Acton, G., Paleomagnetism of Miocene Volcanic Rocks in the Mojave Region of Southeastern California, *M.S. Thesis*, University of Arizona, Tucson, 1986.

**Articles & Books:**

- (118) van der Schee, M., Sierro, F.J., Jiménez-Espejo, F.J., Hernández-Molina, F.J., Flecker, R., Flores, J.A., Acton, G., Gutjahr, M., Grunert, P., García-Gallardo, Á., Andersen, N., 2016. Evidence of early bottom water current flow after the Messinian Salinity Crisis in the Gulf of Cadiz, *Marine Geology*, 380, 315-329, doi:10.1016/j.margeo.2016.04.005.
- (117) Levy, R.H., many others (including G. Acton), and the SMS Science Team, 2016. Antarctic Ice Sheet sensitivity to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> variations during the early to mid-Miocene, *Proceedings National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 113, 3453-3458, doi:10.1073/pnas.1516030113

- (116) Petronotis, K.E., Acton, G.D., Jovane, L., Li, Y., Zhao, X., 2015. Data report: magnetic properties of sediments and basalts from the Costa Rica subduction margin (Expeditions 334 and 344), In Harris, R.N., et al., *Proc. IODP*, 344, College Station, TX (Integrated Ocean Drilling Program), doi:10.2204/iodp.proc.344.206.2015.
- (115) Hodell, D., Lourens, L., Crowhurst, S., Konijnendijk, T., Tjallingii, R., Jiménez-Espejo, F., Skinner, L., Tzedakis, P. C., Abrantes, F., Acton, G. D., Alvarez Zarikian, C. A., Bahr, A., Balestra, B., Barranco, E.L., and others, 2015. A reference time scale for Site U1385 (Shackleton Site) on the SW Iberian Margin. *Global and Planetary Change*, 133, 49-64. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2015.07.002>.
- (114) Griener, K.W., Warny, S., Askin, R., and Acton, G., 2015. Early to middle Miocene vegetation history of Antarctica supports eccentricity-paced warming intervals during the Antarctic icehouse phase. *Global and Planetary Change*, 127, 67-78. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2015.01.006>.
- (113) Hernández-Molina, F.J., Stow, D.A.V., Alvarez-Zarikian, C.A., Acton, G., and others, 2014. Onset of Mediterranean outflow into the North Atlantic. *Science*, 344, 1244-1250, doi:10.1126/science.1251306.
- (112) Dekkers, M.J., Heslop, D., Herrero-Bervera, E., Acton, G., and Krasa, D., 2014. Insights into magmatic processes and hydrothermal alteration of in situ superfast spreading ocean crust at ODP/IODP site 1256 from a cluster analysis of rock magnetic properties. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 15, 3430-3447, doi:10.1002/2014GC005343.
- (111) Westerhold, T., Röhl, U., Pälike, H., Wilkens, R., Wilson, P. A., and Acton, G., 2014. Orbitally tuned time scale and astronomical forcing in the middle Eocene to early Oligocene, *Climate of the Past*, 10, 955-973, doi:10.5194/cp-10-955-2014.
- (110) Dorador, J., Rodriguez-Tovar, F. J., and the IODP Expedition 339 Scientists (includes G. Acton), 2014. Quantitative estimation of bioturbation based on digital image analysis, *Marine Geology*, 349, 55-60, doi:10.1016/j.margeo.2014.01.003
- (109) Yamamoto, Y., Yamazaki, T., Acton, G. D., Richter, C., Guidry, E.P., and Ohneiser, C., 2014. Palaeomagnetic study of IODP Sites U1331 and U1332 in the equatorial Pacific—extending relative geomagnetic palaeointensity observations through the Oligocene and into the Eocene, *Geophys. J. Int.*, 196, 694-711, doi:10.1093/gji/ggt412.
- (108) Hernández-Molina, F.J., D. Stow, C. Alvarez-Zarikian, and Expedition 339 Scientists (includes G. Acton), 2013. IODP Expedition 339 in the Gulf of Cadiz and Off West Iberia: Decoding the environmental significance of the Mediterranean Outflow Water and its global implications. *Scientific Drilling*, 16, 1-11, doi:10.5194/sd-16-1-2013.
- (107) Hodell, L. Lourens, D.A.V. Stow, J. Hernández-Molina, C.A. Alvarez Zarikian, and the Shackleton Site Project Members (includes G.D. Acton), 2013. The “Shackleton Site” (IODP Site U1385) on the Iberian Margin. *Scientific Drilling*, 16, 13-19, doi:10.5194/sd-16-13-2013.
- (106) Ohneiser, C., Acton, G., Channell, J.E.T., Wilson, G.S., Yamamoto, Y., and Yamazaki, T., 2013. A middle Miocene relative geomagnetic paleointensity record from the equatorial Pacific, *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, 374, 227-238, doi: dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2013.04.038
- (105) Yamazaki, T, Yamamoto, Y., Acton, G., Guidry, E.P., and Richter, C., 2013. Rock-magnetic artifacts on long-term relative paleointensity changes in sediments, *Geochem. Geophys. Geosyst.*, 14, 1-15, doi:10.1029/2012GC004546.

- (104) Toffanin, F., Agnini, C., Rio, D., Acton, G., and Westerhold, T., 2013. Middle Eocene to early Oligocene calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy at IODP Site U1333 (equatorial Pacific), *Micropaleontology*, 59, 69–82.
- (103) Dorador, J., Rodriguez-Tovar, F. J., and the IODP Expedition 339 Scientists (includes G. Acton), 2013. Digital Image Treatment Applied to Ichnological Analysis of Marine Core Sediments, *Facies*, Published online October 2013 by Springer Berlin Heidelberg, doi:10.1007/s10347-013-0383-z.
- (102) Stow, D.A.V., Hernández-Molina, F.J., Alvarez Zarikian, C.A., and the Expedition 339 Scientists (includes G. D. Acton), 2013. *Proceedings of IODP*, 339, (Mediterranean Outflow). doi:10.2204/iodp.proc.339.2013.
- (101) Guidry, E. P., Richter, C., Acton, G. D., Channell, J. E. T., Evans, H. F., Ohneiser, C., Yamamoto, Y., and Yamazaki, T., 2013. Oligocene-Miocene magnetostratigraphy of deep-sea sediments from the Equatorial Pacific (IODP Site U1333), *Geol. Soc. London, Spec. Pub.*, 373, 13-27, doi:10.1144/SP373.7.
- (100) Acton, G., 2012. First-order reversal curves (FORCs), McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology. McGraw-Hill Education, pp. 88-91.
- (99) Pälike, H., Lyle, M.W., Nishi, H., Raffi, I., Ridgwell, A., Gamage, K., Klaus, A., Acton, G., Anderson, L., and 56 other authors, 2012. A Cenozoic record of the equatorial Pacific carbonate compensation depth. *Nature*, 488, 609–614. doi:10.1038/nature11360.
- (98) Ohno, M., Hayashi, T., Komatsu, F., Murakami, F., Zhao, M., Guyodo, Y., Acton, G., Evans, H. F., and Kanamatsu, T., 2012. A detailed paleomagnetic record between 2.1 and 2.75 Ma at IODP Site U1314 in the North Atlantic: Geomagnetic excursions and the Gauss-Matuyama transition, *Geochem. Geophys. Geosyst.*, 13, doi:10.1029/2012gc004080.
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- (96) Westerhold, T., Röhl, U., Wilkens, R., Pälike, H., Lyle, M., Jones, T.D., Bown, P., Moore, T., Kamikuri, S., Acton, G., Ohneiser, C., Yamamoto, Y., Richter, C., Fitch, P., Scher, H., Liebrands, D., and Expeditions 320/321 Scientists, 2012. Revised composite depth scales and integration of IODP Sites U1331, U1332, U1333, U1334 and ODP Sites 1218, 1219, 1220. *Proc. IODP*, 320/321, doi: 10.2204/iodp.proc.320321.201.2012.
- (95) Passchier, S., Browne, G., Field, B., Fielding, C.R., Krissek, L.A., Panter, K., Pekar, S.F., and ANDRILL-SMS Science Team (includes G. Acton), 2011. Early and middle Miocene Antarctic glacial history from the sedimentary facies distribution in the AND-2A drill hole, Ross Sea, Antarctica. *Geol. Soc. Am. Bull.*, 123, 2352-2365, doi:10.1130/b30334.1.
- (94) Herrero-Bervera, E., Acton, G., Krásá, D., Rodriguez, S., and Dekkers, M.J., 2011. Rock magnetic characterization through an intact sequence of oceanic crust, IODP Hole 1256D. In E. Petrovsky, E. Herrero Bervera, T. Harinarayana, and D. Ivers (Editors), **The Earth's Magnetic Interior**. Springer, *IAGA Special Sopron Book Series*, 1, 153-168, doi:10.1007/978-94-007-0323-0\_11.
- (93) Krásá, D., Herrero-Bervera, E., Acton, G., and Rodriguez, S., 2011. Magnetic mineralogy of a complete oceanic crustal section (IODP Hole 1256D). In E. Petrovsky, E. Herrero Bervera, T. Harinarayana, and D. Ivers (Editors), **The Earth's Magnetic Interior**. Springer, *IAGA Special Sopron Book Series*, 1, 169-179, doi:10.1007/978-94-007-0323-0\_12.

- (92) Herrero-Bervera, E., and Acton, G., 2011. Absolute paleointensities from an intact section of oceanic crust cored at ODP/IODP Site 1256 in the equatorial Pacific, In E. Petrovsky, E. Herrero Bervera, T. Harinarayana, and D. Ivers (Editors), **The Earth's Magnetic Interior**. Springer, IAGA Special Sopron Book Series, 1, doi:10.1007/978-94-007-0323-0\_13.
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- (86) Jovane, L., Coccioni, R., Marsili, A., and Acton, G., 2009. The late Eocene greenhouse-icehouse transition: Observations from the Massignano global stratotype section point (GSSP), in Koeberl, C., and Montanari, A., eds., **The Late Eocene Earth—Hothouse, Icehouse, and Impacts**, *Geol. Soc. Am. Spec. Paper*, 452, 149–168, doi: 10.1130/2009.2452.
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- (84) Florindo, F., Harwood, D.M., Levy, R.H., Acton, G., Fielding, C., Panter, K., Paulsen, T., Talarico, F., Taviani, M., Sangiorgi, F., Willmott, V., Lenczewski, M., and the ANDRILL-SMS Science Team, 2008-2009. Explanatory notes for the ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 21-40.
- (83) Falconer, T., Pyne, A., Wilson, D., Levy, R.H., Nielsen, S., Petrushak, S. and the ANDRILL-SMS Science Team (includes G. Acton), 2008-2009. Operations overview for the ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 41-48, 2008-2009.
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- (81) Wonik, T., Grelle, T., Handwerger, D., Jarrard, R.D., McKee, A., Patterson, T., Paulsen, T., Pierdominici, S., Schmitt, D.R., Schroeder, H., Speece, M., Wilson, T., and the ANDRILL-SMS Science Team (includes G. Acton), 2008-2009. Downhole measurements in the AND-2A Borehole, ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 57-68.
- (80) Paulsen, T., Millan, C., Pierdominici, S., Wilson, T., Drew, S., and the ANDRILL-SMS Science Team (includes G. Acton), 2008-2009. Fracture logging of the AND-2A Core, ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 69-76.
- (79) Fielding, C., Atkins, C.B., Bassett, K.N., Browne, G.H., Dunbar, G.B., Field, B.D., Frank, T.D., Krissek, L.A., Panter, K.S., Passchier, S., Pekar, S.F., Sandroni, S., Talarico, F., and the ANDRILL-SMS Science Team (includes G. Acton), 2008-2009. Sedimentology and Stratigraphy of the AND-2A Core, ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 77-112.
- (78) Taviani, M., Hannah, M., Harwood, D.M., Ishman, S.E., Johnson ,K., Olney, M., Riesselman, C., Tuzzi, E., Askin, R., Beu, A.G., Blair, S., Cantarelli, V., Ceregato, A., Corrado, S., Mohr, B., Nielsen, S.H.H., Persico, D., Petrushak, S., Raine, J.I., Warny, S., and the ANDRILL-SMS Science Team (includes G. Acton), 2008-2009. Palaeontological Characterization and analysis of the AND-2A Core, ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 113-146.
- (77) Panter, K.S., Talarico, F., Bassett, K., Del Carlo, P., Field, B., Frank, T., Hoffmann, S., Kuhn, G., Reichelt, L., Sandroni, S., Taviani, M., Bracciali, L., Cornamusini, G., von Eynatten, H., Rocchi, S., and the ANDRILL-SMS Science Team (includes G. Acton), 2008-2009. Petrologic and geochemical composition of the AND-2A Core, ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 147-192.
- (76) Acton, G., Florindo, F., Jovane, L., Lum, B., Ohneiser, C., Sagnotti, L., Strada, E., Verosub, K.L., Wilson, G.S., and The ANDRILL-SMS Science Team, 2008-2009. Palaeomagnetism of the AND-2A Core, ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica, *Terra Antartica*, 15, 191-208.
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