Shale rock was formed many millions of years ago—between 500 million or so to 23 million or so years before now. Until recently, humans could not access the gas and oil contained in it. But just because this is now possible does not mean it should be exploited. Fracking will certainly contribute to global warming as opposed to going straight to renewable energies.

There are many other dangers in the hydraulic fracturing of rock. Some come from the chemicals used or released, and the possible pollution and despoliation of the countryside. But some also come from the effect on water courses and the sub-strata of our earth. What is done by fracking cannot be undone. Not even after a million years.