

# CADEN JAMES HOWLETT

PhD Candidate

Department of Geosciences

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

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## EDUCATION

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### **Ph.D. Geosciences, University of Arizona (2020-present)**

Advising Committee: Barbara Carrapa, Peter DeCelles, Paul Kapp, Susan Beck

*Dissertation:* Structural and thermal behavior of hybrid thick- and thin-skinned Cordilleran thrust systems in the western interior USA and south-central Andes

### **M.S. Earth Sciences-Geology, Montana State University (2020)**

Advising Committee: Andrew Laskowski, Devon Orme, Dave Lageson, Colleen Elliott

*Thesis:* Syn-orogenic magmatism, mid-crust exhumation, and placer gold deposition: The Anaconda metamorphic core complex of western Montana

### **B.S. Earth Sciences-Geology, Honors, Montana State University (2018)**

Advisor: Andrew K. Laskowski

*Thesis:* Detrital zircon U-Pb geochronology and GIS terrain analysis to determine provenance of gold placer deposits of the Pioneer District, Flint Creek Range, SW Montana

**Field Camp** | Montana State University Field Camp 2018 | Western Interior USA

**Research specialties:** Convergent margin systems, geologic mapping, structural geology, thrust belts, apatite fission-track thermochronology, helium thermochronology, plate tectonics, science communication

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND LAB MANAGEMENT

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### **Research Assistant, University of Arizona Fission Track Laboratory, Dec 2022-present**

Department of Geosciences

- Co-manager of the UA Fission Track Laboratory. Maintain laboratory equipment & supplies in the FT and the mineral separation labs. Maintain lab protocol and train new users. Prepare and manage the shipment and delivery of irradiations.

### **Teaching Assistant, August 2020-present**

*University of Arizona*

- Geology Field Camp (GEOS414, Su24)
- Geological Hazards (GEOS218)
- Physical Geology (GEOS251)
- Historical Geology (GEOS255)
- Sedimentology & Stratigraphy (GEOS302)
- Oceanography (GEOS212, twice)

### **Teaching Assistant, August 2018-May 2020**

*Montana State University*

- GIS and Cartography (GPHY284, twice)
- Advanced GIS & Spatial Analysis (GPHY384)
- Sedimentary Petrology (GEO443, twice)

### **Space Public Outreach Team (SPOT) Presenter, February 2016-August 2018**

*Montana Space Grant Consortium/NASA, Bozeman, MT*

- NASA presentations to K-12 public schools with the Montana Space Grant Consortium (MSGC).

**FIELDWORK**

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- 2024 South-central Andes; Chile (32-34°S). 3 weeks  
 2024 South-central Andes; Puna Plateau (23-36°S). 7 weeks  
 2023 South-central Andes, Argentina/Chile (31-36°S). 6 weeks  
 2023 Alps, Italy/Switzerland. 1 week  
 2022 South-central Andes, Argentina (31-36°S). 10 weeks  
 2021 Little Belt Mountains, central Montana. 3 weeks  
 2020 Northern Laramide, Montana & Wyoming. 4 weeks  
 2019 Tangra-Yumco Rift, central and southern Tibet. 4 weeks  
 2019 Flint Creek Range, western Montana. 1 week  
 2018 Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, Montana. 8 weeks

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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- [6] Reynolds, A.N., Laskowski, A.K., **Howlett, C.J.**, Orme, D.A., Sundell, K.E., Taylor, M.H., Guo, X., Ding, L., Kinematic evolution of the Tangra Yumco Rift, south-central Tibet, 2024, *Tektonika*, v. 2.1, 190–222, doi:10.55575/tektonika2024.2.1.42
- [5] Ronemus, C.B., **Howlett, C.J.**, DeCelles, P.G., Carrapa, B., George, S.W.M., 2024, The Manantiales basin, Southern Central Andes (~32°S), preserves a record of late Eocene-Miocene episodic growth of an east-vergent orogenic wedge. *Tectonics*, v. 43, 1-37, doi:10.1029/2023TC008100.
- [4] **Howlett, C.J.**, Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Constenius, K.N., 2024, Late Cretaceous exhumation of the Little Belt Mountains and regional development of the Helena salient, west-central Montana, USA. *GSA Bulletin*, v. 136, 2256–2280, doi:10.1130/B37081.1.
- [3] Sundell, K.E., Laskowski, A.K., **Howlett, C.J.**, Kapp, P., Ducea, M., Chapman, J.B., Ding, L., 2024, Episodic Late Cretaceous to Neogene crustal thickness variation in southern Tibet. *Terra Nova*, v. 6, 45-52, doi:10.1111/ter.12689.
- [2] **Howlett, C. J.**, Reynolds, A. N., & Laskowski, A. K., 2021, Magmatism and extension in the Anaconda metamorphic core complex of western Montana and relation to regional tectonics. *Tectonics*, v. 40, 1-31, doi:10.1029/2020TC006431.
- [1] **Howlett, C.J.**, and Laskowski, A.K., 2021, Determining the source of placer gold in the Anaconda metamorphic core complex supradetachment basin using detrital zircon U-Pb geochronology, Pioneer District, western Montana. *Geosphere*, v. 17, 154–170, doi:10.1130/GES02226.1.

**PEER-REVIEWED GEOLOGIC MAPS**

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- [1] **Howlett, C.J.**, Reynolds, A.N., and Laskowski, A.K., 2020, Geologic Map of the Northern Half of the Pintler Lake 7.5' Quadrangle and the Southern Half of the Warren Peak 7.5' Quadrangle, southwestern Montana: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology EDMAP portion of the National Geologic Mapping Program 13, 1 sheet, scale 1:24,000.

**PUBLICATIONS IN REVIEW/REVISION**

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- [4] **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Miocene construction of the High Andes recorded by exhumation of the Frontal Cordillera, La Ramada Massif of western Argentina (32°S), *revision submitted*, *Tectonics*.
- [3] Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., Afonso, W., Reeher, L.J., DeCelles, P.G., **Howlett, C.J.**, Caylor, E.A., Sherpa, T.L., Wang, J.W., Constenius, K.N., Regional exhumation of the Laramide Province, *revision submitted*, *GSA Bulletin*.
- [2] Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., Jones, S., Kohn, B.P., Gleadow, A.J.W., George, S.W.M., Gehrels, G., **Howlett, C.J.**, Triantafyllou, A., Monazite fission-track thermochronology as a possible proxy for low-magnitude erosion, *in review*, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*.
- [1] George, S.W.M., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Jepson, G., Nadoya, H., Tabor, C., **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Clementz, M.T., Intensification of the South American Monsoon in the south Central Andes at the start of the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum, *in review*, *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*.

**PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION**

- [6] **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Structural, thermal, and kinematic history of the south-central Andean thrust belt, Chile and Argentina (34°S), in prep for *GSA Bulletin*, Spring 2025.
- [5] **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Carrapa, B., Thermal history of the San Rafael Block determined from low-temperature thermochronology, south-central Andes, in prep for *Geology*, Spring 2025.
- [4] Ronemus, C.B., Howlett, C.J., Fennel, L.M., Muller, V.A.P., Lothari, L., Quade, J., Li, L., DeCelles, P.G., & Carrapa, B., Rapid crustal thickening, surface uplift, and exhumation of the High Andes driven by orogenic shortening, in prep for *Nature Communications*, Spring 2025.
- [3] Ronemus, C.B., Howlett, C.J., Muller, V.A.P., DeCelles, P.G., Suriano, J., & Lothari, L., Cenozoic evolution of the southern Central Andean foreland basin (~31–33 °S): Flexural wave migration during unsteady mountain building, in prep for *Basin Research*, Winter 2025.
- [2] Ferroni, F.R., DeCelles, P.G., Carrapa, B., Veramendi, J.O., Jepson, G., **Howlett, C.J.**, Tectono-thermal evolution of the Sub-Andean fold-thrust belt (21°-22°S), in prep for *Tectonics*.
- [1] Reeher, L.J., Davis, G.H., Hughes, A.N., **Howlett, C.J.**, DeCelles, P.G., Regional analysis of Laramide deformation across the Colorado Plateau, in prep for *GSA Bulletin*.

**BOOK**

**Howlett, C.J.**, 2024, LIFE & SPACE, Philosophical and Scientific Fragments, *independently published*, 210 p. ISBN-13: 979-8394266355.

**INVITED† AND SPECIAL\* TALKS**

- [2] \***Howlett, C.J.**, ROCKY PLANETS AND ICY MOONS: Geology of the Solar System, 16<sup>th</sup> Gem & Jam Festival Guest Speaker, Tucson, AZ, February 2024.
- [1] †**Howlett, C.J.**, Thin- and thick-skinned deformation along the northern margin of the Helena salient, west-central Montana, University of Idaho Department of Earth and Spatial Sciences Seminar Series, February 2024.

**CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS**

- [23] Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., George, S., Clementz, M., Jepson, G., Feng, R., Nadoya, H., Tabor, C., Ronemus, C.B., **Howlett, C.J.**, Schoenbohm, L., Stevens Goddard, A., Alonso, R., The Foreland Basin Record of Cenozoic Climate from the Central Andes. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 56, No. 5, September 2024. doi: 10.1130/abs/2024AM-401403.
- [22] Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Reeher, L.J., **Howlett, C.J.**, Sherpa, T.L., Caylor, E.A., Wang, J.W., Constenius, K.N., Regional Exhumation of the Laramide. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 56, No. 5, September 2024. doi:10.1130/abs/2024AM-402757.
- [21] Ronemus, C.B., Suriano, J., **Howlett, C.J.**, Muller, V.A.P., The nature of unconformities in the southern Central Andean foreland basin: Constraints from newly described Eocene–Miocene deposits at ~31.75 °S, XIX Reunión de Tectónica, San Juan, Argentina, June 2024.
- [20] Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., Jones, S., Kohn, B., Gleadow, A., George, S., Gehrels, G., **Howlett, C.J.**, and Triantafyllou, A.: Monazite fission-track thermochronology as a possible proxy for low-magnitude erosion, EGU General Assembly 2024, Vienna, Austria, 14–19 Apr 2024, EGU24-5153, doi:10.5194/egusphere-egu24-5153.
- [19] **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Age-elevation relationships from Cerro Mercedario (6720m) record exhumation of the La Ramada massif, high Andes of western Argentina, Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 55, No. 6, October 2023. doi:10.1130/abs/2023AM-394540. *Talk*
- [18] George, S.W.M., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Jepson, G., **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Intensification of the South American Monsoon at the Start of the Middle Miocene Climatic Optimum in the Central Andes as a Modulator of Orogenic Shortening, Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 55, No. 6, October 2023. doi:10.1130/abs/2023AM-392282.

- [17] Ronemus, C.B., **Howlett, C.J.**, DeCelles, P.G., Carrapa, B., Miocene wedge-top sedimentation adjacent to out-of-sequence thrust faults in the Manantiales Basin, southern central Andes (~32°S), Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 55, No. 6, October 2023. doi:10.1130/abs/2023AM-389672.
- [16] Sabor, F.S., Ronemus, C.B., **Howlett, C.J.**, Sedimentologic insights into Late Cretaceous–Early Miocene foreland basin development in the southern Central Andes (~36°S), Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 55, No. 6, October 2023. doi:10.1130/abs/2023AM-395718.
- [15] **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Age-elevation relationships from Cerro Mercedario (6720m) record exhumation of the La Ramada massif, high Andes of western Argentina, 18th International Conference on Thermochronology. Riva del Garda, Italy, September 2023. *Poster*
- [14] DeCelles, P.G., Constenius, K.N., Gehrels, G.E., Yonkee, A., Wells, M., **Howlett, C.J.**, Geological Constraints for Late Jurassic-Eocene Cordilleran Orogeny in the Western U.S.A.: Review and Actualistic Comparisons. 2023 GSA Cordilleran Section Meeting. Reno, NV, May 2023.
- [13] Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Reeher, L.J., **Howlett, C.J.**, Sherpa, T.L., Caylor, E.A., Wang, J.W., Constenius, K.N., Tracking Laramide Exhumation as a Proxy for Upper Crustal Response to Subduction Processes. 2023 GSA Cordilleran Section Meeting. Reno, NV, May 2023.
- [12] **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Exhumation of the La Ramada Massif of western Argentina: field and thermochronological data from Cerro Mercedario (6720m). 51<sup>st</sup> Annual University of Arizona GeoDaze symposium. Tucson, AZ, March 2023. *Talk*
- [11] **Howlett, C.J.**, Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., DeCelles, P.G., Late Cretaceous exhumation of the Little Belt Mountains in relation to regional development of the Helena salient, west-central Montana, USA, Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 54, No. 5, October 2022. doi: 10.1130/abs/2022AM-382668. *Poster*
- [10] **Howlett, C.J.**, Ronemus, C.B., Building and Destroying an Orogenic Plateau in the Northern US Cordillera. 50<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Arizona GeoDaze symposium. Tucson, AZ, March 2022. *Talk*
- [9] **Howlett, C.J.**, Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., Low-temperature thermochronology of the Little Belt Mountains of central Montana with implications for models of Laramide tectonism. 17th International Conference on Thermochronology. Sante Fe, NM. September, 2021. doi:10.1002/essoar.10508006.1. *Talk*
- [8] **Howlett, C.J.**, Jepson, G., Carrapa, B., Low-temperature thermochronology of the Little Belt Mountains of central Montana. 49<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Arizona GeoDaze symposium. Tucson, AZ, April 2021. *Best graduate talk award. Talk*
- [7] **Howlett, C.J.**, Reynolds, A.N., Laskowski, A.K., Farallon slab removal as a driving force of Cordilleran metamorphic core complex formation: details from the Anaconda Range of western Montana, Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol 52, No. 6, 2020, doi:10.1130/abs/2020AM-355195. *Talk*
- [6] **Howlett, C.J.**, and Laskowski, A.K., Using detrital zircon U-Pb geochronology to determine the source of placer gold: a case-study from the Pioneer District, western Montana, Geological Society of America, Phoenix, AZ, September 2019. doi:10.1130/abs/2019AM-335775. *Talk*
- [5] **Howlett, C.J.**, Reynolds, A.N., Laskowski, A.K., Geologic Map of the Northern Half of the Pintler Lake 7.5' Quadrangle and the Southern Half of the Warren Peak 7.5' Quadrangle, Southwestern Montana, Geological Society of America, Phoenix, AZ, September 2019. doi:10.1130/abs/2019AM-331565. *Poster*
- [4] **Howlett, C.J.**, Investigating the Anaconda Metamorphic Core Complex of western Montana—Insights into the extension dynamics of convergent orogenic belts. Himalaya-Karakorum-Tibet (HKT) Conference, Bozeman, MT, June 2019. doi:10.5281/zenodo.3238707. *Best student poster award. Poster*

- [3] **Howlett, C.J.**, Determining the relationship between magmatism and exhumation in the Anaconda Metamorphic Core Complex using igneous zircon U-Pb geochronology, western Montana, 2019 Montana State University Earth Sciences Colloquium. **Talk**
- [2] **Howlett, C.J.**, and Laskowski, A.K., Detrital zircon U-Pb geochronology and GIS terrain analysis to determine provenance of gold placer deposits of the Pioneer District, Flint Creek Range, SW Montana, 2018 Undergraduate Scholars Program Student Research Celebration. **Poster**
- [1] **Howlett, C.J.**, and Laskowski, A.K., Determining the source of placer gold in the Anaconda Metamorphic Core Complex supradetachment basin using detrital zircon geochronology, Pioneer District, Western Montana. Geological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN, October 2018. Abstract #286-12.

### **NON PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

- Howlett, C.J., 2020, Syn-orogenic magmatism, mid-crust exhumation, and placer gold deposition: the Anaconda metamorphic core complex of western Montana. MS thesis, Montana State University, 140 p.
- Howlett, C., 2019-2020, recurring weekly column in MSU Exponent (university newspaper), [23 published articles](#).
- Howlett, C., 2017, MSU Geology Club Bridger Canyon Exploration: *Montana Geological Society Newsletter*, v. 61, no. 10, p. 9-10.
- Howlett, C., 2017, MSU Geology Club Paradise Valley Camping Trip: *Montana Geological Society Newsletter*, v. 61, no. 13, p. 5-6.
- Howlett, C., 2017, MSU Geology Club South Fork Deep Creek Exploration: *Montana Geological Society Newsletter*, v. 62, no. 2, p. 6-7.

### **GRANTS**

- 2024** John and Nancy Sumner Scholarship, University of Arizona Geosciences (\$900)
- 2024** American Philosophical Society, Lewis and Clark Field Scholar (\$3700)
- 2023** Graduate & Professional Student Council Travel Grant, UArizona (\$1000)
- 2022** William and Clara Sulzer Scholarship, University of Arizona Geosciences (\$2000)
- 2022** Galileo Circle Scholar, University of Arizona College of Science (\$1000)
- 2021** Bert Butler Scholarship, University of Arizona Geosciences (\$1500)
- 2021** Sibanye-Stillwater/Wheaton Precious Metals Scholar, Tobacco Root Geological Society (\$1000)
- 2019** Graduate Student Grant, Geological Society of America (\$2000)
- 2019** Donald L. Smith Memorial Scholarship, Montana State University Earth Sciences (\$2100)
- 2019** Foster Scholarship, Tobacco Root Geological Society (\$1000)
- 2018** Undergraduate Scholars Program Research Grant, Montana State University (\$900)

### **AWARDS**

- 2023** College of Science Excellence in Service Award, UArizona College of Science
- 2021** Best Graduate Talk (GeoDaze), University of Arizona Department of Geosciences

### **SERVICE, EXTRACURRICULAR, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Science communication (blog and videography)**, Spring 2016-present

- Science communication platforms focused on topics in geoscience, astronomy, field-based research, and travel/exploration. [Instagram](#): >90k followers; [YouTube](#): >4k subscribers

**University of Arizona**

- Department of Geosciences, director of social media (August 2021-present)
- GeoDaze Research Symposium Co-Chair (2024-2025)
- GeoDaze Research Symposium Committee, social media/public outreach (2021-2024)
- Assoc. of Women Geoscientists (AWG) Southern Arizona Outreach Coordinator (2023-present)
- AWG Mentorship Program with undergraduate mentee Hannah Howe (2024/25)

- AWG Scholarship Committee (2023)
- AWG Yoga Instructor (2023, 24)
- Epsilon Eta Earth Week Professional Panelist (2023)
- Tucson High School Field Trip co-leader, Catalina Mountains (April 2023)
- Hollinger K-8 School presentation: *What is a Geologist?* (May 2023)
- Legacy Traditional School 7<sup>th</sup> grade: *Field Geology and Geochronology in the Andes* (May 2022)
- ALFAMARS Team Member, analog astronaut program and Mars life detection team (Feb 2023-present)

#### **Montana State University**

- Geology Club, President, (2015-2018)
- MSU Earth Sciences Department Colloquium, chair social media/marketing (2018-2020)
- MSU Earth Sciences Department Party Planning Committee, public relations (2019-2020)
- Quaternary Interest Group, (2016-May 2017)

#### **Selected Field Trips and Short Courses**

- Western Interior US (MT, ID, WY, UT, AZ, NM, CA)—Numerous field trips (2014-present)
- 2018 Charles Bradley Inaugural Field Trip (Death Valley, CA), Montana State University
- ExxonMobil Petroleum Reservoir Characterization course, Boise, ID (October 2018)
- Scanning Electron Microscopy Short Course, Imaging and Chemical Analysis Laboratory, Montana State University, Jan. 2019
- Detrital Zircon Geochronology: U-Pb Data Acquisition, Reduction, Analysis, and Archiving, GSA, Phoenix, AZ, Sep. 2019
- Thermal History Modeling Short Courses, Thermo2021, Sante Fe, NM, Sep. 2021
- Chemical Evolution of the Earth (UA Grad Course w M. Ducea), Hawaiian Islands, Oct. 2021
- Structure of the Alps, with P.G. DeCelles and B. Carrapa, Italy and Switzerland, Sep. 2023

#### **Member**

- The Explorers Club (2023-present)
- Geological Society of America (GSA), (2018-present)
- American Geophysical Union (AGU) (2024-present)
- Tobacco Root Geological Society (2019-present)
- Arizona Geological Society (2021-present)
- American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), (2014-2018)
- Montana Brewers Association, (2017-2020)
- Montana State University Geology Club (2014-2020)

#### **Certifications**

- Level 4 Swiftwater Rescue Certified (ACA)
- Advanced first aid/CPR (American Red Cross)
- UArizona Radioactive Materials Certification

#### **CONFERENCE CONVENING**

[1] “Convergent Margin Systems,” GSA 2023 Annual Meeting Session T160, Pittsburgh, PA. Conveners: Chelsea Mackaman-Lofland, **Caden Howlett**, Chance Ronemus, Mary Braza.

#### **REVIEWER FOR:**

*Geophysical Research Letters* (1), *Geosphere* (1)

#### **TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE**

##### **Analytical and Laboratory**

Apatite fission-track, ap+zr (U-Th)/He thermochronology  
LAICP-MS for U-Pb dating and Hf isotopes

Scanning electron microscopy for BSE and CL imaging  
X-Ray diffraction, X-ray fluorescence

**Software**

Esri ArcMap & ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, MOVE, HeFTy, QTQt, Adobe Suite (including Premiere Pro, videography)

*\*References and additional work experience available upon request*