Freie Universität Berlin

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

The co-evolution of glaciers and mountains

Donnerstag, 31. Oktober 2019 - 16.15 Uhr

Leif Anderson
GFZ Potsdam

Tectonic uplift and erosion combine to form Alpine landscapes. Glaciers erode mountains, forming U-shaped valleys and steep-sided mountains, like the Matterhorn. But glaciers not only steepen mountains; mountain hillslopes also effect glaciers. As steep slopes erode, they deposit rocks (or debris) on glaciers. This debris on glacier surfaces changes - in rather surprising ways - how glaciers respond to climate warming. In this talk I provide a survey of feedbacks between glaciers and mountains and discuss how climate change is effecting these landscapes and glaciers today.

Leif Anderson received his PhD in geomorphology and glaciology from the University of Colorado with Bob Anderson and Gerard Roe. He previously completed a postdoc studying the Icelandic Ice Caps and is now a postdoctoral researcher at GFZ-Potsdam working with Dirk Scherler. His research focuses on glacier response to climate change and the broad interaction of glaciers with arctic and alpine environments.

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Institut für Geologische Wissenschaften
Großer Hörsaal (C.011), Haus C
Malteserstrasse 74-100
12249 Berlin

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