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### **Research areas:**

The Argentine Precordillera in the present day Andean foothills (San Juan Province, western Argentina) has been largely considered as a Laurentian derived terrane, rifted and drifted from present-day southeastern margin of North America during Early to Middle Cambrian time and accreted to the Gondwana margin in Ordovician times. According to it, the precise history of its rifting-drifting stages should be recorded within the La Laja and Zonda Formations. These units are at the base of a thick (2000 m) Cambro-Ordovician passive-margin carbonate bank at the Argentine Precordillera, represented by approximately 800 m of mixed and pure shallow-marine carbonates. My PhD project points toward developing a comprehensive data base that in turn increase the knowledge on its sedimentology and high resolution stratigraphy. At present there are no available detailed and integrated field-laboratory studies of these carbonates to allow developing objective and independent criteria to evaluate its environmental evolution as well as the proper tectonic setting. This kind of study will allow establishing comparisons with processes operating in modern analogues as well as potential links with other equivalent carbonate intervals that developed surrounding the Laurentian margin in order to test the current exotic terrane hypothesis regarding the Argentine Precordillera.



**Picture 1:** Oolitic packstone with bioclastic particles as nucleus (Juan Pobre Member, La Laja Formation, Middle Cambrian Argentine Precordillera)

**Picture 2:** Alternating shale and carbonates units showing strong similarities with Laurentian "Grand Cycles" (Soldano and Rivadavia Members, La Laja Formation, Middle Cambrian Argentine Precordillera).

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