# Akshay Mehra

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#### Education

#### 2019 Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Ph.D., Geosciences

Thesis: Reconstructions of Ediacaran putative biomineralizers via a novel serial grinding and imaging

technique

Adviser: Adam Maloof

#### 2011 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

B.Arch.

Thesis: Reclaiming the old Union Carbide factory site in Bhopal, India

Advisers: Vincent Mulcahy and Mary Woods

## **Professional Experience**

#### 2019→ Neukom Postdoctoral Fellow

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

I use three-dimensional morphological data to understand how environmental and biological processes lead to the varied morphologies of microbial buildups preserved in the rock record.

#### 2011-2013 **Researcher**

Situ Studio, Brooklyn, NY

I developed specifications for GIRI (Grinding, Imaging and Reconstruction Instrument), part of the new Digital Fossil Reconstruction Lab at Princeton University. Additionally, I leveraged numerous architectural tools and methods to create visualizations and analysis for the Forensic Architecture project.

#### **Publications**

## Published

 Mehra, A. and Maloof, A.C., 2018. A multiscale approach reveals that Cloudina aggregates are detritus and not in situ reef constructions. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

## Submitted/in review

- MacLennan, S.A., Eddy, M.P., Merschat, A., Mehra, A., Crockford, P., Maloof, A.C., Southworth, S., Schoene, B., 2019. Geologic evidence for an icehouse Earth prior to the Sturtian global glaciation. In review.
- 3. **Mehra, A.**, Watters, W.A., Grotzinger, J.P., Maloof, A.C., 2019. Three-dimensional reconstructions of the putative metazoan *Namapoikia* show that it was a microbial construction. *Submitted*.

#### In preparation

- 4. **Mehra**, **A.**, Samuels, B., and Maloof, A.C., 2019. A novel technique for producing three dimensional data using serial sectioning and semi-automatic image classification. *In prep*.
- 5. Eddy, M.P., **Mehra, A.**, Pamukcu, A., DesOrmeau, J.W., Maloof, A.C., and Schoene, B., 2019. Geochemical and textural evidence for efficient crystal settling in a large, silicic magma chamber. *In prep.*

## Conference Proceedings

- 2019 Mehra, A., Watters, W.A., Grotzinger, J.P., and Maloof A.C., *Namapoikia*, a baffling organism. Northeastern Geobiology Meeting, Amherst, MA, March 2019.
- 2018 Mehra, A. and Maloof A.C., Three dimensional reconstruction and morphological analysis of Namapoikia, a putative Ediacaran sponge fossil, using serial grinding and imaging. GSA Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, November 2018.
- 2018 Mehra, A., Geyman, E., and Maloof A.C., Analysis of channel morphology using high resolution, drone-derived imagery of the tidal flat at Triple Goose Creek, Andros Island. GSA Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, November 2018.
- 2018 Bolton, H., Mehra, A., Geyman, E., and Maloof A.C., Three-dimensional reconstructions of holocene and Neoproterozoic oolites to measure porosity, permeability, and volume-shape evolution of ooids. GSA Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, November 2018.
- 2018 Mehra, A. and Maloof A.C., Three dimensional reconstructions of the earliest biomineralizers. Northeastern Geobiology Meeting, WHOI, April 2018.
- 2017 Maloof A.C. and **Mehra**, **A.**, Constraining the role of an Ediacaran biomineralizer using a multiscale methodology. GSA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, October 2017.
- 2017 Mehra, A. and Maloof, A.C., Using serial grinding and imaging techniques to produce three dimensional models of samples with weak density contrast. GSA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, October 2017.
- 2016 Mehra, A. and Maloof, A.C., Digital reconstructions of Cloudina populations: an in-depth, three dimensional study. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December 2016.
- 2013 Maloof, A.C., Samuels, B., **Mehra, A.**, and Spatzier, A., An automated serial Grinding, Imaging and Reconstruction Instrument (GIRI) for digital modeling of samples with weak density contrasts. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December 2013.

#### Teaching Experience

All of the listed courses involved a significant fieldwork component that comprised a week-long trip to collect data for student research projects (locations in parentheses). As part of my teaching duties, I was responsible for preparing supplies and logistics, as well as helping students with both data collection—especially with drones, differential GPS, and surveying equipment—and data analysis.

Fall 2016 Teaching Assistant

**GEO 201**: Measuring climate change: Methods in data analysis & scientific writing (Utah and New Mexico, USA)

Spring 2016 Teaching Assistant

**GEO 370**: Sedimentology (Andros Island, The Bahamas)

Fall 2015 Teaching Assistant

 ${\bf FRS}$ 124: State of the Earth: Shifts & cycles

(France and Spain)

Fall 2014 Teaching Assistant

 ${\bf GEO~201}:$  Measuring climate change: Methods in data analysis & scientific writing

(Utah and Nevada, USA)

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# Field Experience

2019	Nadaleen Mountain, Yukon, Canada [2 weeks]  Three-dimensional morphology of an early Paleozoic clinoform succession
2019	Silver Peak Range, Nevada [4 weeks] Stratigraphic and morphological expression of Archaeocyathid buildups
2018	Blue Ridge, Virginia, USA [1 week] Evidence for a Neoproterozoic glaciation
2017	North Cascades, Washington, USA [2 weeks]  Analysis of textures preserved in a fossilized magma chamber
2017	Andros Island, The Bahamas [1 week]  Morphology and hydrology of a tidal channel network
2016	Labrador, Canada [1 week] Stratigraphic and environmental context of Cambrian Archaeocyathid reefs
2015	Salient Mountain, Canada [6 weeks]  Mapping, measuring, and sampling from a fossil-bearing Ediacaran stromatolite reef system
2014	Southern Namibia [8 weeks]  Multiscale study of Ediacaran putative biomineralizers from several microbially-mediated reefs

# **Awards and Honors**

2018	Grand prize, AGU Data Visualization and Storytelling Contest
2018	Hanna Fellowship, Princeton University
2017	Runner up, AGU Data Visualization and Storytelling Contest
2017	Fan Favorite, Princeton Research Day
2016	Runner up, AGU Data Visualization and Storytelling Contest
2016	Arnold Guyot Teaching Award

# University and Professional Service

2016 - 2018  $\,$  Vice President, Graduate Student Government

2015 - 2016 President, Graduate Student Government