

Geological Survey of Canada

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**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

OCGC Seminar

11:30am May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

Room: **STEM 664**

*Coffee will be available from 11:00*

**Dr. Anthony Shillito, Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Saskatchewan, Canada**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 912 6896 9048;**

**Passcode: 7QQtT9**

<https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/91268969048?pwd=UDNNeEpXKzNIUIZBdVlvZlZ4ZFRvQT09>

One small step: unravelling the mysteries of terrestrialization with sedimentology

Abstract

The initial transition from living in the oceans to living on land is one of the most significant events in the history of life and the planet. Our understanding of how, when and where the first animals gained a foothold on the continents has become increasingly refined in recent years, largely due to insights from sedimentology. In this seminar I will illustrate how trace fossils - footprints and burrows preserved in the rock record - have provided major breakthroughs in understanding terrestrialization. I will discuss the first steps on land by pioneering arthropods in the Cambrian, the relative quiet of the Ordovician, and finally the full establishment of terrestrial ecosystems in the Silurian-Devonian. One small step for a Palaeozoic invertebrate led to a giant leap for geology