



Carina COLOMBI

Home Country
Argentina

Degree
Post-Doctorate in
Geology
and Paleontology

Expertise
Geology

Research Focus
Past Climate Change
in Continental Basins

Host University
University of
California
Davis, United States

Fellowship Awarded
2006

Carina Colombi was born the youngest of three siblings (she has one sister and one brother) in Mendoza Province, Argentina. She says her family members always provided unconditional support and inspired her love of the Andes Mountains.

After earning an undergraduate degree in geology at San Juan University in Argentina, she graduated with a master's degree in 2001 while earning a First Honor award and special distinction as the best student in the geology department. She obtained her PhD in geology in 2007.

Carina is currently combining two roles. She is pursuing the postdoctorate project she has always dreamed of doing at San Juan University working with researchers at the University of California Davis who are doing all the geochemical analysis, and she is embarking on an even more exciting challenge as the mother of an infant daughter who is already out enjoying geological fieldwork.

The focus of Carina's research is the sedimentology, stratigraphy, geochemistry and paleo-vertebrate and plant taphonomy of continental basins, about which she is attempting to interpret past environmental, ecological and climatic changes.

To date, her research efforts have involved early-Mesozoic basins in South America. Little is known about the paleo-climatology and paleo-ecology of that part of Pangaea, the supercontinent that existed during the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras about 250 million years ago, before the continents were separated into their current configuration. By comparing stable isotope values of the paleoatmosphere preserved in fossils, Carina is seeking to understand how past climatic changes might have consequences for life on Earth today.

When she finishes her post-doctoral studies in the United States, Carina plans to teach at the National University of San Juan in Argentina.