Kolloquium:

The Alps: Museum or Laboratory

Date: Monday, 16 December 2019, 16:15
Location: Institut für Geologie, Baltzerstrasse 3, 3012 Bern, Studer Auditorium, 2.OG
Speaker: Prof. Gianreto Manatschal
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To consider mountains as descendants of seas is an ancient idea. With the discovery of plate tectonics, it became clear that the “sea” is the result of rifting and seafloor spreading and the “mountains” the expression of orogenic processes. For a long time rifting and orogenic processes were studied independently from each other, despite of the fact that it was common knowledge that these processes follow and consequently overprint each other. In my presentation I try to show the link between these two processes as well as the importance of rift inheritance to study orogens.

The aim of my presentation is to show that the Alps are not only the place where many concepts have been developed and can be visited like a museum, but that they represent one of the best laboratories to get access to rocks and structures that enable us to determine the conditions and understand the processes related to the formation and reactivation of rifted margins.