

# ASHLEY BELLAS-MANLEY

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## ADDRESS

Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences  
University of Colorado Boulder  
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## EMAIL & WEBSITE

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EDUCATION 08/2014-05/2021 University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Physics  
Ph.D. in Geophysics: *Reconciling the Rheology of Earth's Lithosphere Across Vastly Different Length- and Time-Scales*  
Thesis advisor: Prof. Shijie Zhong

09/2009-05/2014 University of British Columbia  
B.Sc. in Geophysics with distinction

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EMPLOYMENT 08/2024-present Professional Research Associate  
Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder

08/2022-08/2024 Postdoctoral Associate  
Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder

08/2021-08/2022 Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

05/2021-08/2021 Postdoctoral Associate  
Department of Physics, University of Colorado Boulder

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PUBLICATIONS 1. **Bellas-Manley, A.**, R.S. Nerem, & B.D. Hamlington (submitted), Extrapolation of the Satellite Altimeter Record to Understand Regional Variations in Future Sea Level Change, *J. Geophys. Res.: Oceans*.

2. Karnauskas, K., R. S. Nerem, J. T. Fasullo, **A. Bellas-Manley**, et al. (submitted) On the Drivers of Regional Sea Level Change over the Altimeter Era, *J. Geophys. Res.: Oceans*.

3. Rodell, M., Barnoud, A., Robertson, F.R., Richard P. Allan, **A. Bellas-Manley**, M. G. Bosilovich, D. Chambers, F. Landerer, B. Loomis, R. S. Nerem, M. M. O'Neill, D. Wiese & S. I. Seneviratne (2024), An Abrupt Decline in Global Terrestrial Water Storage and Its Relationship with Sea Level Change. *Surv Geophys.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10712-024-09860-w>

4. Hamlington, B.D., **Bellas-Manley, A.**, Willis, J.K. et al. (2024), The rate of global sea level rise doubled during the past three decades. *Nature Commun Earth Environ* 5, 601. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01761-5>

5. **Bellas-Manley, A.** & L. Royden (2024), Basal Mantle Flow Over LLSVPs Explains Differences in Pacific and Indo-Atlantic Hotspot Motions, *J. Geophys. Res.: Solid Earth*, 129, e2023JB027636. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JB027636>

6. **Bellas, A.**, S.J. Zhong, & A.B. Watts (2022), Reconciling lithospheric rheology between laboratory experiments, field observations, and different tectonic settings, *Geophysical Journal International*, 228, 857–875.

7. **Bellas, A.**, & S.J. Zhong (2021), Effects of a weak lower crust on the flexure of continental lithosphere, *J. Geophys. Res.: Solid Earth*, 126, 10, e2021JB022678.

8. **Bellas, A.**, & S.J. Zhong (2021), Seismic strain rate and flexure at the Hawaiian Islands constrain the frictional coefficient, *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 22, e2020GC009547.

9. **Bellas, A.**, S.J. Zhong, & A.B. Watts (2020). Constraints on the rheology of the lithosphere from flexure of the Pacific Plate at the Hawaiian Islands. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 21, e2019GC008819. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GC008819>.

10. **Bellas, A.**, S.J. Zhong, D. Bercovici, & E. Mulyukova (2018), Dynamic weakening with grain-damage and implications for slab detachment, *Phys. Earth Planet. Int.*, 285, 76-90.

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#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

NASA Solid Earth Team 2.0 Meeting (2024), Washington, D.C., *The Half-Century Record of Changes in the Earth's Oblateness from Satellite Laser Ranging: What Is It Telling Us?*

CESM2 Workshop (2024), Boulder, CO, *Using the CESM2 Large Ensemble to Evaluate CSEOF Separation of Internal and Forced Components of Sea Level Change*

Colorado Glaciology Conference (2024), Boulder, CO, *Earth's Oblateness as a Long Term Record of the Cryosphere*

AGU Fall Meeting (2023), San Francisco, CA. *Data-Driven Approaches to Understanding Future Regional Sea Level Change*, G53B-03.

NASA Ocean Surface Topography Science Team Meeting (2023), San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Impacts of GIA Modeling Uncertainties on the Closure of the GMSL Budget*, 10.24400/527896/a03-2023.3824

NASA GRACE-FO Science Team Meeting (2023), Boulder, CO. *Impacts of GIA Modeling Uncertainties on the Closure of the Global Mean Ocean Mass Budget*

NASA Sea Level Change Science Team Meeting (2023), Pasadena, CA. *Data-Driven Approaches to Understanding Regional Variations in Future Sea Level Change*

Study of the Earth's Deep Interior Conference (2022), Zurich, Switzerland. *Basal Mantle Flow Over LLSVPs Explains Differences in Pacific and Indo-Atlantic Hotspot Motions*

AGU Fall Meeting (2021), New Orleans, LA. *Effects of a Weak Lower Crust on the Flexure of Continental Lithosphere*, T11D-05.

AGU Fall Meeting (2021), New Orleans, LA. *Reconciling Lithospheric Rheology Between Laboratory Experiments, Field Observations, and Different Tectonic Settings*, MR43A-06.

AGU Fall Meeting (2020). *Testing the Yield-Stress Envelope Method Against Finite Element Models of Flexure*, T011-0008.

AGU Fall Meeting (2019) San Francisco, CA. *Constraining the Frictional Coefficient: a Comparison of Strain Rate Inferred from Seismicity and 3D Viscoelastic Loading Models at Hawaii*, MR44A-03.

AGU Fall Meeting (2019) San Francisco, CA. *Elastic Thickness: A Comparison of Estimates from Fully Dynamic Viscoelastic Models and the Yield-Strength Envelope Method*, MR51B-0040.

Gordon Research Conference (2019) Holyoke, MA. *Constraining the rheology of the lithosphere using flexure at the Hawaiian Islands.*

AGU Fall Meeting (2018) Washington, D.C. *Constraining mantle rheology at lithospheric conditions using observations of flexure at the Hawaiian Islands*, MR24A-01.

Study of the Earth's Deep Interior Conference (2018), Edmonton, AB, Canada. *Dynamics of a Subducted Slab with Grain-Damage*

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#### TEACHING

TA of General Physics 1: PHYS 1110 and General Physics 2: PHYS 1120 at CU Boulder for multiple semesters between 2014 and 2018. Responsibilities included leading recitation sessions and hosting exams.

TA of 12.001: Introduction to Earth and Planetary Geophysics at MIT (2022)

Course facilitator for Remote Sensing Seminar: ASEN 5210 (2022)

Guest lecturer in Satellite Geodesy: ASEN 6070 (2024)

Guest lecturer in Remote Sensing Data Analysis: ASEN 6337 (2024)

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## SKILLS

- Computational modeling
- MATLAB, Python, Fortran, C
- Writing grant proposals
- Data science
- Geodynamics
- Speaking
- Climate science
- Satellite geodesy
- Writing scientific papers

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## EXPERIENCE

Ten+ years computational modeling  
Ten+ years data analysis  
Seven+ years solid Earth geophysics  
Two+ years climate physics

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## ABOUT ME

Welcome, and thank you for visiting my CV!

I am a highly conscientious individual. I care about understanding things thoroughly. I am inspired by beauty. I aim to serve a purpose. As a PhD candidate, I used flexure at the Hawaiian Islands to infer the *rheology* of the *lithosphere* and contribute to understanding why Earth is the only terrestrial planet in the solar system with plate tectonics. At MIT, I studied the structure and dynamics of ancient remnant anomalies which lie just above the core-mantle boundary. With the help of Steven Nerem at CU Boulder, I pivoted from solid Earth geophysics to climate science and learned to combine satellite observations with computational models to quantify, understand, and project sea level change. I am always looking for new opportunities to meet excellent people and pursue meaningful work. Please reach out if you are interested in working with me!

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## EXTRACURRICULAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Royal Conservatory of Music, Certificate in Piano, Grades 1-9	(2001-2009)
1 <sup>st</sup> place, NSSAF Provincial Championship Cross Country Team Member	(2008)
Headmaster's Recognition Award for Academic Excellence in Spanish	(2008)
Summited five mountain peaks over 14,000'	(2014-2019)
Climbed a 5.12	(2018)
Climbed a V5	(2022)
Married my husband	(2022)
QOM on Royal Up & Over, Belmont MA	(2022)
Cycled over 100 km in a single ride	(2023)
Mountain biked Mag7, Captain Ahab, and Porcupine Rim in Moab, Utah	(2023)
Deadlifted 215 lbs	(2023)