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Earthquakes Without Frontiers: earthquake risk on the continents today

Professor James Jackson
(Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge)
10th May 2022 | Zoom Video Conference | 6:30pm start

Abstract:

Over half-a-million people have died this century in earthquakes that have apparently targeted population centres in otherwise sparsely inhabited regions, particularly in Asia. Ancient settlements are often located for reasons to do with water supply, access, strategic defence or controlling positions on trade routes, in places whose landscape features are created by earthquakes. What were originally small villages grow into towns, then cities, and now mega-cities with several million people. But their growth has, in general, not been accompanied by any reduction in exposure to earthquake hazard. It is this close relation between where people live and geology that leads to the apparent bulls-eye targeting of cities by earthquakes. The question of what to do with the huge populations concentrated in earthquake-prone mega-cities of the developing world is one of the most pressing of our time, and requires scientists, civic leaders and the public to work together to enhance public safety.



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About the Speaker:

James was born and raised in India, which established his interest in all aspects of Asia, where much of his research has been concentrated. He uses seismology, geodesy, and Quaternary geology, combined with observations of the landscape in the field, to study how the continents develop and deform on all scales, from the movement that occurs in individual earthquakes to the evolution of mountain belts. His field work has taken him to many parts of Asia, the Mediterranean, Africa, New Zealand and North America. He is increasingly involved in how to use earthquake science to reduce the appalling risk from earthquakes to populations in developing countries, and co-led the project '*Earthquakes Without Frontiers*, a consortium of researchers in UK universities and other institutions, working in partnership with independent earthquake scientists and social scientists in countries throughout the great earthquake belt between Italy and China. One of its aims was to improve earthquake science and earthquake risk reduction through the exchange of knowledge, information, techniques and data between partner countries.

(<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/earthquakes-without-frontiers>)

Forthcoming Talks:

DATE	TITLE	SPEAKER	VENUE
14 th June 2022 6:30pm	Latest trends in ground gas monitoring and risk assessment	Simon Talbot (Ground Gas Solutions)	Zoom - Virtual Meeting

The WMRG is constantly on the lookout for fascinating talks. If you would like to present, know someone who is willing, or would like to request a subject please contact the WMRG committee (details below) and we will try our very best to accommodate your requests.

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