



# Earthquakes without Frontiers

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL  
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

## Building Resilience to Earthquake and Landslide Hazards in Asia: A Trans-disciplinary Approach

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[Earthquakes without Frontiers](#) is a five-year research project (2012-2017) funded by the UK's Natural Environment Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. The project brings together natural and social scientists from Cambridge, Durham, Hull, Leeds, Northumbria, and Oxford Universities; the National University of Singapore; the British Geological Survey and the Overseas Development Institute; as well as collaborators in Nepal, India, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The project will work closely with local scientists, policy makers, and governmental and non-governmental organisations with **the aim of increasing the resilience of populations exposed to earthquakes and related hazards** across three case study regions: the Himalayan Mountain Front; Central Asia; and China.

During her seminar, Dr Oven will outline some of the challenges associated with building resilience to continental earthquakes. She will then reflect on the preliminary findings from the research so far, with a particular focus on the role of science in earthquake risk reduction from the national to the local level with examples from Nepal and Bihar. Dr Oven will end by outlining the broad aims of the *Earthquakes without Frontiers* research programme in China for feedback and discussion.

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[Dr Katie Oven](#) is a geographer working at the interface between natural and social science. Her research interests include disasters and development in the Global South, in particular, the social production of vulnerability and resilience to geophysical hazards.

Dr Oven's doctoral research investigated the vulnerability and resilience of rural communities to landslides and debris flows in the Nepal Himalaya. The study examined local perceptions and understandings of mass movement hazards and the factors giving rise to the occupation of landslide prone areas.



Since completing her PhD, Dr Oven has expanded her research in this field through a UK Research Council funded project investigating the vulnerability and resilience of older people, and the built infrastructure supporting their health and social care, to heat-waves, cold-waves and floods in the UK. Dr Oven is a Post-Doctoral Research Associate on the *Earthquakes without Frontiers* project focusing on the social science and trans-disciplinary aspects of the program.