



# Earthquakes, memory loss, & predictability

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- ① EARTHQUAKES among the relevant natural loss events
- ② The RISK-PREDICT-REMIND plot

# Earthquakes



# Earthquakes

Anchorage, Alaska, 1964 M9.2



Kailoura, New Zealand, 2016 M7.8



Central Italy, 2016 M6-6.5

# Natural loss events database

## NatCatSERVICE

### Natural catastrophe know-how for risk management and research

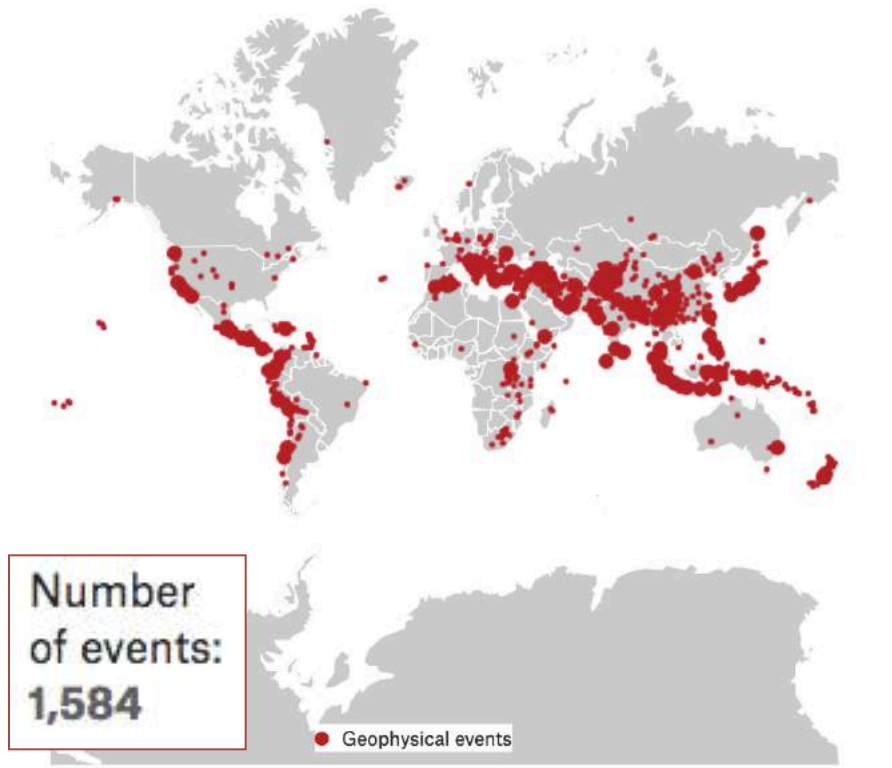
Many decades of acquired experience in researching, documenting, analysing and evaluation of natural catastrophes have made the NatCatSERVICE one of the most valued data sources for information on natural loss events worldwide. This unique archive provides comprehensive, reliable and professional data on insured, economic and human losses caused by any kind of natural peril.

NOT IF, BUT HOW

Start Analysis



# 1980-2018



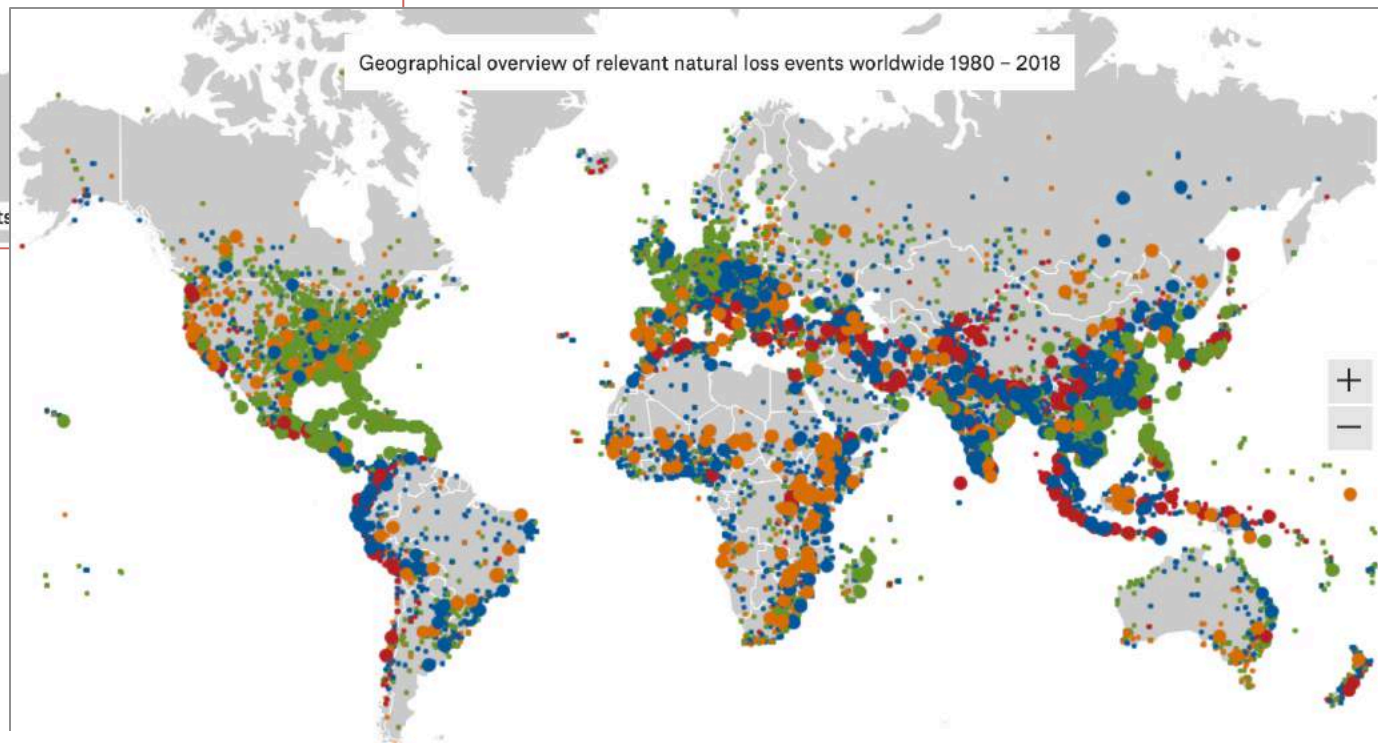
- Geophysical events      Earthquake, tsunami
- Meteorological events      Tropical cyclone
- Hydrological events      Convective storm, Flood
- Climatological events      Wildfire, Heatwave

# 1980-2018



Number  
of events:  
**1,584**

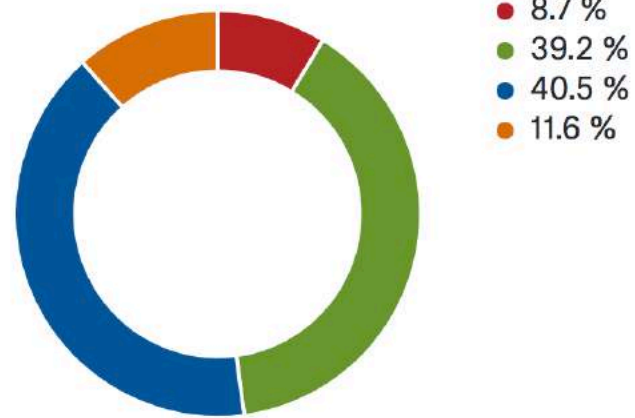
● Geophysical events



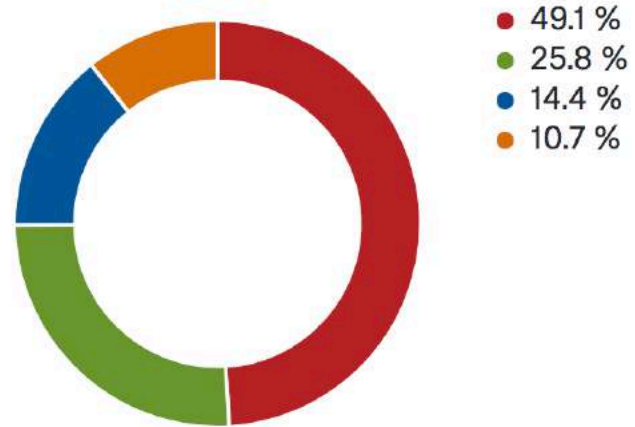
- Geophysical events      Earthquake, tsunami
- Meteorological events      Tropical cyclone
- Hydrological events      Convective storm, Flood
- Climatological events      Wildfire, Heatwave

Percentage distribution for relevant natural loss events worldwide 1980 - 2018

Number of events:  
18,169

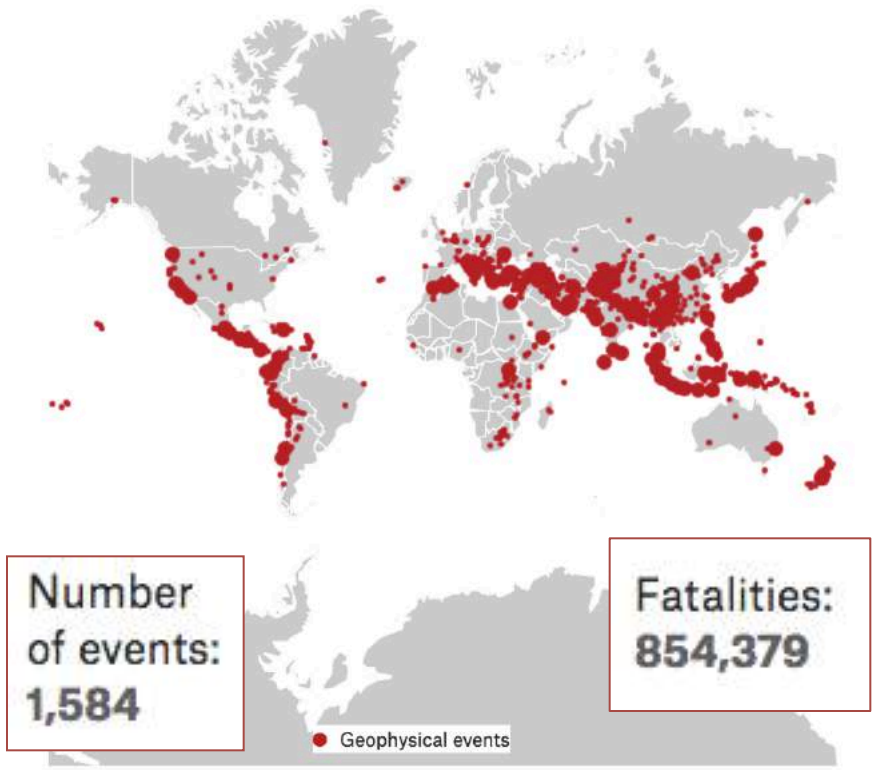


Fatalities:  
1,739,485

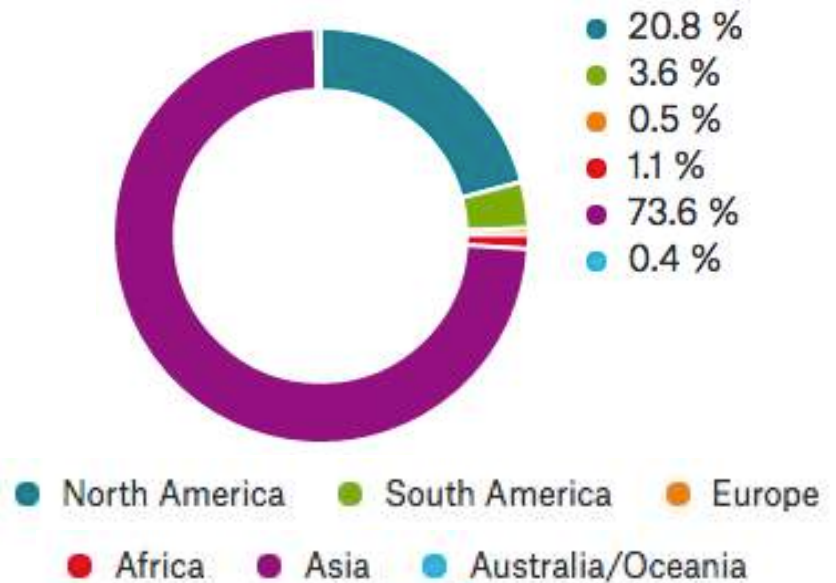


Earthquakes & Tsunamis  
are the least  
frequent events  
(<9%)  
but they cause  
the highest number  
of casualties  
(~ 50%)





Worldwide fatalities by Earthquakes & Tsunamis from 1980 to 2018 nearly equal to the actual population of **Marseille**





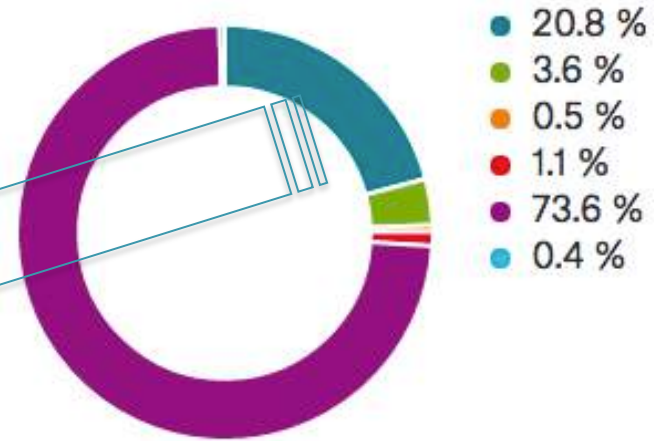
Number of events:  
**1,584**

Fatalities:  
**854,379**

● Geophysical events

Worldwide fatalities by Earthquakes & Tsunamis from 1980 to 2018 nearly equal to the actual population of **Marseille**

Haiti, 2010  
Mexico, 1985



● North America   ● South America   ● Europe  
● Africa   ● Asia   ● Australia/Oceania

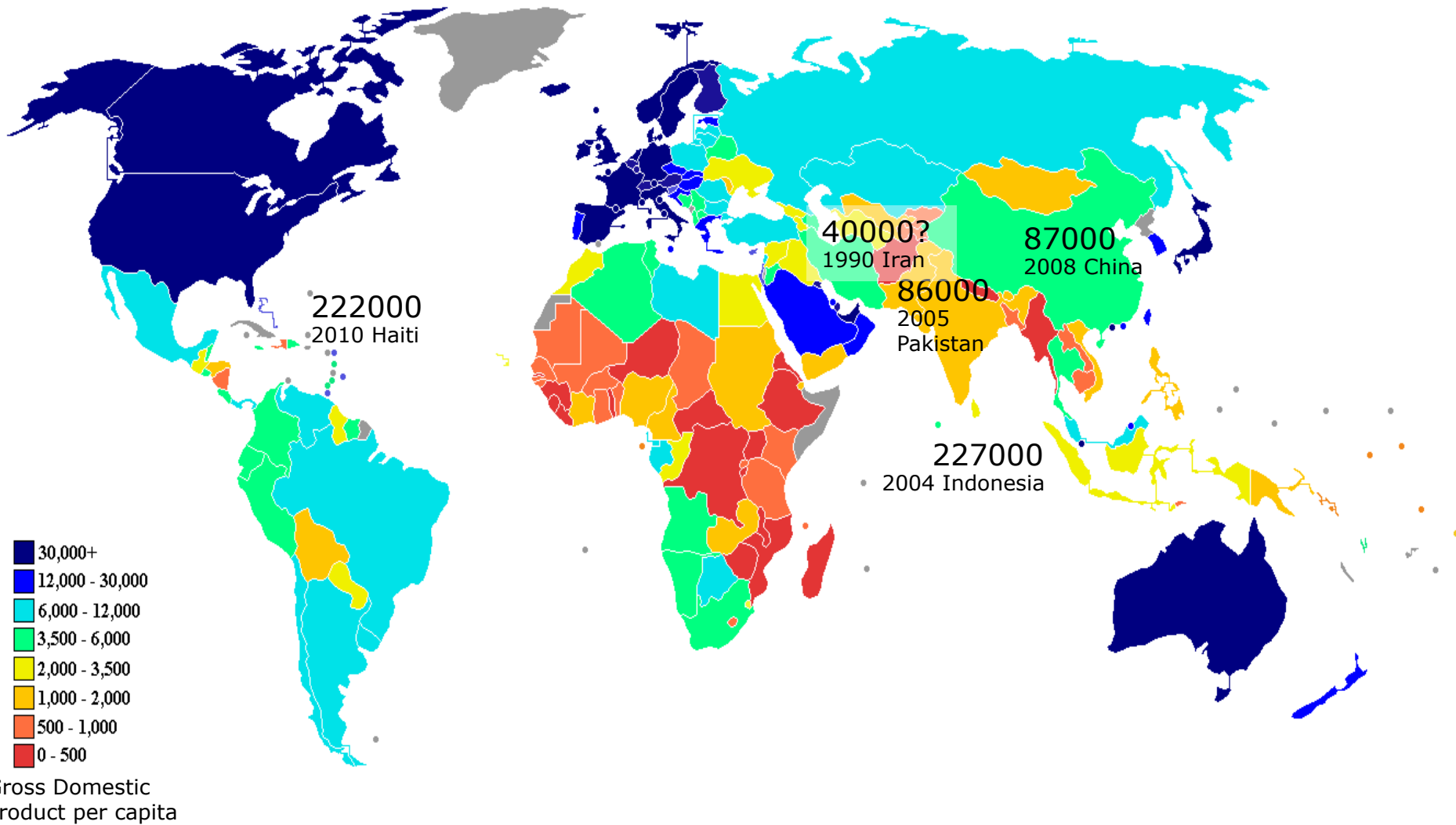
# The poorest, the deadliest



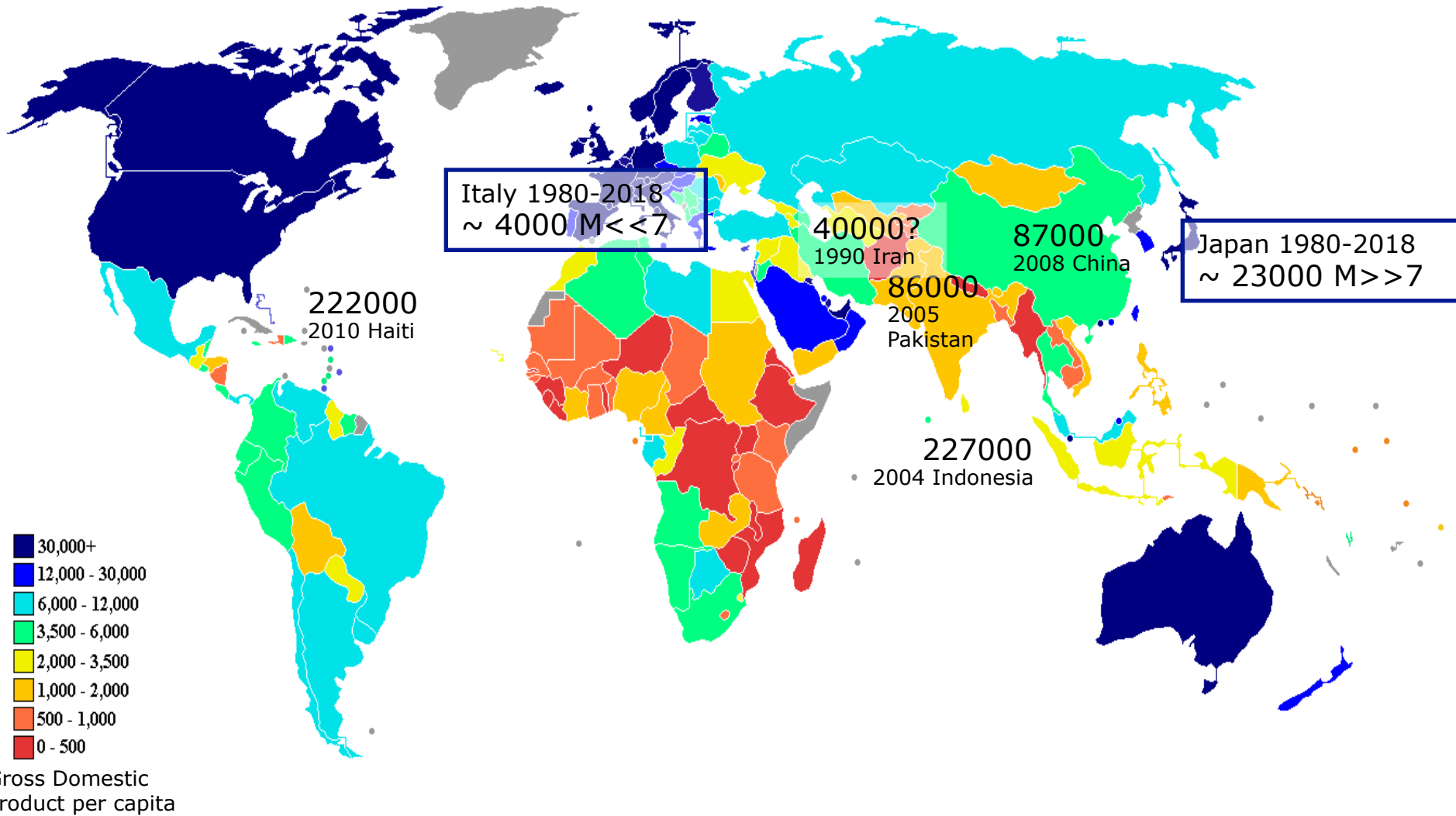
Gross Domestic Product per capita



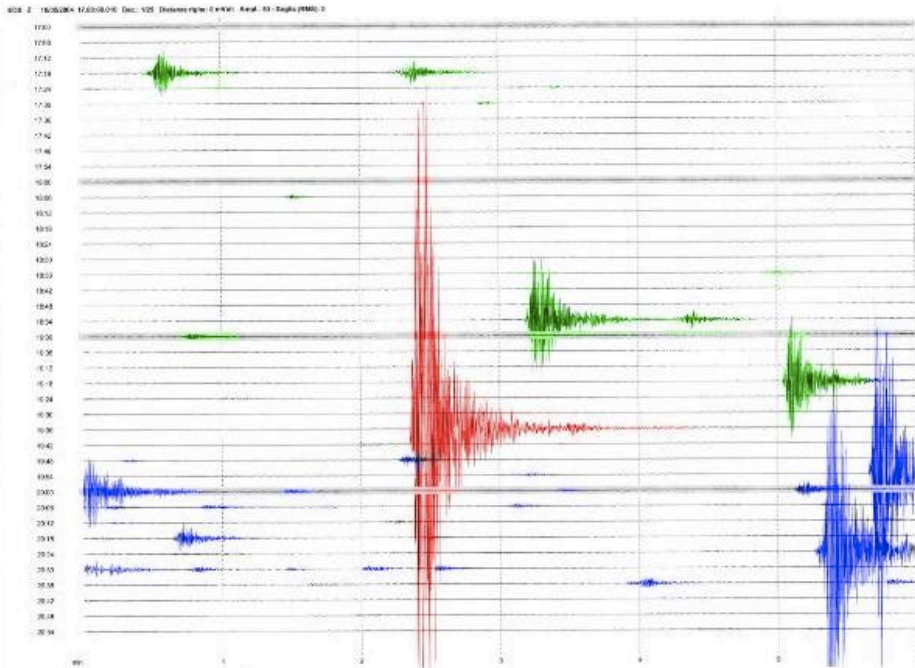
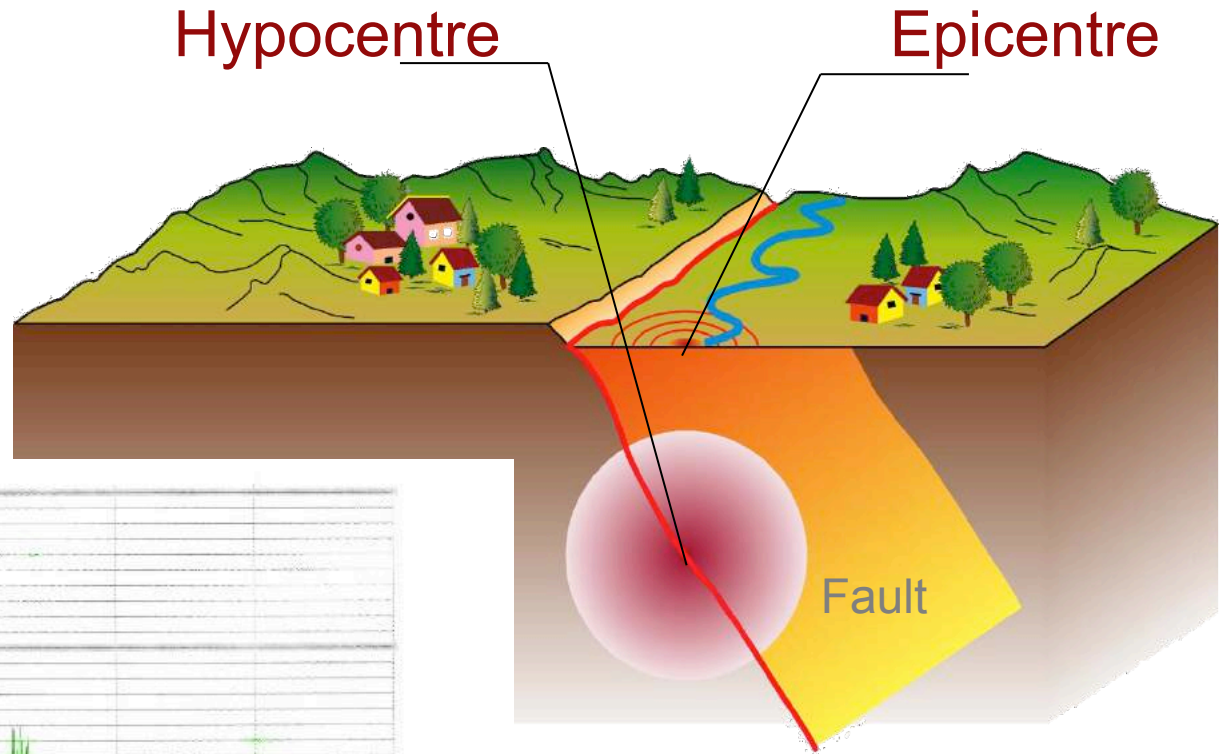
# The poorest, the deadliest



# ... with some exceptions



# Magnitude, measure of energy

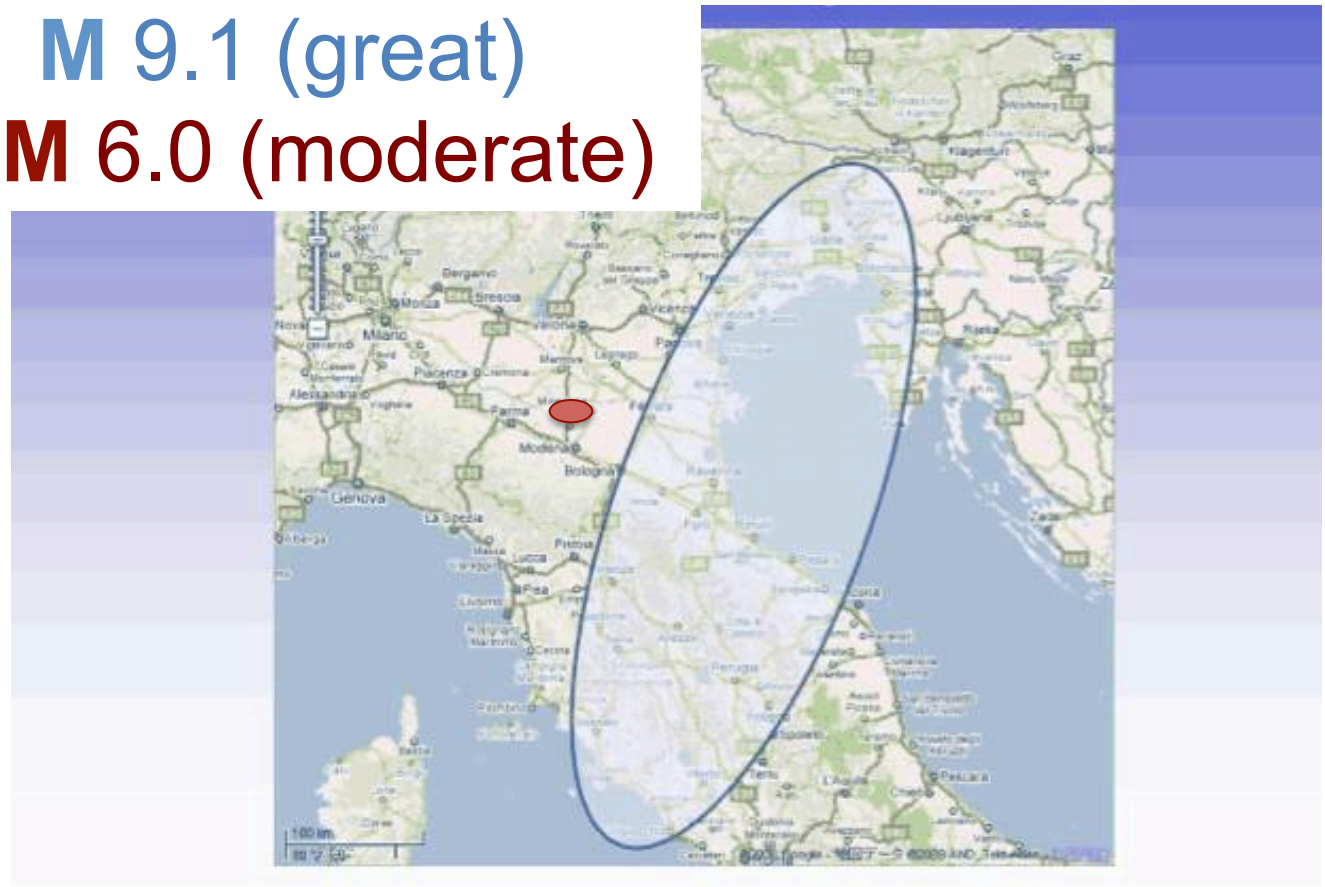


Magnitude is a conventional measure obtained from a seismographic record

# Magnitude = f(Rupture size)

Tohoku 2011 **M** 9.1 (great)

Emilia 2012 **M** 6.0 (moderate)



# Consequences of earthquakes can be global

Tohoku 2011 **M** 9.1  
(~16000 deaths,  
~2500 missing)



Emilia 2012 **M** 6.0  
(27 deaths)



# World Dialysis Crisis, Emilia 2012

## Crisis Communication in a Digital World

EDITED BY  
MARK SHEEHAN AND DEIRDRE QUINN-ALLAN



CAMBRIDGE

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again. Foremost among the gossip was the story that Gambro would cease production in the region completely. So, on this third crisis front, misinformation and rumour threatened to damage Gambro's relationship with the very community that would play an important role in disaster recovery. The media, having exhausted the human interest angle of the earthquake (for example, the sad loss of life and historic buildings), began to pursue the corporate angle. It picked up the story from the 2011 restructure that Gambro might leave the region – a story that was likely to panic the already-fragile population after the earthquake.

**Disaster:** A physical event leading to crisis – normally not initiated by human interaction – such as earthquake, tsunami and bushfires.

However, strong communication channels and the long-term stakeholder relationships were used to contradict the rumour and assuage fears of such a development at a pivotal time in the region's history. In addition the quick recovery at the plant and stakeholder belief in the company's assurances were based on the relational framework and trust Gambro had developed since establishing itself in the region in the 1960s.

### The earthquakes: From one disaster to another

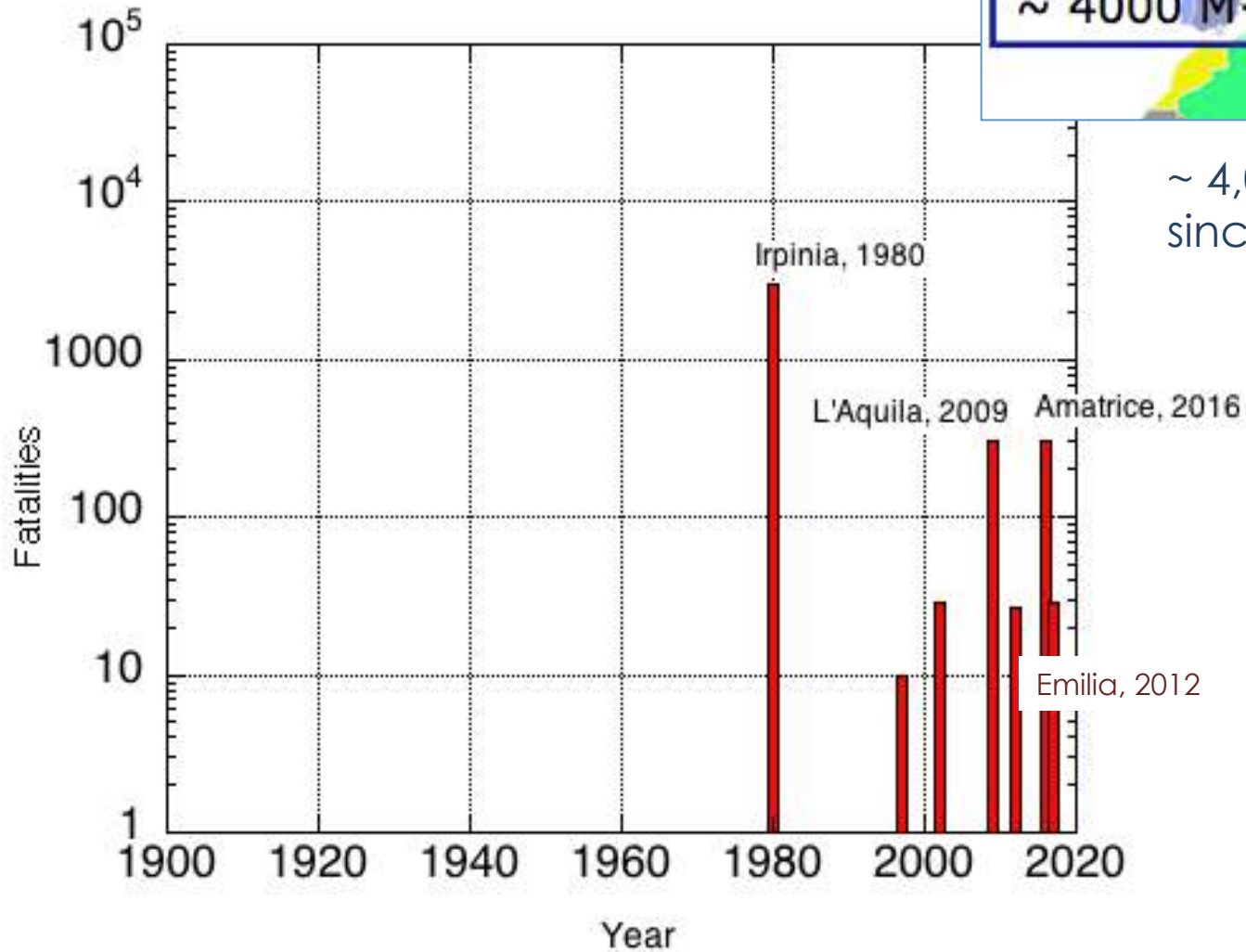
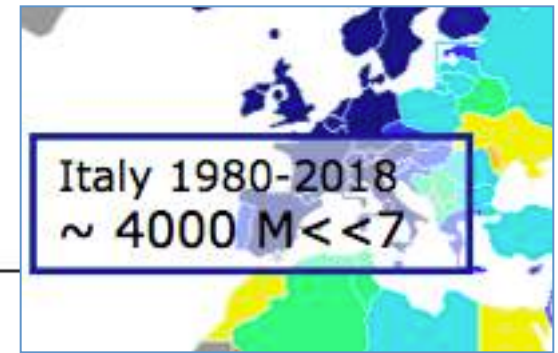
On 21 May 2012, a major earthquake of 5.9 magnitude hit the Medolla region. Gambro's monitor and bloodline production buildings and distribution centre were damaged in the earthquake and the injection moulding (bloodline) production areas of the facility could not be accessed. It was fortunate that as it was a Sunday there were limited staff on the premises. The plant was able to recover partially. Less than five days after the earthquake limited production of dialysis monitors commenced and Gambro was able to begin distribution from its warehouse in Medolla.

**Bloodlines:** Specially manufactured, highly specified tubes that run a patient's blood to the dialysis machine (monitor) and back to the patient.

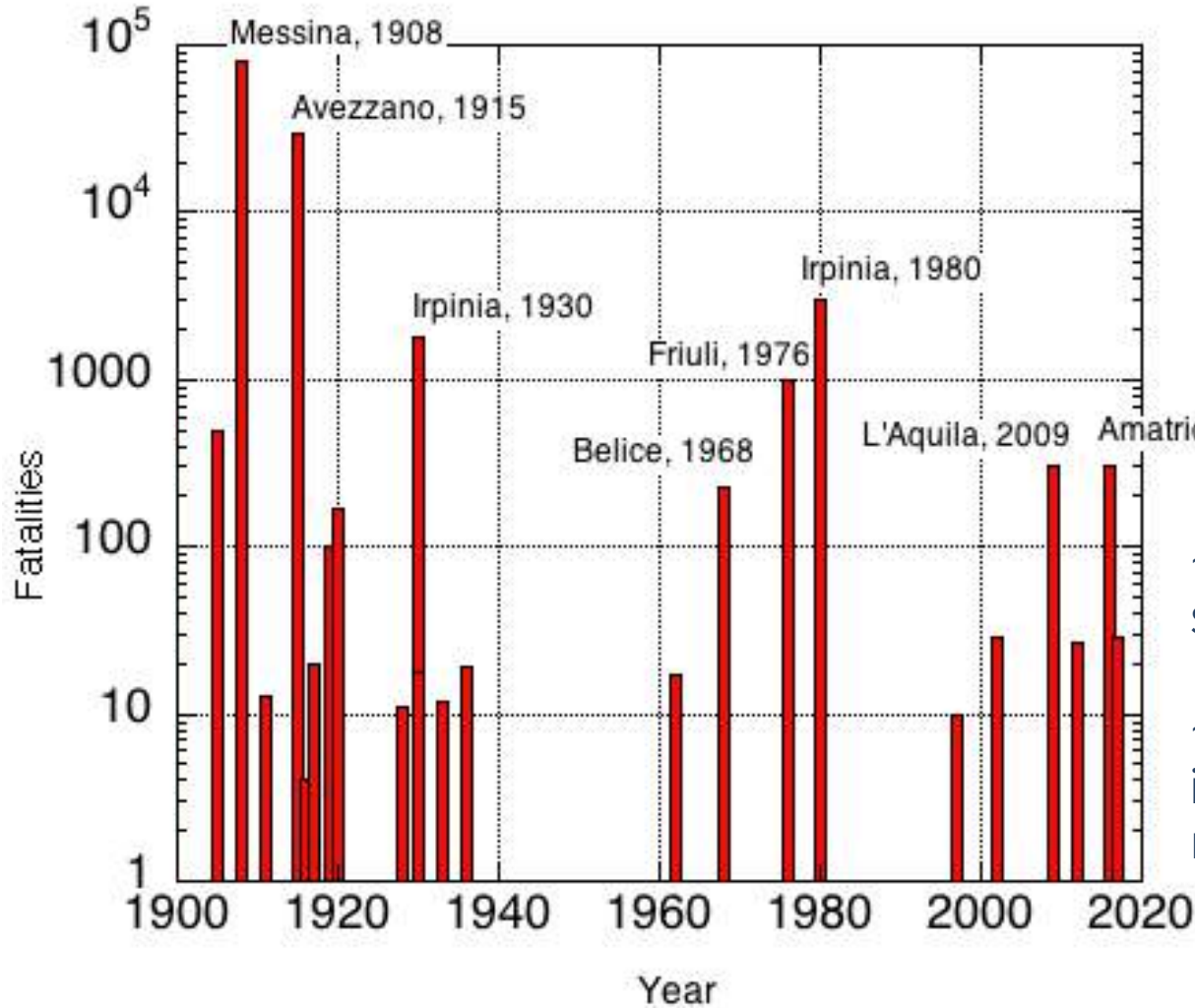
Just as Gambro Medolla and its Crisis Task Force Team (CTFT) were coming to terms with the devastation and handling the situation as laid down in the company's crisis management plan and procedures, a second earthquake hit. This quake happened on 29 May 2012, at a magnitude of 5.8, and Medolla was at its epicentre, much closer to the factory; the result was devastating. To make matters worse, in the weeks that followed the second quake, the region was subject to several hundred aftershocks, which affected those buildings that had not already been damaged or destroyed. Gambro's plant and distribution were similarly affected. Distribution ceased and the factory went in shutdown mode, operating with a skeleton staff, including the CTFT.

Although before 20 May, Gambro was ready for crisis situations, including restructure, takeover and earthquake, no amount of planning can fully prepare an organisation for a total dislocation caused by such a disaster. Although no Gambro employees were injured, life was difficult. Many local residents in Medolla had been sleeping in cars and tents since the first earthquake, and the second forced many more from their homes. Other factors of a more intangible nature were also evident; an Italian Red Cross spokesperson stated that 'The psychological impact of having two

# Italy



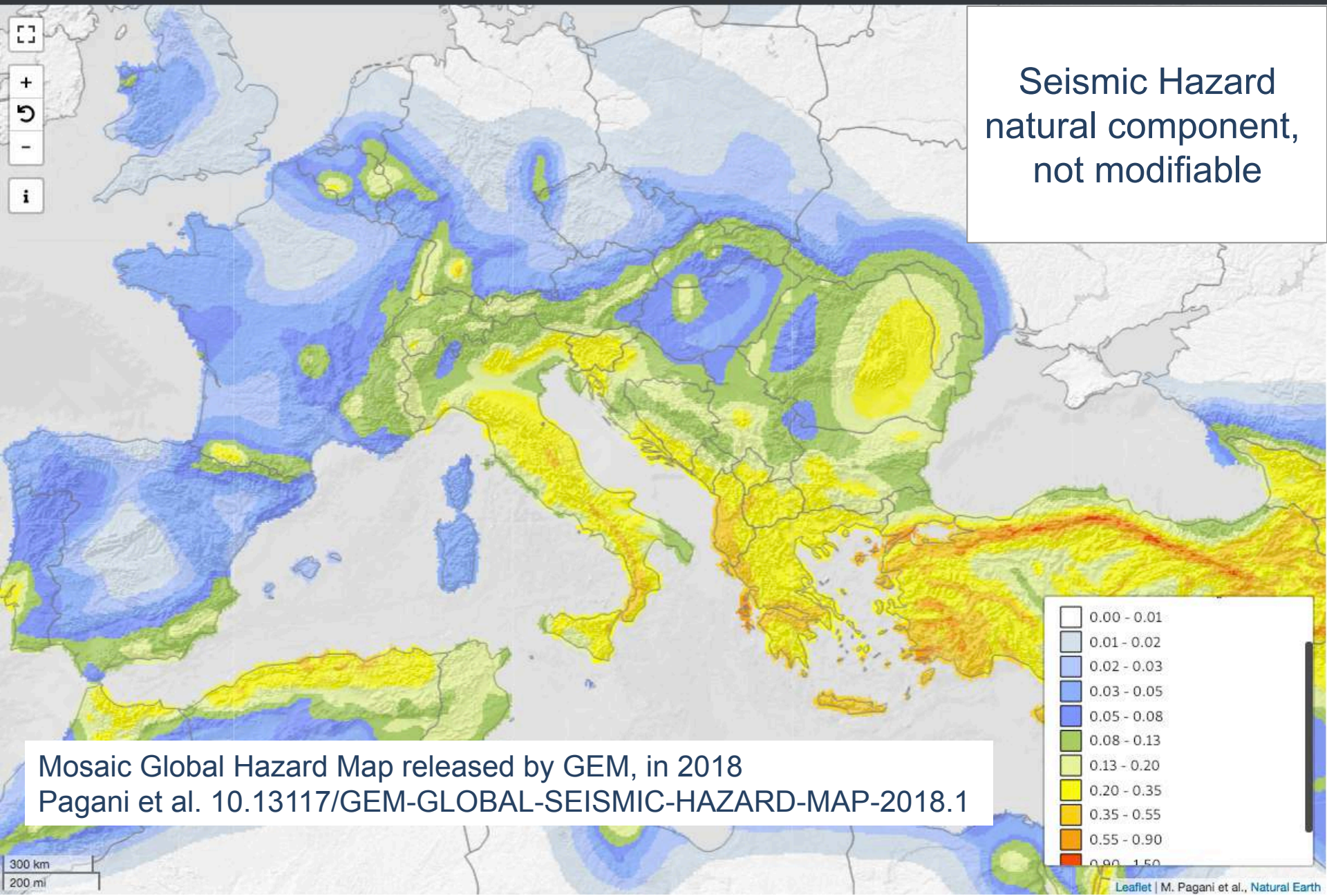
# Italy, a deadly seismic country



~ 4,000 deaths since 1980

~ 120,000 deaths since 1900

~ 300,000 deaths in the last millennium

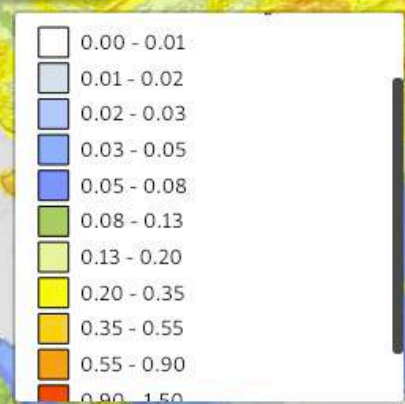
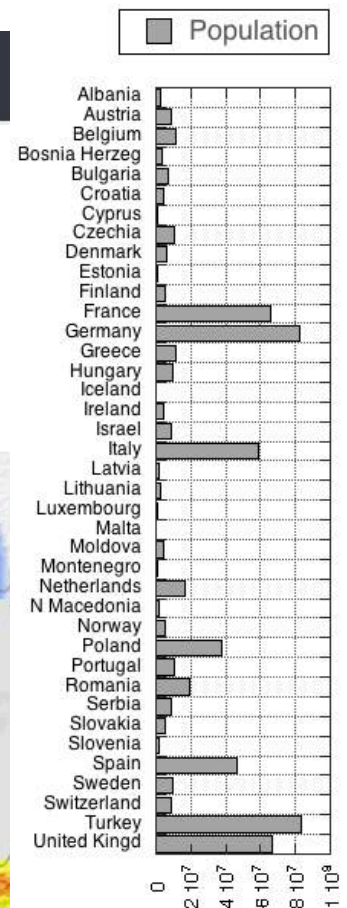
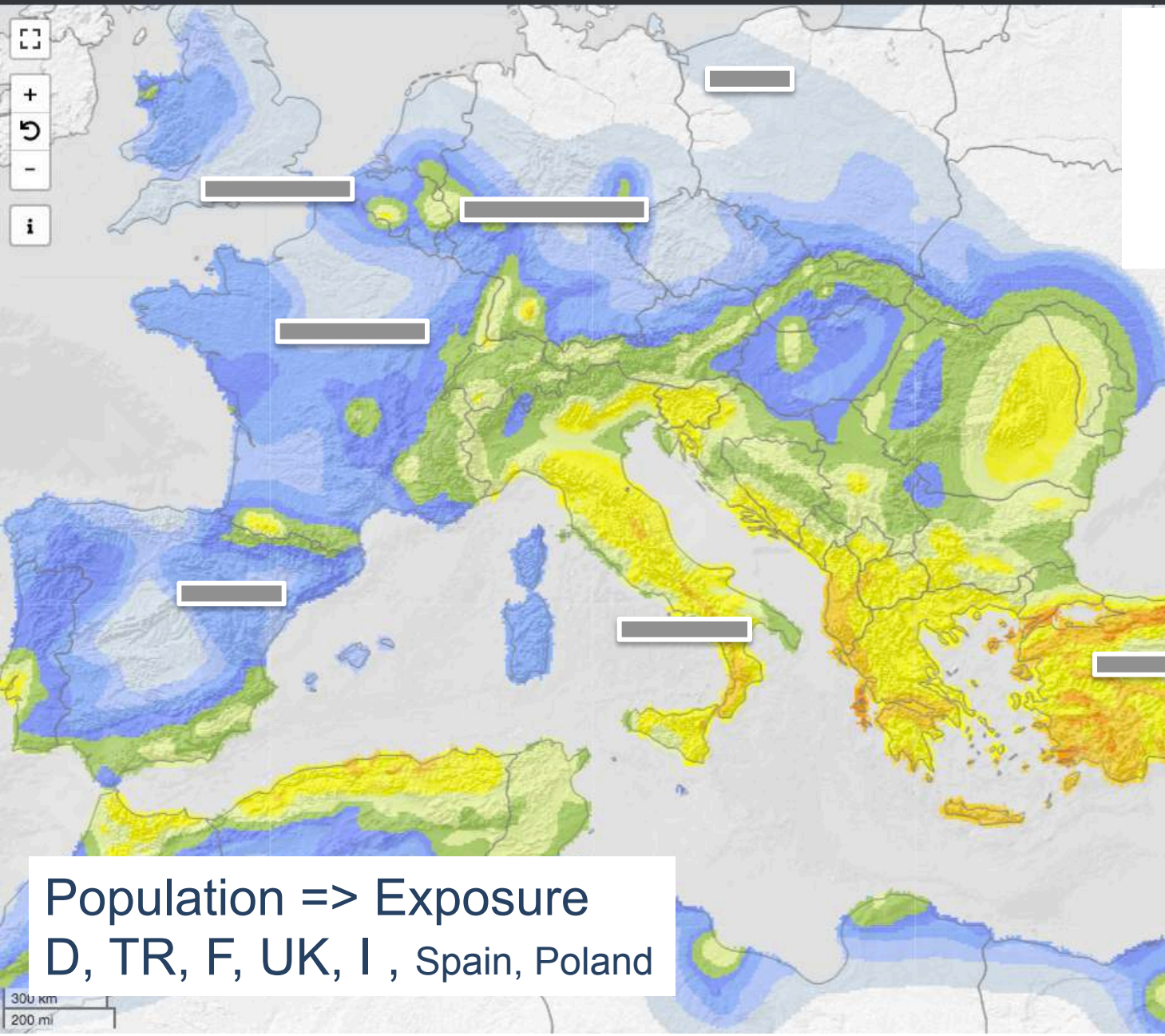


Seismic Hazard  
natural component,  
not modifiable

0.00 - 0.01
0.01 - 0.02
0.02 - 0.03
0.03 - 0.05
0.05 - 0.08
0.08 - 0.13
0.13 - 0.20
0.20 - 0.35
0.35 - 0.55
0.55 - 0.90
0.90 - 1.50

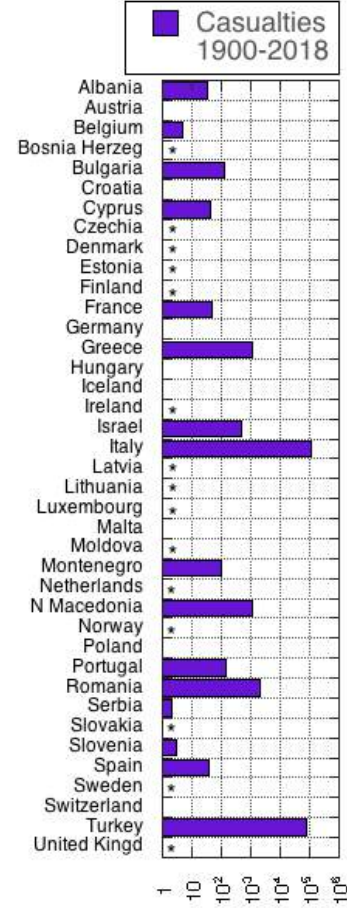
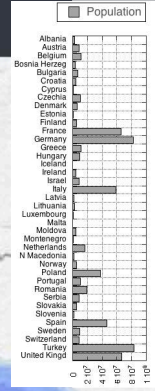
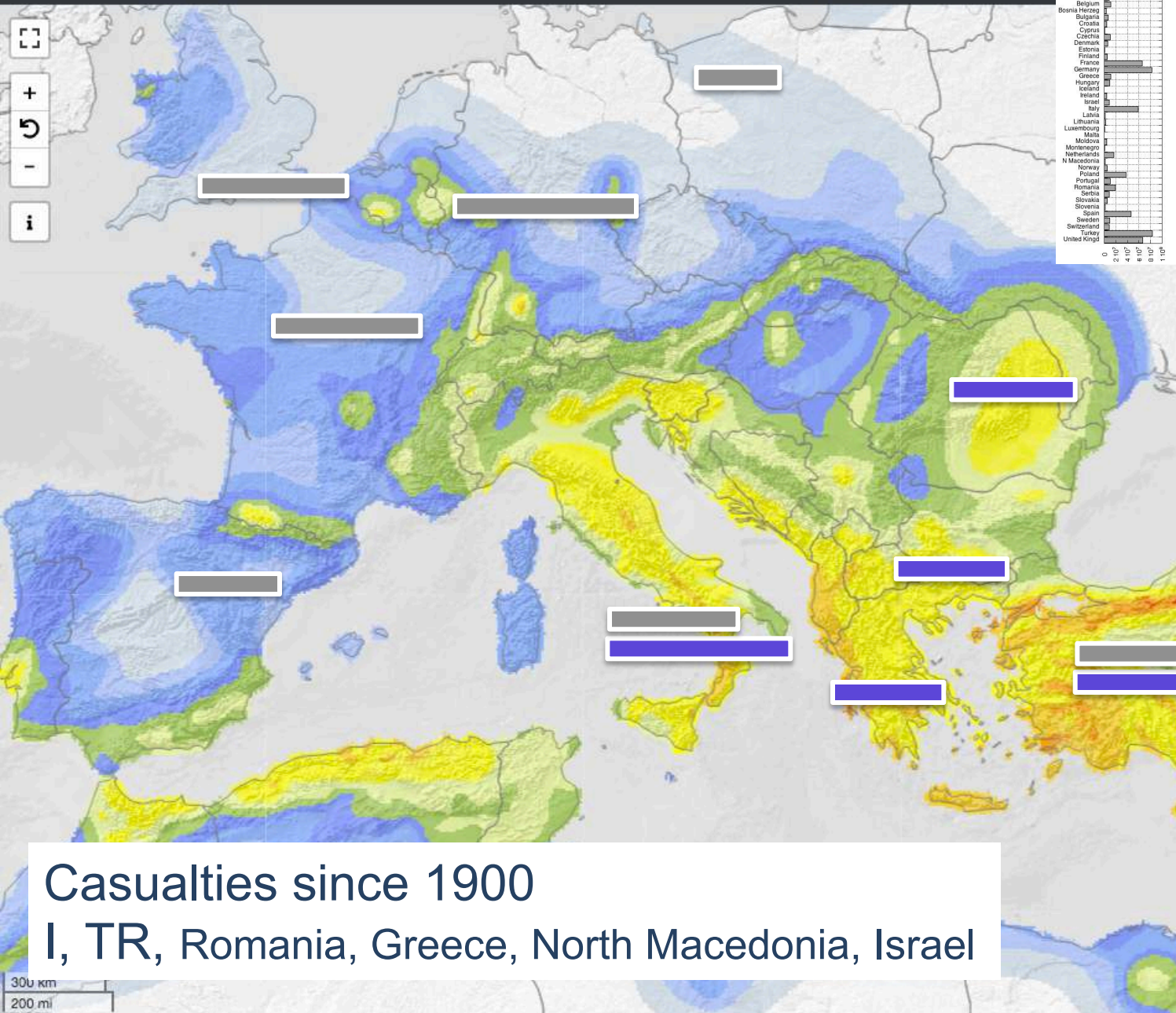
Mosaic Global Hazard Map released by GEM, in 2018  
Pagani et al. 10.13117/GEM-GLOBAL-SEISMIC-HAZARD-MAP-2018.1

300 km  
200 mi



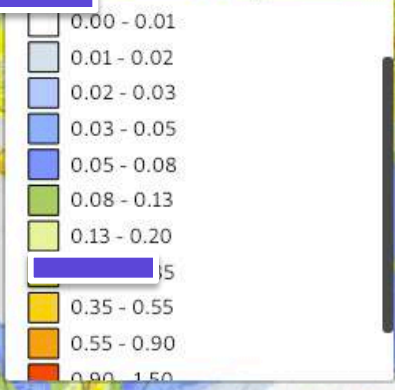
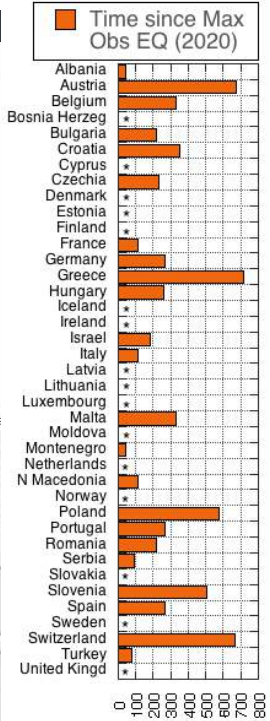
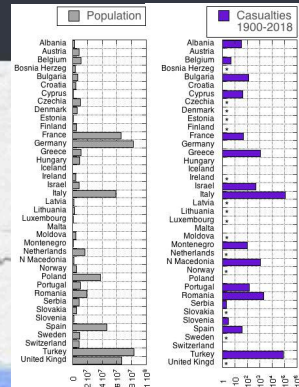
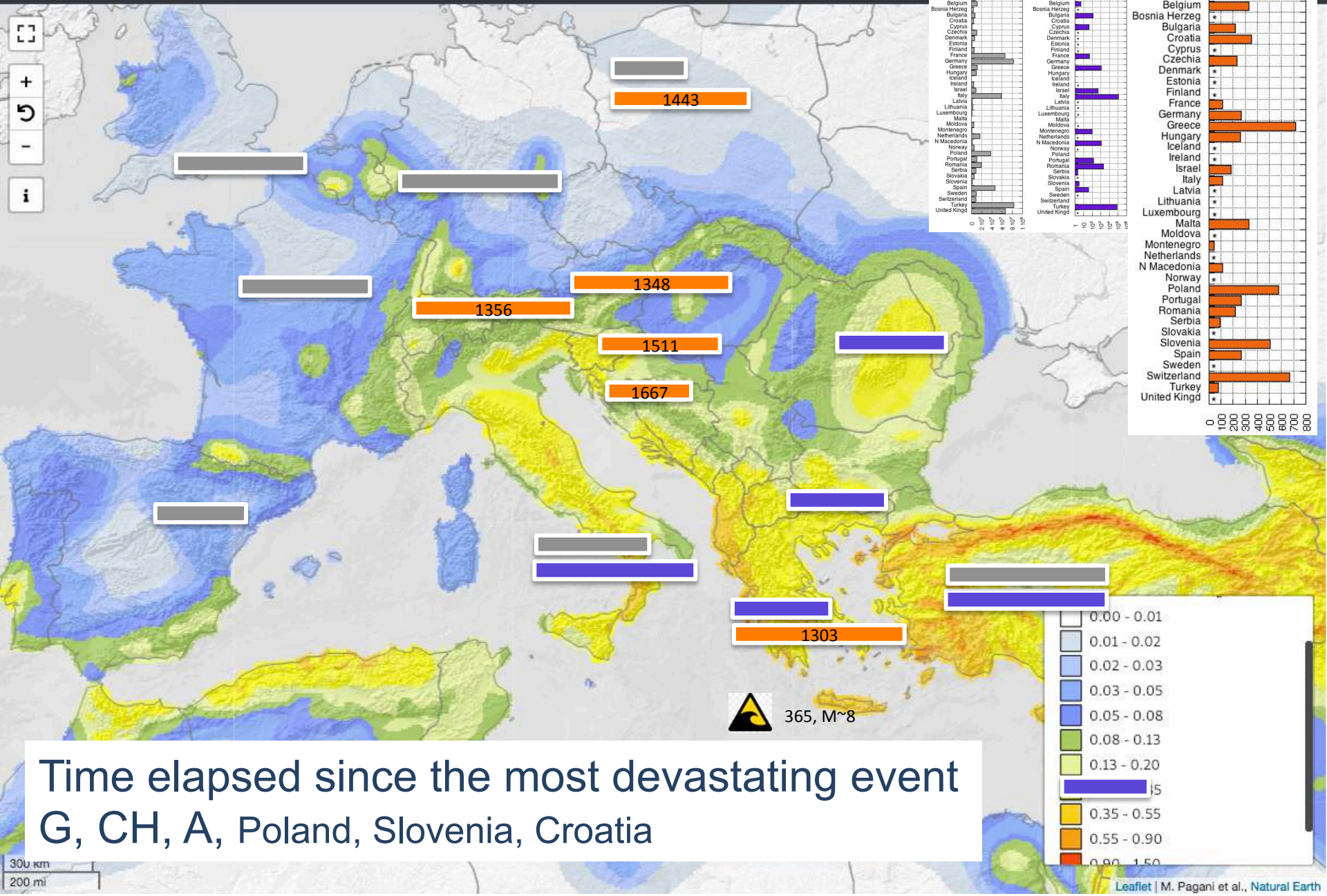
Population => Exposure  
 D, TR, F, UK, I, Spain, Poland

300 km  
 200 mi



Casualties since 1900  
 I, TR, Romania, Greece, North Macedonia, Israel

300 km  
 200 mi

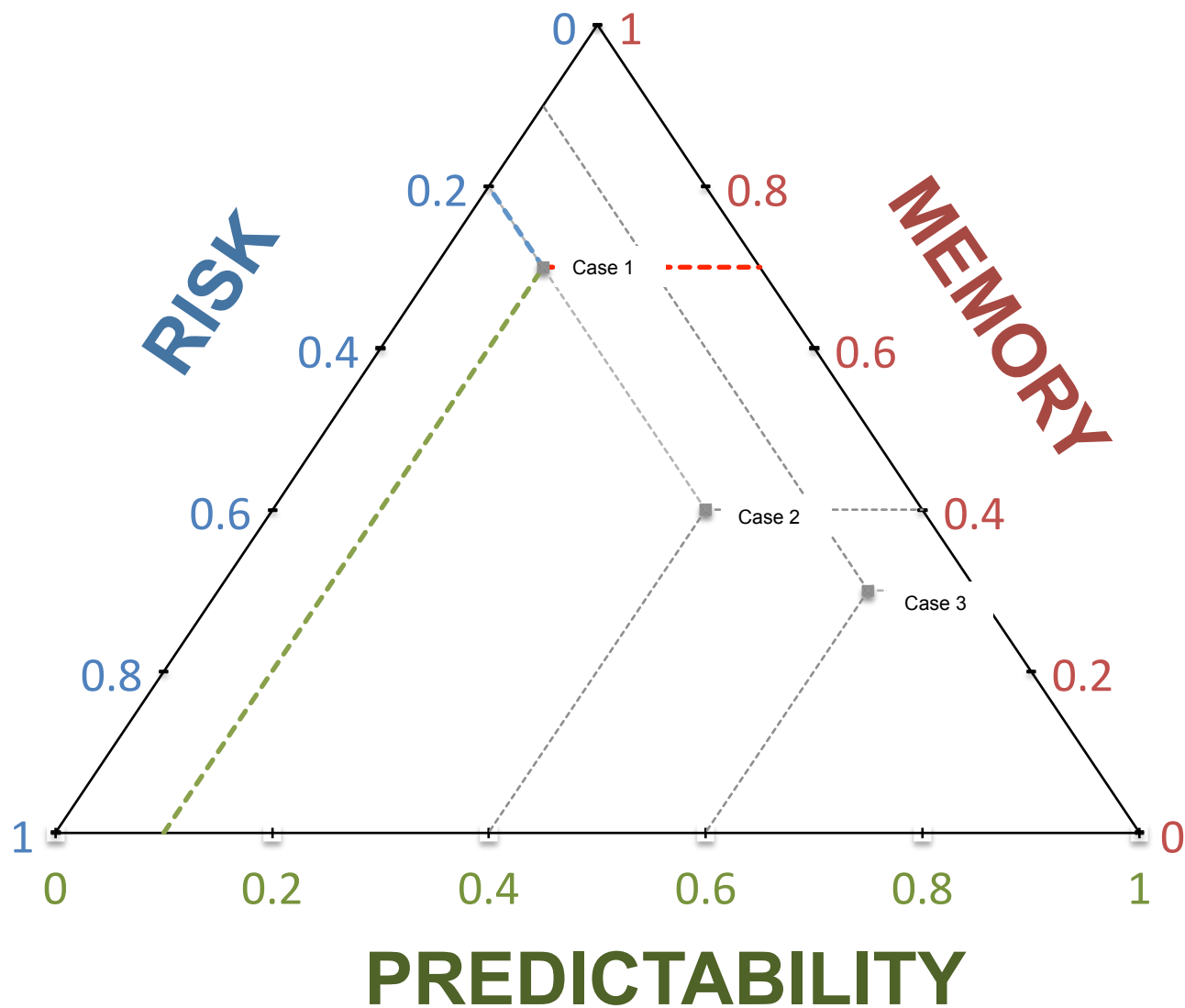


365, M~8

Time elapsed since the most devastating event  
G, CH, A, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia

300 km  
200 mi

## ② The RISK-PREDICT-REMIND ternary plot

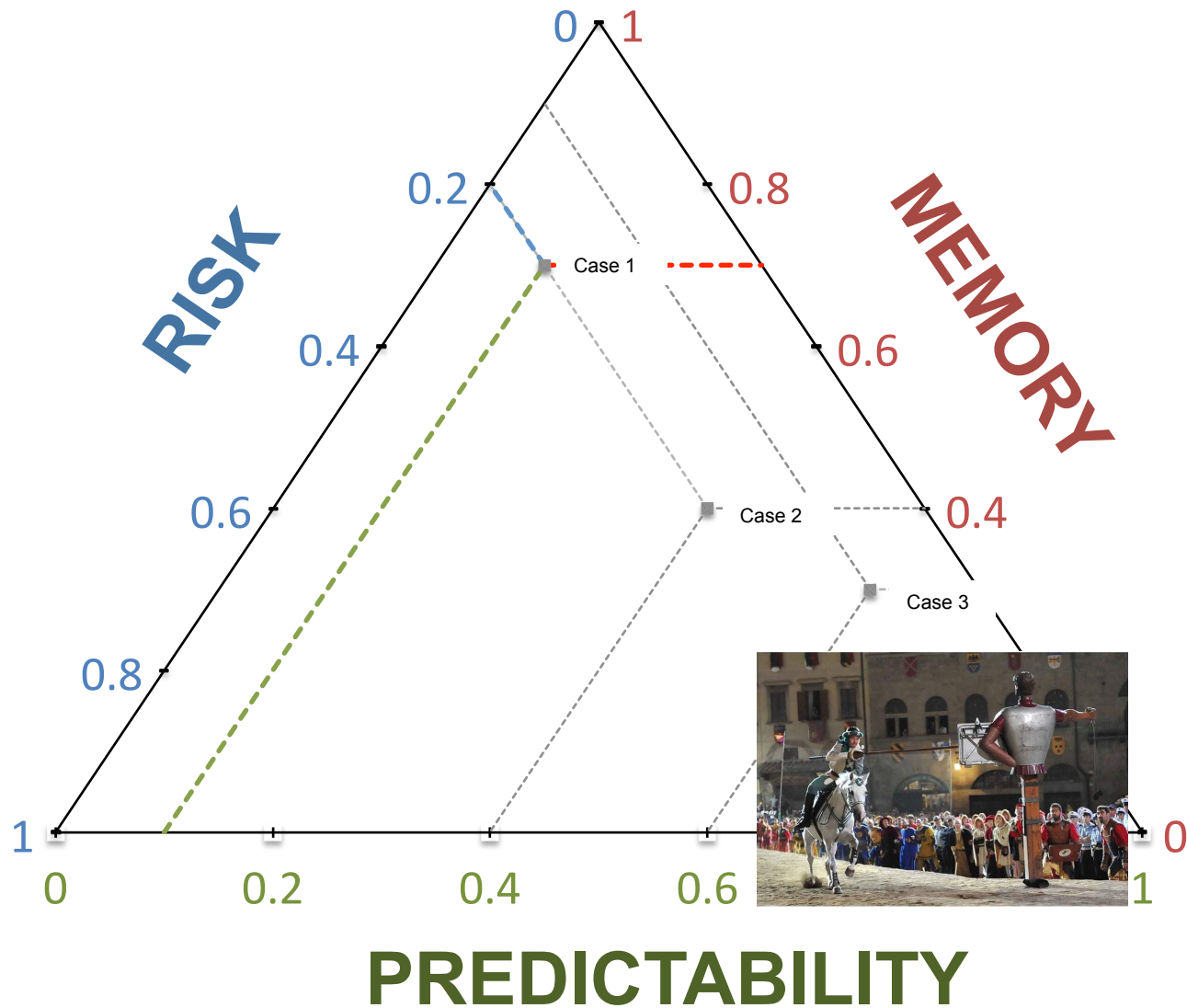




# Predictability -> 1



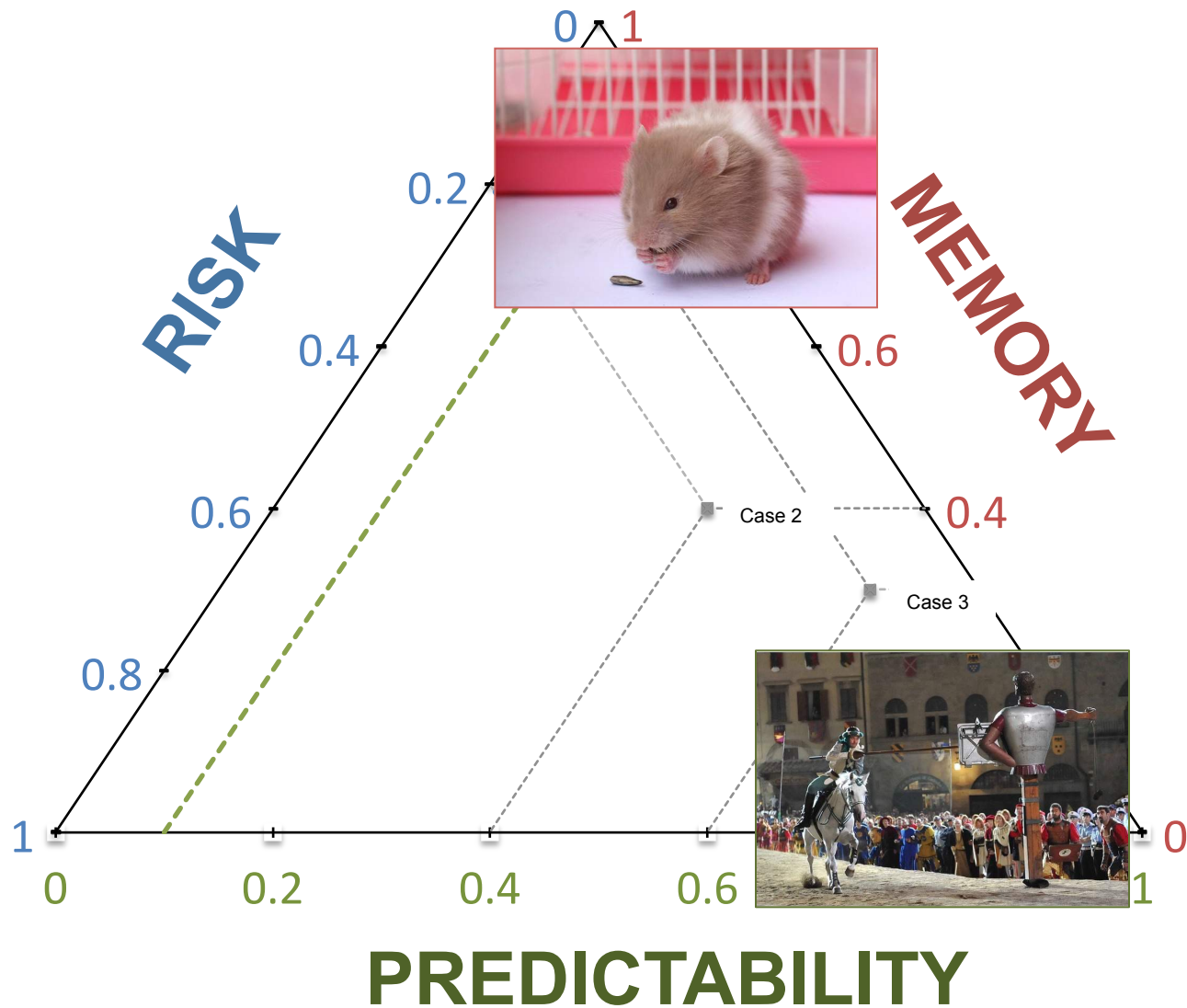
# Predictability $\rightarrow$ 1, Risk $\rightarrow$ 0



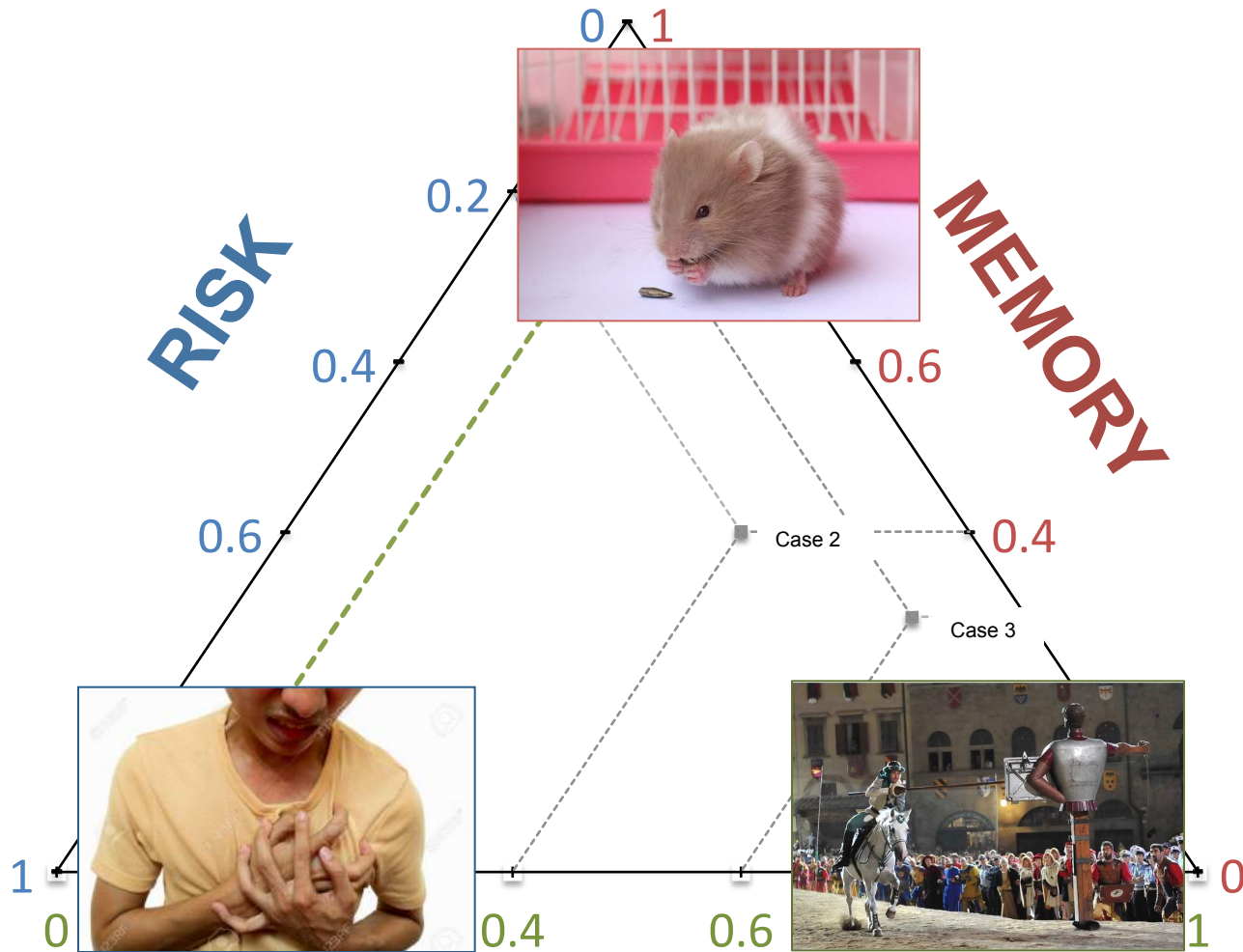
Memory -> 1



# Memory -> 1, Risk -> 0



P -> 0, M -> 0, Risk -> 1

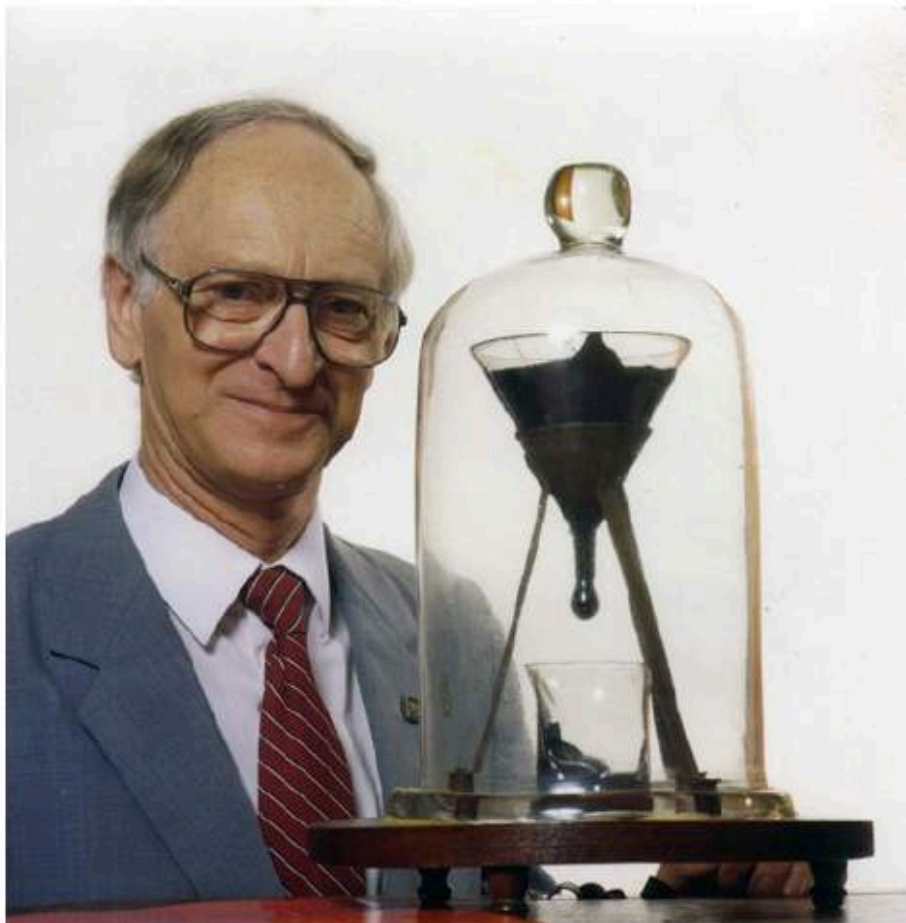


**PREDICTABILITY**

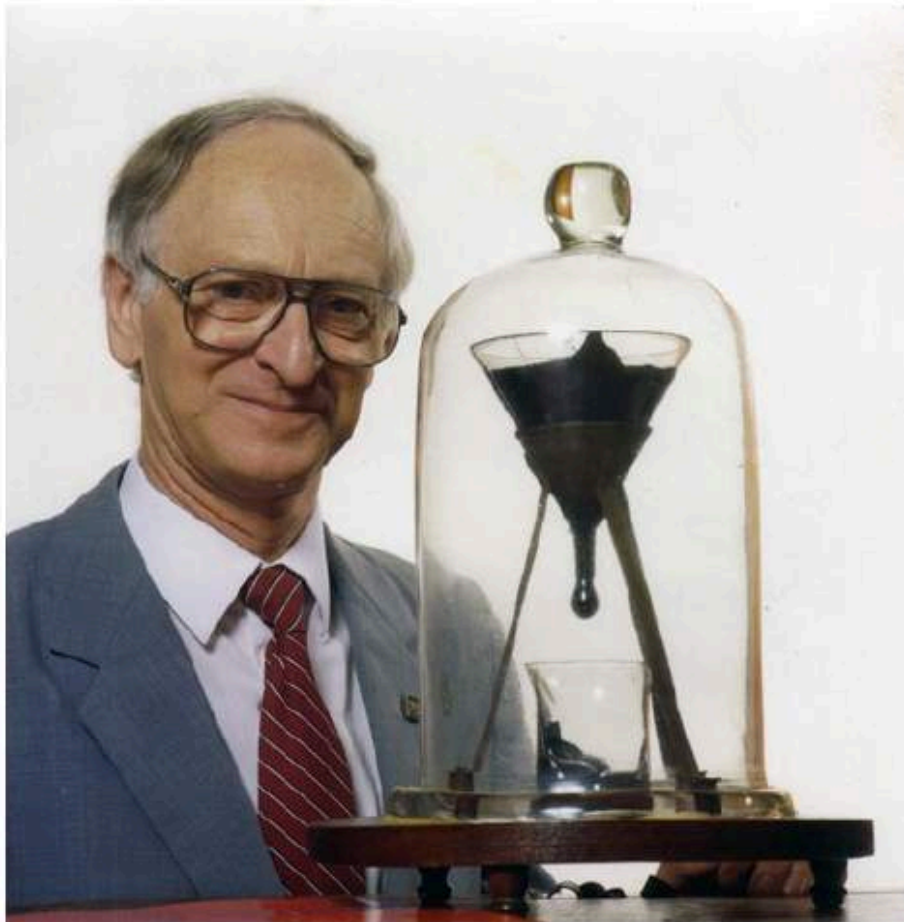
# Predictability

A reliable forecast  
has to answer three  
questions:

- 1) **WHAT**
- 2) **WHERE**
- 3) **WHEN**



# Predictability

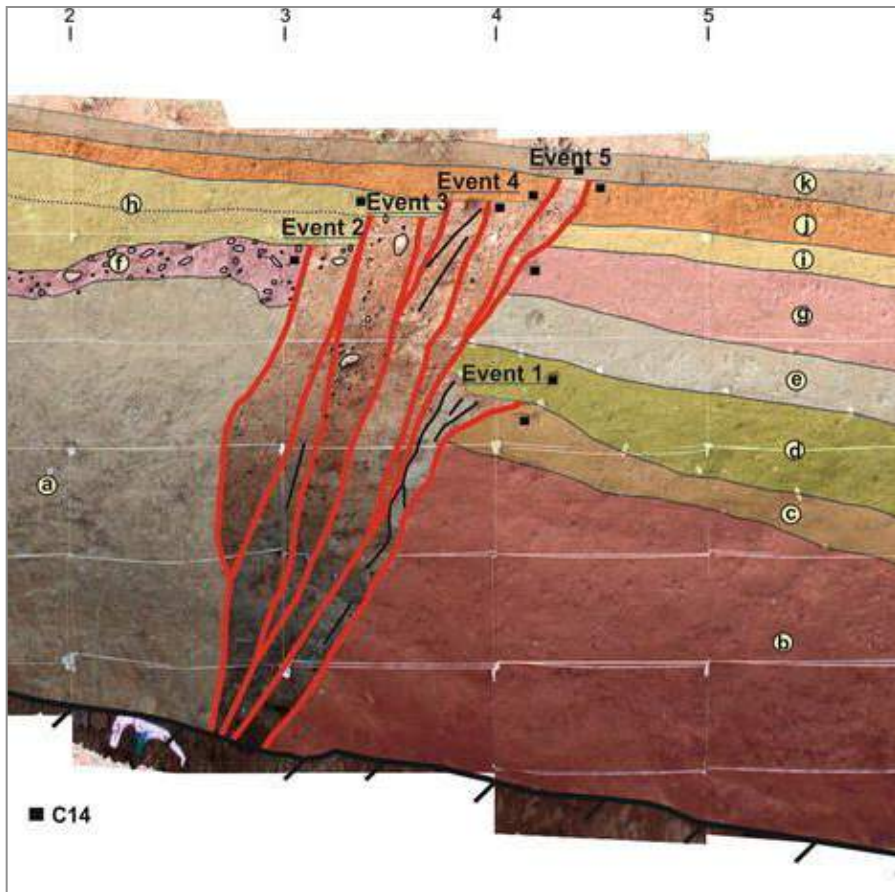


The pitch drop experiment was started in 1927 by Prof. T Parnell in Australia, to demonstrate that some “solid” materials are highly viscous fluids.

Since then, 10 drops went down without witnesses at the right moment; pitch droplets fall on average every  $110 \pm 23$  months.

John Mainstone,  
IgNobel Prize 2005

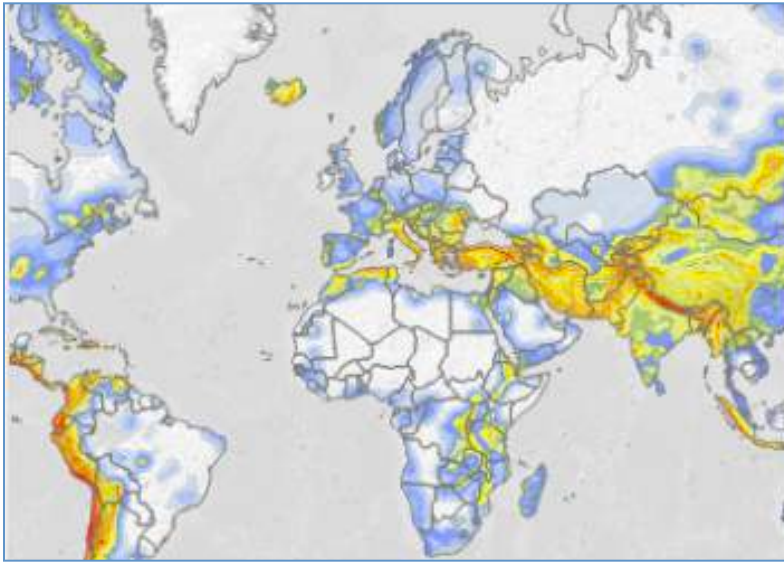
# Predictability



At best, when a fault source is identified at the surface, and the past earthquakes have left a recognizable geologic record dated with some uncertainties, we can forecast the future events similarly to the pitch drop experiment:  
mean recurrence time for most relevant ruptures, and variance of the observations.



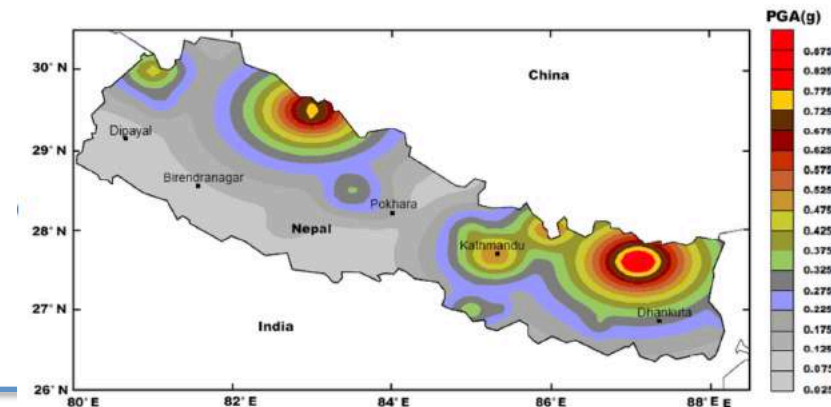
# Predictability



Seismic hazard maps answer the questions:

- 1) **WHAT**
- 2) **WHERE**
- 3) **WHEN\***

Probabilistic and Deterministic hazard maps are long-term forecast of the shakings due to earthquakes



Deterministic seismic hazard map for Nepal in terms of mean PGA.



- Consequences of an imprecise/wrong forecast



- Short-term prediction must rely with the time needed for changes that impact on the communities

# Sumatra, 26 Dec 2004

## 2004 Fall Meeting Search Results

Cite abstracts as **Author(s) (2004), Title, *Eos Trans. AGU*, 85(47), Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract xxxxx-xx**

Your query was:  
**sieh sumatra**

HR: 1340h  
AN: PA23A-1444  
TI: Mitigating the effects of lar  
AU: \* Sieh, K  
EM: sieh@gps.caltech.edu  
AF: California Institute of Tech  
AU: Stebbins, C  
EM: stebbins@caltech.edu  
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AU: Natawidjaja, D H  
EM: danny@geotek.lipi.go.id  
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Indonesia  
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EM: bambang.suwargadi@ge  
AF: Pusat Penelitian Geoteknc  
Indonesia

Paleoseismic studies of corals  
...the failure of subduction  
interface ... the next sequence  
may well be no more than a few  
decades away ...

AB: No giant earthquakes have struck the outer-arc islands of western Sumatra since the sequence of 1797, 1833 and 1861. Paleoseismic studies of coral microatolls reveal that failure of the subduction interface occurs in clusters of such earthquakes about every 230 years. Thus, the next such sequence may well be no more than a few decades away. In the meantime, GPS measurements and paleogeodetic observations show that the islands continue to submerge, dragged down by the downgoing oceanic slab, in preparation for the next failures of the subduction interface. Uplift of the islands and seafloor one to two meters during large events leads to large tsunamis and substantial changes in the coastal environments of the islands, including the seaward retreat of fringing reef, beach and mangrove environments. Having spent a decade characterizing the seismic history of western coastal Sumatra, we are now beginning to work with the inhabitants of the islands and the mainland coast to mitigate the associated hazards. Thus far, we have begun to creat and distribute posters and brochures aimed at educating the islanders about their natural tectonic environment and guiding them in preparing for future large earthquakes and tsunamis. We are also installing a continuous GPS network, in order to monitor ongoing strain accumulation and possible transients.

DE: 6605 Education  
SC: Public Affairs [PA]  
MN: 2004 AGU Fall Meeting



HOME

PROGRAM &  
ABSTRACTS

EXHIBITS

UNION & SECTION  
ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION,  
OUTREACH, &  
CAREERS

NEWS MEDIA

# Haiti, 2010

## Coulomb stress evolution in Northeastern Caribbean over the past 250 years due to coseismic, postseismic and interseismic deformation

Syed Tabrez Ali<sup>1</sup>, Andrew M. Freed<sup>1</sup>, Eric Calais<sup>1</sup>, David M. Manaker<sup>1,†</sup> and William R. McCann<sup>2</sup>

Article first published online: 22 AUG 2008

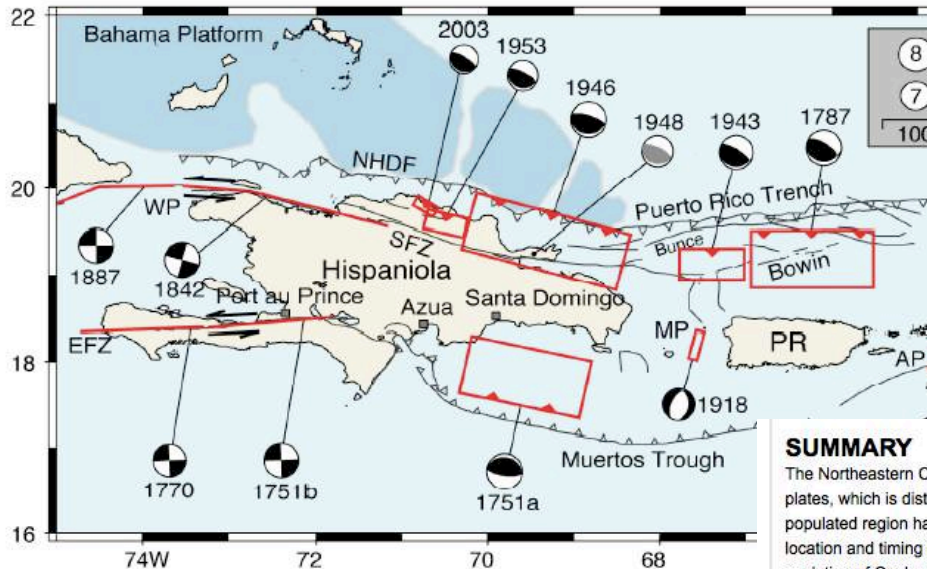
DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-246X.2008.03634.x

Issue



Geophysical Journal International

Volume 174, Issue 3, pages 904–918, September 2008



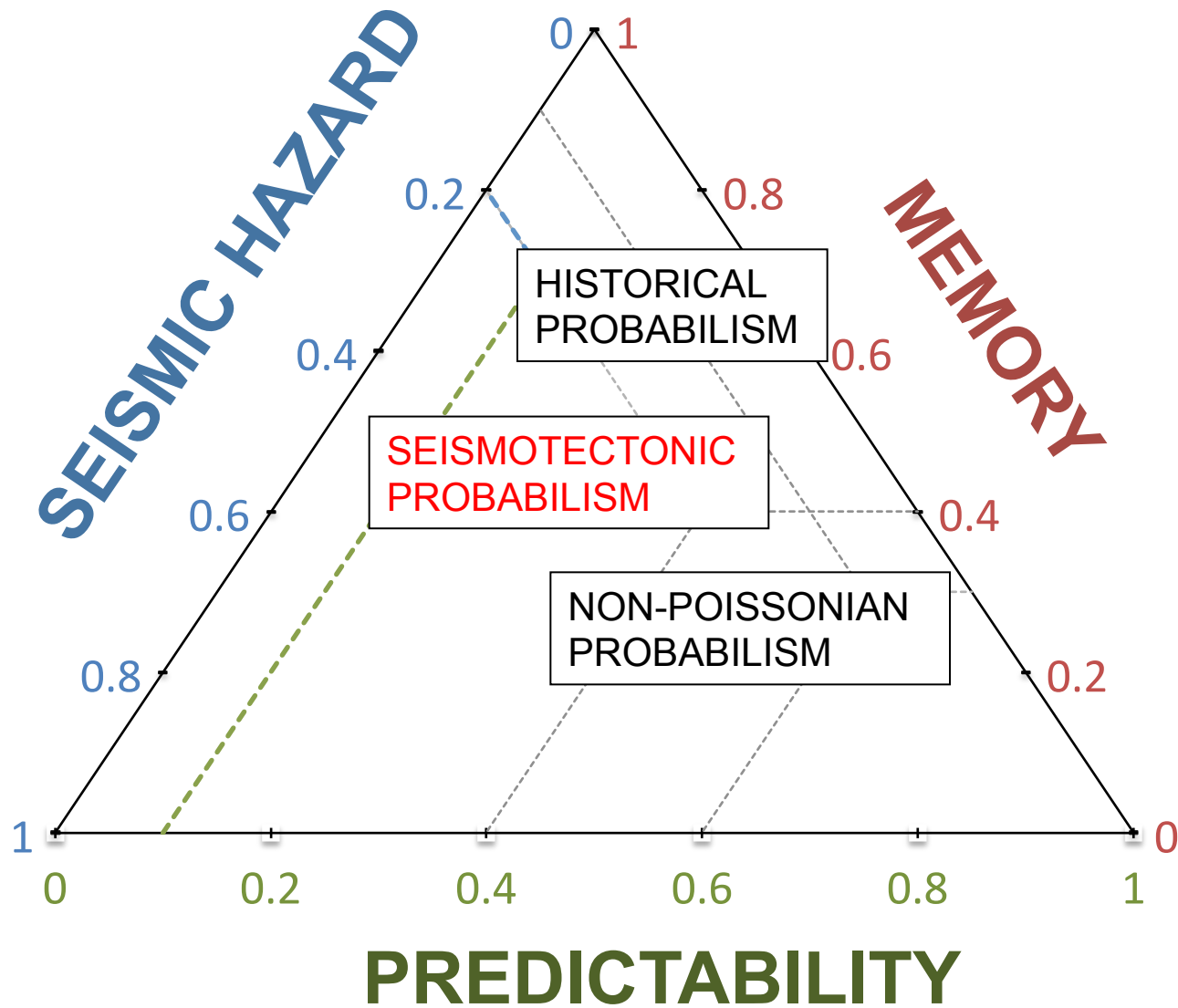
...we observed progressive westwards propagation of earthquakes... net stress build up over the past 250 years is the largest west of 70°.5 W ...

### SUMMARY

The Northeastern Caribbean region accommodates ~20 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> of oblique convergence between the North American and Caribbean plates, which is distributed between the subduction interface and major strike-slip faults within the overriding plate. As a result, this heavily populated region has experienced eleven large ( $M \geq 7.0$ ) earthquakes over the past 250 yr. In an effort to improve our understanding of the location and timing of these earthquakes, with an eye to understand where current seismic hazards may be greatest, we calculate the evolution of Coulomb stress on the major faults since 1751 due to coseismic, postseismic, and interseismic deformation. Our results quantify how earthquakes serve to relieve stress accumulated due to interseismic loading and how fault systems communicate with each other, serving both to advance or retard subsequent events. We find that the observed progressive westwards propagation of earthquakes on the Septentrional and Enriquillo strike-slip faults and along the megathrust was encouraged by coseismic stress changes associated with prior earthquakes. For the strike-slip faults, the loading of adjacent segments was further amplified by postseismic relaxation of a viscoelastic mantle in the decades following each event. Furthermore, earthquakes on the Septentrional fault relieve a small level of Coulomb stress on the parallel Enriquillo fault to the south (and vice versa), perhaps explaining anticorrelated timing of events on these respective fault systems. The greatest net build-up of Coulomb stress changes over the past 250 yr occurs along the central and eastern segment of the Septentrional and the Bowin strike-slip faults (65°–71°W), as no recent earthquake has relieved stress in these regions. For oblique thrust faults, net stress build-up over the past 250 yr is the largest on the North American/Caribbean megathrust west of 70.5°W. High Coulomb stress has also developed east of 65.5°W, where no historic events have been inferred to have relieved stress, though uncertainties in fault slip rates from our block model associated with a lack of GPS observations in this region may have led to an over-estimation of stress changes.

FIG. 1.1: Carte des séismes historiques et récents dans le nord-est Caraïbe. Les zones de rupture sismiques estimées. Les symboles indiquent le type de mouvements sismiques.





# Memory



Flying buttresses  
Assisi, Central Italy

Traditional buildings  
Golcuk, Turkey



# Memory



Traditional buildings  
Golcuk, Turkey



# Memory = Awareness

Alfama, Lisbon August 2015



Venzone, Italy  
Permanent Exhibition  
on 1976  
earthquakes, Special  
labs for the 40  
anniversary





Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale - OGS

## What do youths think 40 years after a strong earthquake



**581\***  
students



**422**  
surveys



**57%**  
10 - 15 years old

What's the main natural hazard in your municipality?



Landslides  
**22%**



Floods  
**16%**



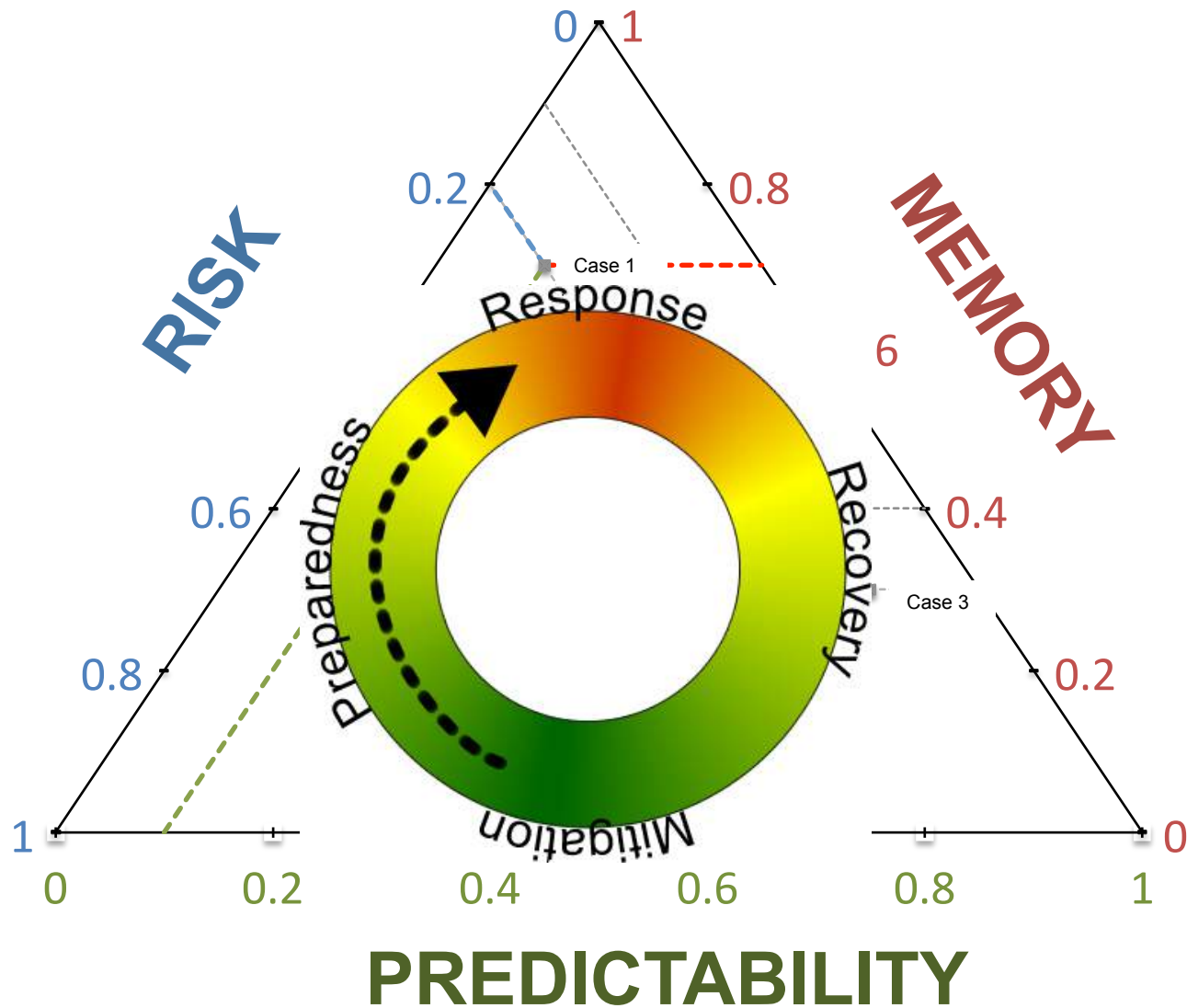
Tsunami  
**4%**



Earthquakes  
**52%**



# Transition toward preparedness



Grazie!

[lperuzza@inogs.it](mailto:lperuzza@inogs.it)