

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Earth and Environmental Science, University of Pennsylvania
Sediment Dynamics Laboratory, 58A Hayden Hall
240 South 33rd Street, Philadelphia
PA 19104-6316, USA
E-mail: behrooz@sas.upenn.edu
Research homepage: <http://behroozf.github.io>
Web profiles: [Google scholar](#), [ResearchGate](#)

**RESEARCH
INTERESTS**

- Earth surface dynamics, sediment transport and fluid-driven/coupled granular matter
 - Fundamental mechanisms of landscape evolution (hillslope creep, slow earthflows and landslides)
 - Fault and rock mechanics and friction, earthquake nucleation and rupture mechanics
 - Computational methods for amorphous and disordered materials: Fluid-coupled Discrete Element Method (CFD-DEM), Molecular Dynamics, Boundary Element Method simulations
 - Mechanics of disordered media, cohesionless and cohesive granular materials
 - Statistical mechanics and nonlinear dynamics applied to granular (Earth) systems
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EDUCATION

ETH, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich, Switzerland

Ph.D. (Dr. sc.), Civil and Environmental Engineering, Jan 2011 - Oct 2014

- Dissertation title: “[Discrete element modeling of triggered slip in faults with granular gouge: application to dynamic earthquake triggering](#)”

Tehran Polytechnic, Iran

M.Sc., Geological Engineering, 2007-2010

University of Guilan, Iran

B.Sc., Civil Engineering, 2003-2007

ACADEMIC COURSE

University of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Earth and Environmental Science, Philadelphia, USA
National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics (NCED), Minneapolis, USA

Postdoctoral fellow at Penn & Synthesis Postdoctoral fellow at NCED

February 2015 - present

- Fluid-driven granular matter, sediment transport, hillslope evolution (advisor: Prof. Doug Jerolmack)
- Stochastic processes of sediment transport (advisors: Profs. Doug J. Jerolmack and Chris Paola)
- Building stratigraphy grain by grain (advisors: Profs. Doug J. Jerolmack and Chris Paola)
- Rock friction, granular mechanics of earthquake fault gouge (advisor: Prof. David L. Goldsby)

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Researcher at Microseismic Industry Consortium

October 2014 - February 2015

- Geomechanical modeling of induced seismicity and triggered failure in granular sandstones
- Hazard assessment of potentially induced seismic activities

ETH, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich, Switzerland

Graduate Student and Research Assistant at Civil and Env. Eng. Dept.

January 2011 - October 2014

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Research Assistant at the Institute for Infrastructure and Environment

September 2010 - January 2011

Tehran Polytechnic, Tehran, Iran

Teaching Assistant

February 2008 - May 2010

ARTICLES IN REVIEW

- B. Ferdowsi, C. P. Ortiz, M. Houssais, D. J. Jerolmack
River-bed armoring as a granular segregation phenomenon
(in review after revision) at Nature Communications, January 2017
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1609.06673>
- B. Ferdowsi, C. P. Ortiz, D. J. Jerolmack
Glassy dynamics explains hillslope evolution
(Submitted) at Science, March 2017
- D. B. Lee, B. Ferdowsi, D. J. Jerolmack
The imprint of vegetation on desert dune dynamics
(Submitted) at Nature, March 2017

PEER-REVIEWED
ARTICLES

8. B. Ferdowsi, M. Griffa, R. A. Guyer, P. A. Johnson, C. Marone and J. Carmeliet.
Acoustically-induced slip in sheared granular layers: application to dynamic earthquake triggering
Geophysical Research Letters, **42**(22), pp. 9750-9757, 2015.
7. B. Ferdowsi, M. Griffa, R. A. Guyer, P. A. Johnson, C. Marone and J. Carmeliet.
3D Discrete Element Modeling of triggered slip in sheared granular media
Physical Review E, **89**(4), pp. 042204(1-12), 2014.
6. B. Ferdowsi, M. Griffa, R. A. Guyer, P. A. Johnson, and J. Carmeliet.
Effect of boundary vibration on the frictional behavior of a dense sheared granular layer
Acta Mechanica, **225**(8), pp. 2227-2237, 2014.
5. P. A. Johnson, B. Ferdowsi, B. Knapthorn, M. M. Scuderi, M. Griffa, J. Carmeliet, R. A. Guyer, P.-Y. Le Bas, D. T. Trugman, and C. Marone.
Acceleration of acoustical emission precursors preceding failure in sheared granular material
Geophysical Research Letters, **40**(21), pp. 5627-5631, 2013.
4. B. Ferdowsi, M. Griffa, R.A. Guyer, P.A. Johnson, C. Marone and J. Carmeliet.
Microslips as precursors of large slip events in the stick-slip dynamics of sheared granular layers: a discrete element model analysis
Geophysical Research Letters, **40**(16), pp. 4194-4198, 2013.
3. M. Griffa, B. Ferdowsi, E. G. Daub, R. A. Guyer, P. A. Johnson, C. Marone and J. Carmeliet
Influence of vibration amplitude on dynamic triggering of slip in sheared granular layers
Physical Review E, **87**(1), pp. 012205(1-12), 2013.
2. M. Griffa, B. Ferdowsi, E. G. Daub, R. A. Guyer, P. A. Johnson, C. Marone and J. Carmeliet
Meso-mechanical analysis of deformation characteristics for dynamically triggered slip in a granular medium
Philosophical Magazine, **92**(28-30), 2012.

MANUSCRIPTS IN
PREPARATION

1. A. Soroush and B. Ferdowsi
Three dimensional discrete element modeling of cyclic undrained behavior of granular media: a micromechanical perspective
Powder Technology, **212**(1), pp. 1-16 , 2011.

- C. P. Ortiz, B. Ferdowsi, D. J. Jerolmack
Nature of the transition from creep to dense rapid flow in sheared frictional granular systems
In preparation for Nature Physics (planned submission: June 2017)
- B. Ferdowsi, D. J. Jerolmack, D. L. Goldsby
A granular perspective on the rate and state frictional behavior of earthquake fault gouge
In preparation for Review of Geophysics (planned submission: April 2017)
- Behrooz Ferdowsi, John D. Gartner, Kerri N. Johnson, Alan Kasprak, Ajay. B. Limaye, Kimberly L. Miller, William Nardin, Alejandra C. Ortiz, Mariela Perignon, Alejandro Tejedor, Chris Paola (equal contributions)
Earthcasting: predicting geomorphic climate of the Earth
In preparation for Earth's Future (planned submission: April 2017)

RESEARCH
FUNDINGS

- Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), Science Collaboration Grant: “Physical controls of spontaneous and triggered slow-slip and stick-slip at the fault gouge scale”; PI: Prof. David Goldsby (Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Penn); Co-I: Behrooz Ferdowsi; in collaboration with Prof. Chris Marone (Dept. of Geosciences, Pennsylvania State University) for experimental observations. (2016, \$25300, approved)

TALKS AND
CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

- March 2017, Princeton, USA - Department of Geosciences, Princeton University. *A unifying framework for slow and fast dynamics deformation and transport in Earth systems* (invited talk)
- December 2016, San Francisco, USA - American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. *Creepy landscapes: the granular origins of soil transport on hillslopes* (talk)
- December 2016, San Francisco, USA - American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. *Nature of transition from jamming to creep and dense flow in granular heaps* (poster)
- December 2016, San Francisco, USA - American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. *Insights on landscape dynamics from tiny spheres in oil, or: How I learned to stop worrying and love the lab* (talk by Prof. Jerolmack)
- September 2016, Palm Springs (CA), USA - Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) Annual Meeting, *Physical controls of spontaneous and triggered slow-slip and stick-slip at the fault gouge scale* (poster)
- July 2016, Stonehill College, Easton (MA), USA - Gordon Research Conference and Seminar: Particulate Systems in Science and Technology. *Granular segregation in an experimental river* (GRC poster, GRS talk)
- June 2016, Université Pierre-et-Marie-Curie, Paris, France - 31st edition of the Conference on Mathematical Geophysics (CMG). *Creepy landscapes: the origins and consequences of sub-threshold transport* (invited talk given by Prof. Jerolmack)
- May 2016, USGS National Center, Reston (VA), USA - 2016 River & Regolith Erosion and Deposition Summit (Amtrak club): Amtrak Soil to Sea Meeting. *Creepy landscapes: the granular origins of soil*

transport on hillslopes (presentation)

— December 2015, San Francisco, USA - American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. *Granular controls of hillslope deformation and creep* (poster)

— December 2015, San Francisco, USA - American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. *From surface to subsurface and back again: the contribution of subsurface particle motion to surface armoring* (Invited talk)

— December 2015, San Francisco, USA - American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. *Controls on Dune Deformation Patterns in White Sands, New Mexico* (2nd contributor to a poster by Dylan Lee, PhD student at PennSeD)

— September 2015, Palm Springs (CA), USA - Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) Annual Meeting. *The granular origins of rate and state friction behavior of fault gouge* (poster)

— June 2015, Clark University, Worcester (MA), USA - 13th Annual Northeastern Granular Materials Workshop. *Segregation dynamics in fluid-driven annular couette flow: contribution of subsurface processes to surface armoring in an idealized riverbed* (poster)

— May 2015, University of Delaware, USA - 2015 River & Regolith Erosion and Deposition Summit (Amtrak club): Amtrak Soil to Sea Meeting. *From surface to subsurface and back again: the contribution of subsurface particle motion to surface armoring* (poster)

— January 2015, University of Alberta (Exploration Seismology, Department of Physics, Dr. Mirko van der Baan), Canada. *Geomechanical modeling of induced seismicity* (presentation by Behrooz)

— May 2014, Université du Maine (Group of acoustics and mechanics of materials, Lead by Dr. Vincent Tournat), France. *Acoustically-induced unjamming and slip triggering in sheared granular layers* (presentation by Behrooz)

— November 2013, Yale University (School of Engineering and Applied Science, The O'Hern group), USA. *DEM modeling of slip triggering in a sheared granular layer* (presentation by Behrooz)

— November 2013, Pennsylvania State University (Department of Geosciences), USA. Dynamic Triggering of Earthquakes, a seminar organized by Dr. P. A. Johnson (LANL) and Prof. C. Marone (Penn State). *DEM of a sheared beadpack* (presentation by Behrooz)

— June 2013, Ascona, Switzerland - The 18th International Conference of Nonlinear Elasticity of Materials. *MD simulation of slip triggering in sheared granular layers by boundary vibration* (presentation by Behrooz)

— February 2013, Les Houches, France - The 2nd winter school on "Materials Deformation: Fluctuations, Scaling, Predictability. *3D MD modeling of slip triggering in sheared granular layers by means of boundary vibration* (poster by Behrooz)

— October 2012, Bayreuth, Germany (University of Bayreuth) - The 17th Fall Seminar on Nonlinear dynamics. *How vibration changes the spontaneous stick-slip dynamics of a sheared granular layer* (poster by Behrooz)

— August 2012, Lausanne, Switzerland (EPFL) - CCMX Summer school on Multi scale modeling of materials. *Evolution of recurrence time and energy release during spontaneous and perturbed stick-slip dynamics of a granular layer* (presentation by Behrooz)

— July 2012, Graz, Austria (TU Graz) - The 8th European Solid Mechanics Conference. *How external vibration affects stick-slip dynamics in sheared granular layers: the micro- and meso-mechanics of dynamic*

earthquake triggering (presentation by Behrooz)

— June 2012, Cefalù, Italy - The 17th International Conference on Nonlinear Elasticity in Materials. *3D molecular dynamics simulations of triggering of slip in stick-slipping, sheared granular media by means of external vibration: learned lessons for dynamic earthquake triggering* (presentation by Behrooz)

— April 2012, Vienna, Austria - European Geoscience Union (EGU) General Assembly Conference. *Meso-scale analysis of deformation patterns for dynamically triggered slip in sheared granular layers* (presentation by Dr. Griffa)

— January 2012, Les Houches, France - Winter school on "Materials Deformation: Fluctuations, Scaling, Predictability. *Deformation pattern and evolution of the internal structure of granular media during stick-slip dynamics: micromechanics of dynamic earthquake triggering* (poster by Behrooz)

— December 2011, Enschede, Netherlands (University of Twente) - invited by the Multi-Scale Mechanics (MSM) group. *Stick-slip and anisotropy of granular structure* (talk by Behrooz)

— June 2011, Cairns, Australia - Instabilities Across the Scales III. *Granular stick-slip and the micromechanics of dynamic earthquake triggering* (invited talk given by Prof. Carmeliet)

— May 2011, Kowloon, Hong Kong (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) - The 14th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. *Study of the cyclic constant volume loading of the granular media from micromechanical aspects: effects of confining pressure and cyclic strain amplitude*

— August 2010, London, UK (Queen Mary University of London) - The 5th International Conference on Discrete Element Method. *Effect of gradation on the constant volume cyclic behavior of granular media*

— November 2009, Barcelona, Spain (Technical University of Catalonia; UPC) - Particles 2009. *Three dimensional discrete element modeling of undrained monotonic and cyclic response of granular media*

HONORS AND AWARDS

- My PhD dissertation was nominated for ETH medal (ETH-Medaille) (2014).
- Award for best contribution, The 18th International Conference on Nonlinear Elasticity in Materials, Ascona (Centro Stefano Franscini of ETH Zurich) in Switzerland, June 9-14, 2013. [CSF Awards 2013](#); [photo](#)
- Scholarship from Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) for attending the 17th Fall Seminar on Nonlinear Dynamics at the University of Bayreuth, October 7-10, 2012.
- Scholarship for attending the Les Houches (France) winter school on Materials Deformation: Fluctuations, Scaling, Predictability, 22-27 January 2012.
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) fellowship for PhD studies at ETH Zürich (2011-2014)
- 3 years fellowship for PhD studies at the University of Edinburgh (Marie Curie (EU) fellowship) (2010-2013) - Declined
- TA/RA fellowship for PhD studies at the University of Minnesota (2010-)
- 4 years fellowship for PhD studies at the University of Southern California (2010-2014) - Declined

SELECTED SERVICE

- Reviewer for:
 - National Science Foundation (USA) - Geomorphology and Land-use Dynamics,
 - Army Research Office | U.S. Army Research Laboratory,
 - Nature Geoscience, Scientific Reports, Journal of Geophysical Research - Earth Surface,

Journal of Geophysical Research - Solid Earth, International Journal of Solids and Structures,
Powder Technology

— Lecturer, Summer Institute for Earth-surface Dynamics (2015, 2016).

PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS

— Regular member, Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), 2015-present
— Regular member, American Geophysical Union AGU, 2015-present
— Synthesis postdoctoral fellow, National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics, 2015-present
— Regular member, Swiss Geological Society, 2013-2015

REFERENCES

Available upon request