

# Gabriele Albertini, PhD

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## Education

Cornell University

8/2016 – 5/2021    Doctor of Philosophy in Structural Engineering with minors in Computational Science and Engineering, and Solid Mechanics

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – EPFL (Switzerland)

9/2014 – 6/2016    Master of Science in Civil Engineering

9/2011 – 6/2014    Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

University of New South Wales – UNSW Sydney (Australia)

8/2013 – 8/2014    Undergraduate Exchange Program

## Research Experience

Cornell University

1/2016 – 5/2021    **Doctoral Research Assistant**, *Advisor*: Prof. David S. Kammer  
Numerical and theoretical study of dynamic fracture of heterogeneous materials. I developed dynamic rupture simulations that showed quantitative agreement with friction experiments over the entire range of possible rupture speeds. This demonstrated that frictional rupture fronts are classic dynamic cracks despite residual friction. In a different numerical study, I investigated the effect of elastic heterogeneity on the propagation speed of frictional ruptures. I showed that reflected waves lead to abrupt changes of rupture speed.

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule – ETH Zürich (Switzerland)

9/2019 – 5/2021    **Visiting Researcher**, *Advisor*: Prof. David S. Kammer  
Theoretical and numerical study of nucleation of slip fronts at frictional interfaces with random strength profiles. I showed that the effective strength increases with smaller correlation length.

Sorbonne Université (France)

9/2018 – 1/2019    **Visiting Researcher**, *Advisor*: Dr. Laurent Ponson  
Experimental study of dynamic fracture of heterogeneous materials. Our model system is made of multi-material 3D-printed polymers. I used Digital Image Correlation to study the crack dynamics. I showed that the crack instantaneously adjusts its speed as it enters a region with contrasting fracture energy.

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – EPFL

9/2014 – 1/2015    **Master Student Researcher**, *Advisor*: Prof. Christian Louter  
Experimental study of ultimate flexural strength of post-tensioned steel reinforced glass beams.

## Research Interests

Solid Mechanics, Fracture Mechanics, Friction, Mechanics and Physics of Earthquakes, Mechanical Metamaterials, Heterogeneous Media, Nonlinear Physics, Non-equilibrium Statistical Mechanics, Scientific Computing, High Performance Computing

## Grants & Awards

2020 Early Postdoc.Mobility Fellowship of the Swiss National Science Foundation for the duration of 18 months. Host institute: Bertoldi Lab at Harvard University. Starting date: June 2021.

2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for Oral Presentation. Tenth Annual Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Research Symposium. Cornell University.

2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Oral Presentation. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Research Symposium. Cornell University.

## Publications

### Refereed Journals

- 8 Kammer, D.S., Albertini, G. and Ke, C.Y., (2021), “UGUCA: a spectral-boundary-integral method for modeling fracture and friction”, *under review*.
- 7 Albertini, G., Elbanna, A.E. and Kammer, D.S., (2021), “A three-dimensional hybrid finite element – spectral boundary integral method for modeling earthquakes in complex unbounded domains”, *under review*. [arXiv:2102.08756](https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.08756) [[math.NA](#)]
- 6 Albertini, G., Lebihain, M., Hild, F. Ponson, L. and Kammer, D.S., (2021), “Effective toughness of periodic heterogeneous materials: the role of rate-dependent fracture energy”, *under review*. [arXiv:2003.13805](https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.13805) [[cond-mat.soft](#)]
- 5 Schär, S., Albertini, G. and Kammer, D. S., (2021), “Nucleation of frictional sliding by coalescence of microslip”, **International Journal of Solids and Structures** 220, 111059. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijsolstr.2021.111059>
- 4 Albertini, G., Karrer, S., Grigoriu, M. D. and Kammer, D. S., (2021), “Stochastic Properties of Static Friction”, **Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids** 147, 104242. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmps.2020.104242>
- 3 Svetlizky, I.\*, Albertini, G.\*, Cohen, G., Kammer, D.S. and Fineberg, J., (2020), “Dynamic fields at the tip of sub-Rayleigh and supershear frictional rupture fronts”, **Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids** 137, 103826. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmps.2019.103826>  
\*Equally contributing first authors
- 2 Ma, X., Hajarolasvadi, S., Albertini, G., Kammer, D.S., Elbanna, A.E., (2019), “Modeling Infinity: A Hybrid Finite Element - Spectral Boundary Integral Approach: Application to 3D dynamic earthquake fault ruptures”, **International Journal for Numerical and Analytical Methods in Geomechanics** 43, 1, 317-338. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nag.2865>
- 1 Albertini, G., Kammer, D.S., (2017), “Off-fault heterogeneities promote supershear transition of dynamic mode II cracks”, **Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth** 122, 2017JB014301. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2017JB014301>

### Work in Progress

- 1 Albertini, G., Ke, C.Y., G. McLaskey and Kammer, D.S., “Dynamic reactivation of laboratory-generated earthquakes”, *under preparation*.

## Presentations at Conferences and Workshops

(presenter underlined>

- 2020 Albertini, G., Lebihain, M., Hild, F. Ponson, L. and Kammer, D.S., “Effective toughness of heterogeneous materials with rate-dependent fracture energy”. *Society of Engineering Science (SES) 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Meeting*. September 29 - October 1, 2020, virtual meeting.
- 2019 Albertini, G., Lebihain, M., Hild, F. Ponson, L. and Kammer, D.S., “Effective toughness of periodic heterogeneous materials: the role of rate-dependent fracture energy”. *Society of Engineering Science (SES) 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Meeting*. October 13-15, 2019, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2018 Albertini, G. and Kammer, D.S., “Properties of Three Dimensional Supershear Mode II Ruptures”, *Workshop: MEchanics and Physics of STretchable Objects (MEPHiSTO)*. August 7-17, 2018, Cargese, France.
- 2018 Albertini, G. and Kammer, D.S., “Properties of Three Dimensional Supershear Mode II Ruptures”, *18<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Congress for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (USNCTAM)*. June 4-9, 2018, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2017 Albertini, G. and Kammer, D.S., “Propagation Speed Instability in Rapid Mode II Fracture in Heterogeneous Media”, *Society of Engineering Science (SES) 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Meeting*. July 25-28, 2017, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2016 Albertini, G. and Kammer, D.S., “Supershear transition of dynamic mode II fracture in heterogeneous elastic media”, *Society of Engineering Science (SES) 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Technical Meeting*. October 2-5, 2016, College Park, Maryland.

## Publicly available open-source software

- 1 uguca (2021), Kammer, D.S., Albertini, G. and Ke, C.Y.  
An open-source code for modeling fracture and friction with the spectral-boundary-integral method.  
<https://gitlab.com/uguca> (v0.9)

## Mentoring

Master Theses (co-supervised with Prof. David S. Kammer)

Spring 2017     Thibault Roch, Civil Engineering, Cornell University

Semester Projects (co-supervised with Prof. David S. Kammer)

Spring 2020     Styfen Schär, Civil Engineering, ETH Zürich

Fall 2019       Simon Karrer, Civil Engineering, ETH Zürich

## Teaching Experience

Cornell University

- Spring 2021     Differential Equations for Engineers (MATH 2930) – TA (66 students)  
Taught weekly discussion sections and designed worksheets and in-class activities.
- Fall 2020       Geotechnical Engineering for Energy, Environment and Civil Infrastructure (CEE 3410)  
– Teaching Assistant (TA) (37 students)  
Designed and executed laboratory demonstrations. Homework and exam preparation and grading.
- Spring 2020     Introduction to the Behavior of Steel Structures (CEE 4740) – TA (30 students)  
Designed in-class activities and homework.

- Spring 2019 Differential Equations for Engineers (MATH 2930) – TA (61 students)  
Taught weekly discussion sections and designed worksheets and in-class activities.
- Spring 2018 Differential Equations for Engineers (MATH 2930) – TA (101 students)  
Taught weekly discussion sections and designed worksheets and in-class activities.

## École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – EPFL

- Fall 2015 Geotechnics and Rock Mechanics (Master) – TA  
Taught weekly discussion section
- Spring 2013 Mathematics and Geometry (Undergraduate) – TA  
Taught weekly discussion section
- Spring 2012 Mathematics and Geometry (Undergraduate) – TA  
Taught weekly discussion section

## Industry Experience

- Summer 2015 Engineer Intern at AF-Consult Switzerland AG. Project: Nant de Drance Pumped Storage Power Plant. Local site management.
- Summer 2014 Engineer Intern at Repower AG. Project: Renovation of Silvaplana Hydro Power Plant. Feasibility Study.

## University Service

- 2017 – 2018 Treasurer of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEE GSA), Cornell University. Managed the yearly budget dedicated to events and activities organized by the CEE GSA, including the Graduate Student Research Symposium and academic talks by professors of the CEE department and invited speakers.

## Professional Memberships

Society of Engineering Science (SES)

## Languages

Italian (native), English (fluent), French (fluent) & German (fluent)

## Technical Skills

Programming

Python, Matlab, C, C++, MPI, OpenMP

Numerical Modeling Methods

Finite Element Method, Spectral Boundary Integral Method, Cohesive Element Model for Fracture

Experimental Methods

Experimental Fracture Mechanics, Integrated Digital Image Correlation, Signal Processing

Last updated: May 11, 2021