

## CV – Luca Dal Zilio

Institute of Geophysics, Department of Earth Sciences, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

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Research IDs: [Google Scholar](#) [ORCID](#) [Research Gate](#)

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- **Senior Scientist and Lecturer** Sep 2021 – present  
ETH Zürich, Switzerland  
Group leader of Computational Earthquake Physics
- **Cecil and Sally Drinkward Fellow in Geophysics and Solid Mechanics** Feb 2019 – Aug 2021  
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena  
Advisors: Prof. Nadia Lapusta, Prof. Jean-Philippe Avouac

### EDUCATION

- **PhD in Geophysics** (*with distinction*), ETH Zürich, Switzerland Feb 2015 – Jan 2019  
Advisor: Prof. Taras Gerya  
*Cross-Scale Modeling of Mountain Building and the Seismic Cycle: From Alps to Himalaya*
- **MSc in Geophysics** (*cum laude*), University of Padova, Italy Oct 2012 – Oct 2014  
Advisors: Prof. Manuele Faccenda, Prof. Fabio Capitanio  
*Subduction-induced break-up and drifting of continental plates*
- **BSc in Geophysics**, University of Padova, Italy Sep 2009 – Jul 2012  
Advisor: Prof. Giulio Di Toro

### VISITING

- Visiting researcher, Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) (3 weeks) 1/2018
- Visiting researcher, École Normale Supérieure (ENS), Paris, France (3 weeks/2x) 6/2017; 7/2018

### FUNDED PROJECTS

- USGS Earthquake Physics Research proposal (co-PI, main writer) 2020
- Postdoc Mobility fellowship, Swiss National Science Foundation (PI, sole proposal writer) 2020
- Early Postdoc Mobility fellowship, Swiss National Science Foundation (PI, sole proposal writer) 2019
- SINERGIA AlpArray, 1-yr-ext. PhD, Swiss National Science Foundation (sole proposal writer) 2017
- SINERGIA AlpArray, 3-yr PhD proposal, Swiss National Science Foundation (collaborative proposal) 2015

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Early career Giorgio Dal Piaz award from the Italian Geological Society 2020
- Silver Medal from ETH Zürich for outstanding doctoral thesis 2020
- Best overall poster presentation at SCEE annual meeting, Palm Springs, California 2019
- Cecil and Sally Drinkward Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow, Caltech (PI, sole proposal writer) 2019
- Springer Nature Thesis [Award](#) 2019
- EGU best annual [Blog Article](#) 2018
- EGU Outstanding Student Poster [Award](#) 2018
- Best Geostory award by [Nature Geoscience journal](#) 2018
- Nominated by ETH Zürich for the [Global Young Scientists Summit 2018](#), Singapore 2018
- Invited keynote speaker at TEDx Event – [Earthquakes: prediction or prevention?](#) 2017

### SUPPORTS

- Full GeoHost support for the “36th International Geological Congress (IGC)”, New Delhi, India 2020
- Full travel support for the “CIG Crustal Deformation Modeling Workshop”, Golden, Colorado 2019
- Full travel support for the Workshop “Modeling Earthquake Source Processes”, Caltech 2018
- Full travel support for the “Global Young Scientists Summit 2018”, Singapore 2018
- Cineca High Performance Computing, 50k hours, MSc thesis project (co-PI) 2014
- Travel grant by European Geosciences Union (EGU) Summer School 2013 2013

## PUBLICATIONS

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Peer-Reviewed Articles (\*students primary advised):

1. Michel, S., Jolivet, R., Rollins, C. Jara, J., and **Dal Zilio, L.** (2021). Seismogenic potential of the Main Himalayan Thrust constrained by coupling segmentation and earthquake scaling. *Geophysical Research Letters*, [doi](#)
2. **Dal Zilio, L.**, Hetényi, G., Hubbard, J., & Bollinger, L. (2021). Building the Himalaya from tectonic to earthquake scales. *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment*, 2(4), 251-268, [doi](#)
3. **Dal Zilio, L.**, Ruh, J., Avouac, J-P. (2020). Structural evolution of orogenic wedges: interplay between erosion and weak décollements. *Tectonics*, 39(10), [doi](#)
4. **Dal Zilio, L.**, Kissling, E., Gerya, T., and van Dinther, Y. (2020). Slab Rollback Orogeny Model: A Test of Concept. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47(18), [doi](#)
5. D'Acquisto, M.\*, **Dal Zilio, L.**, van Dinther, Y., Kissling, E., and Gerya, T. (2020) Tectonics and seismicity in the Northern Apennines driven by slab retreat and crustal delamination. *Tectonophysics*, [doi](#)
6. **Dal Zilio, L.**, Lapusta, N., Avouac, J-P. (2020). Unraveling scaling properties of slow-slip events. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47(10), [doi](#)
7. **Dal Zilio, L.**, Jolivet, R., and van Dinther, Y. (2020). Segmentation of the Main Himalayan Thrust Illuminated by Bayesian Inference of Interseismic Coupling. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47 [doi](#)
8. **Dal Zilio, L.**, van Dinther, Y., Gerya, T., Avouac, J.-P. (2019) Bimodal seismicity in the Himalaya controlled by fault friction and geometry. *Nature Communications*, [doi](#)
9. **Dal Zilio, L.** (2018). Subduction-driven Earth machine. *Nature Geoscience (News and Views), Retrospective*, 11, 229, [doi](#)
10. **Dal Zilio, L.**, van Dinther, Y., and Gerya, T. V., (2018). Seismic behaviour of mountain belts controlled by plate convergence rate. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*. 482, 81-92, [doi](#)
11. **Dal Zilio, L.**, Faccenda, M., and Capitanio, F. A., (2018). The role of deep subduction in supercontinent breakup. *Tectonophysics*, [doi](#)
12. Ficini, E.\*, **Dal Zilio, L.**, Doglioni, C., and Gerya, T. V., (2017). Horizontal mantle flow controls subduction dynamics. *Scientific Reports* 7, [doi](#)
13. Faccenda, M., and **Dal Zilio, L.**, (2017). The role of solid-solid phase transitions in mantle convection. *Lithos* 268, 198-224, [doi](#)
14. Meyzen, C.M., Massironi, M., Pozzobon. R., and **Dal Zilio, L.**, (2015). Are plumes on motionless plates analogues to Martian plume feeding the giant shield volcanoes? - Volcanism and Tectonism Across the Inner Solar System, *Geological Society of London*. v. 401, [doi](#)

**In review / submitted / preparation:**

1. Brizzi, S., Becker, T. W., Faccenna, C., van Zelst, I., **Dal Zilio, L.**, van Dinther, Y., (2021). The role of sediment subduction and buoyancy on subduction dynamics and geometry. (*in review*).
2. **Dal Zilio, L.**, Lapusta, N., Avouac, J.-P., Gerya, T. (2021). Subduction earthquake cycles in a nonlinear visco-elasto-plastic megathrust. (*submitted*).

## SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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- AGU Fall Meeting (online) (2020) – *Unrevealing scaling properties of slow-slip events*.
- Italian Geological Society, Annual Meeting (2020) – Giorgio Dal Piaz Award Lecture.
- 106th National Congress of the Italian Physical Society (2020): *Exploring slow-slip events and their scaling*.
- JpGU Joint Meeting, Chiba, Japan (2020) – *Episodic fluid pressure cycling controls slow-slip events*.
- 36th Int. Geological Congress, Delhi, India (2020) – *Anatomy of the Main Himalayan Thrust*.
- Southern California Earthquake Center, Pomona, CA (2020) – *Slip complexity on faults with heterogeneous friction*.
- CIG Modeling Workshop, Golden, Colorado (2019) – *The influence of tectonics on seismicity of mountain belts*.
- AGU Fall Meeting, Washington D.C. (2018) – *Slab Rollback Orogeny Model: A test-of-concept*.
- First AlpArray Meeting, Zürich, Switzerland (2018). *Modeling mountain building across the scales*.

## STUDENTS

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|---|----------------|
| • Betti Hegyi (PhD student co-supervisor, ETH Zürich)                             | 2021 – present |
| • Antonio Lisotti (MSc thesis co-supervisor, Parma University, Italy)             | 2021 – present |
| • Alessandro Favaroni (MSc thesis co-supervisor, Uni-Pisa, Italy)                 | 2021 – present |
| • Julian Stypulkowski (MSc thesis co-supervisor, ETH Zürich)                      | 2018           |
| • Mario D'Acquisto (MSc thesis supervisor, Alp-Array project, ETH Zürich)         | 2018           |
| • Eleonora Ficini (MSc thesis and PhD co-supervisor, Sapienza University of Rome) | 2015 – 2018    |

## TEACHING

- Continuum Mechanics (Caltech, MSc level), Teaching Assistant and Lecturer 2020
- Fracture Mechanics and Frictional Faulting (Caltech, MSc level), Guest Lecturer 2020
- Introduction to Structural Geology (Caltech, BSc level), Teaching Assistant 2020
- Numerical Modeling (ETH Zürich, MSc level), Teaching Assistant 2018
- Seismotectonics (ETH Zürich, MSc level), Guest Lecturer 2017
- Geophysical Field Lab (ETH Zürich, BSc level), Teaching Assistant 2016 – 2017

## SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

- Editorial board, *Nature Communications Earth and Environment* 2020 – present
- Associate Editor, *Tectonics* 2020 – present
- Topic Editor, *Frontiers in Earth Science* (Solid Earth Geophysics) 2019 – present
- **Judge** for Outstanding Student Poster Awards at AGU and EGU 2019 – present
- **Consulting** (Seismic Risk Assessment) for *UNICEF*, *Swiss Embassy in Nepal* 2018 – 2019
- Book Reviewer: *Times Higher Education (THE)*
- Journal Reviewer: *Nature Geoscience*, *Science Advances*, *Nature Communications*, *Geophysical Research Letters*, *JGR: Solid Earth*, *Tectonics*, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, *Scientific Reports*, *Tectonophysics*, *Earth-Science Reviews*, *Terra Nova*, *EGU Solid Earth*, *Geophysical Journal International*, *Journal of Geodynamics*
- **Active memberships:** European Geosciences Union (EGU); American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- **International conference chair and (co-)convener:**
- [AGU-2019](#) / [EGU-2020](#) / [EGU-2021](#): Seismic and aseismic slip on seismogenic faults
- [AGU-2020](#): The role of fluids in aseismic and seismic slip on faults
- [AGU-2019](#): Cross-scale and multi-scale building of the Himalaya
- [EGU-2019](#): Integrated approaches to bridge long-term tectonics and earthquake cycles
- [EGU-2018](#): The Interplay between earthquakes, the seismic cycle and long-term deformation

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- Detaching and uplifting, not bulldozing **ETH News** ([link](#)).
- Geodetic Data Pinpoint Earthquake-Prone Regions of the Himalayas, **EOS** ([link](#)).
- Slow moving fault pieces may limit large Himalayan quakes, **Temblor** ([link](#)).
- Coming together, splitting apart, **The Higher Education** ([link](#)).
- Why massive earthquakes menace the Himalayas, **Nature Highlights** ([link](#)).
- Devastating quakes are priming the Himalaya for a mega-disaster, **National Geographic** ([link](#)).
- Waiting for the complete rupture, **ETH News** ([link](#)).
- Why earthquakes in the Himalaya are bigger than in the Alps, **EurekAlert** ([link](#)).
- Faster tectonic-plate collisions spell bigger earthquakes, **Nature Highlights** ([link](#)).
- Why are some earthquakes so much worse than others? **International Business Times** ([link](#)).

## RECENT MEETING PRESENTATIONS

- **Dal Zilio, L.**, Lapusta, N., Avouac, J., and Gerya, T. (2021). Modeling sequences of seismic and aseismic deformation in a nonlinear viscoelastic megathrust. SCEC Presentation (poster).
- **Dal Zilio, L.** and Gerya, T. (2021) *Episodic fluid pressure cycling controls earthquake sequences on subduction megathrusts*. EGU meeting (online) (oral).
- **Dal Zilio, L.** and Gerya, T. (2021) *Episodic fluid pressure cycling controls earthquake sequences on subduction megathrusts*. EGU meeting (online) (oral).
- **Dal Zilio, L.**, Lapusta, N., and Avouac, J.P. (2020). *Exploring slow slip events and their scaling in 3D simulations of fault slip*. Southern California Earthquake Center annual meeting, Palm Springs (poster).
- **Dal Zilio, L.**, Li, M., van Dinther, Y., and Pranger, C. (2020). *Towards simulating sequences of seismic and aseismic slip across scales: Initial benchmarks and future directions*. EGU meeting (online) (oral).
- **Dal Zilio, L.**, Ruh, J., and Avouac, J.P. (2019). *Long-term building of the Himalaya due to migrating mid-crustal ramps coupled with erosion*. AGU meeting, San Francisco (poster).
- **Dal Zilio, L.**, Lapusta, N., and Avouac, J.P. (2019). *Exploring slow slip events and their scaling in 3D simulations of fault slip*. Southern California Earthquake Center annual meeting, Palm Springs (poster).
- **Dal Zilio, L.**, Kissling, E., and Gerya, T. (2019). *Cross-scale modeling of Slab Rollback Orogeny Model: The Central Alps case* EGU meeting, Vienna (oral).