School of Earth and Environmental Sciences Fall 2025 Colloquium Series

Zoom ID: 843 0287 5858

Passcode: 672323

Wednesday, Nov 26th, 2025 12:15 PM -1:30 PM Science Building C-207

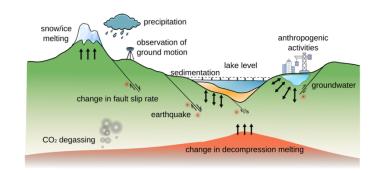
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Beneath and Beyond: Influence of Surface Processes on Crustal Deformation

From California's Central Valley to the rift lakes of East Africa, climate-driven hydrological loading can influence crustal deformation. In this talk, I will discuss how rainfall, erosion, and sedimentation affect the deformation of the crust across timescales ranging from seasonal to geologic. Seasonal hydrological loading could modulate earthquake rates, while glacial—interglacial lake-level fluctuations may alter fault slip and mantle melting. Over millions of years, climate-

controlled erosion and sedimentation reshape the structure and orientation of continental rifts. By integrating geodynamic, landscape-evolution, and seismic models, this research highlights the coupled evolution of climate and



tectonics and their combined role in shaping Earth's dynamic system.