

EINLADUNG ZUM GASTVORTRAG

im Rahmen des Forschungsseminars (Doktoratsstudium) SS 2008

am MONTAG, 14. APRIL 2008, 17.00 UHR

INSTITUT FÜR GEOGRAPHIE UND REGIONALFORSCHUNG
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MULTIPLE OCCURANCE REGIONAL LANDSLIDE EVENTS AS A FORMATIVE GEOMORPHIC PROCESS

Mass movement can be shown to be the dominant geomorphic process in many parts of New Zealand. Of particular importance are episodes of extensive slope failure associated with intense rainfall and seismic triggers. Mass movement response to triggers such as these can be localised, but is more often regional in its extent, reflecting the spatial distribution of the triggering energy. These events are common, occurring somewhere in New Zealand several times a year. They are an integral component of the medium- to long-term regional sediment flux, and they are important for medium- to long-term landscape development. Clearly, mass movement produces morphological change at local scales, and cumulatively they also make a contribution to broader landform development in many parts of New Zealand. Their significance can be assessed from the extent to which the landscape shows the imprint of these phenomena. Variation in the extent of this imprint over time and space may be an important indicator of changing environmental and geomorphic boundary conditions.

Dr Preston is a lecturer in the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. His research has focused on topics ranging from landscape responses to long-term agricultural activity in western Germany, slope-channel connectivity and spatial distribution of stream power in Australia, to investigating the role of erosionally mobilised inorganic and organic carbon within New Zealand's carbon cycle. Current research relates to the response of geomorphic systems to human impacts, and in particular to the erosion-prone transformed landscapes of New Zealand's hill country. He is chair of the IGBP-PAGES Land Use and Climatic Impacts on Fluvial Systems (LUCIFS) network.