

**Carina Fearnley from University
College London, UK – Semester 2
2017**



*Carina looking at the Tsunami Safe Zone line
in Wellington*

**Where you have come from and what do
you teach?**

I work at University College London, in the department of Science and Technology Studies. I teach in two key areas that are interdisciplinary. First in natural hazards, particularly focused on disaster risk reduction and early warning systems for geological hazards, specifically volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. The second area of my teaching is in the field of Science and Technology Studies, which brings together philosophy, history, and sociology. My particular area of focus is on science communication and public engagement, and the management and communication of risk and uncertainty.

**What interested you in the Erskine
Programme/why did you want to come
to UC?**

The Erskine Programme provides a fantastic opportunity to share and exchange teaching practices and pedagogy with the Department of Geological Sciences, particularly within the first year Geohazards module, and the Masters of Disaster Risk and Resilience Programme. The Department and hazard team has an extraordinary reputation for running highly successful workshops and real-world simulation exercises, both as an educational tool, but also in a professional and research capacity. The Fellowship provides the opportunity to see how these events are run and will help inform such simulations back in the UK, as part of international teaching exercises I conduct with Bournemouth University Disaster Management Centre. The Programme also provides the opportunity to foster new relationships with Masters, PhD, and staff within the Department, alongside the wonderful additional benefit of developing new research opportunities with staff across the university. Finally, I have developed a number of links, collaborations, and friendships with disaster researchers and practitioners across New Zealand so the opportunity to be able to build on these, and enjoy some breaks to enjoy the stunning New Zealand landscape was too good to ignore!

What have you been doing at UC?

I have been teaching volcanology and volcano risk management on the Geohazards first year undergraduate module, and also running a simulation of a United Nations workshop focused on deciding mitigation strategies for the megacity of Tokyo. I was also involved in an Alpine Fault earthquake simulation workshop as part of this module, covering

teaching relating to how the mining sector may be impacted.

I have also taught students on the Masters of Disaster Risk and Resilience programme about my latest research, and contributed to a simulation exercise on a tsunami generated in Chile impacting Christchurch. This was done in collaboration Journalism students at UC.

I have also been involved in a number of supervision meetings for both Masters, MDRR, and PhD students, and in meetings reviewing the Geohazards module and the Master of Disaster Risk and Resilience for future years. I attended the Canterbury University Group for Ashfall Research (CoUGAR) research meetings, giving insights and tips on how to conduct interdisciplinary work. I presented my recent art/science research project titled 'Walking the Sound: Beside the Ocean of Time' to the Department of Geography and Geological Sciences, and will be giving a Geological Sciences Departmental seminar titled 'Why are advanced tsunami mitigation systems more prone to malfunction?' on 13th September.

During my time at UC I attended a 'Science in a Post-Truth Era' workshop in Lincoln organised by The New Zealand Institute of Agricultural & Horticultural Science, and visited the GNS office in Lower Hutt to discuss the latest research on early warning systems for natural hazards. I also had the wonderful opportunity to partake in a simulation exercise with Selwyn Council focused on an Alpine Fault earthquake, seeing disaster preparedness in the making.

What have you most enjoyed about your time here at UC/Christchurch?

Tough question as it is the range and diversity of experiences that have made the fellowship so much fun, and I have my host Associate Professor Tom Wilson to thank for my amazing time at UC. I have particularly enjoyed engaging with UC staff and students, fostering new ideas and sharing good practices. Scoping out new research opportunities and planning the return trip with collaborators has also been great fun, and I am delighted that a publication I authored with GNS staff on New Zealand's volcano alert levels was published whilst I was here. I always enjoy visiting the beautiful landscape and people of New Zealand and it has been great to see and learn more about the recovery of Christchurch since 2010 and the enormous progress made since my last visit in 2013. On a personal level I have also become hooked on the fantastic Zumba classes offered at the UC Recreational Centre too! All round a thoroughly rewarding experience, thanks to everyone for making it possible and being so welcoming.



Pretending to be the Duty Officer at Selwyn County Council in the Alpine Fault simulation exercise.