



Hello NHERI GSC!

Thank you to everyone who attended our NSF NHERI GSC General Meeting on January 16, 2026. We were honored to host Mohsen Zaker Esteghamati, PhD, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Utah State University who serves as the Seismic Resiliency Lead of the Utah Earthquake Engineering Research Center (UEEC). He received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech, where he also served as a Postdoctoral Associate, and holds MS degrees in Statistics and Structural Engineering. His research interests include risk-based assessment of engineering systems, generative performance-based design, and the integration of digital and physical infrastructure. He is actively involved in ASCE, SEI, and EERI committees and currently serves as co-chair of SEI's Risk Assessment and Decision-Making Task Committee. During the meeting, Dr. Esteghamati presented "Explainable Machine Learning Models to Accelerate Performance-Based Design of Structural Systems."

Below you will find the minutes from the meeting:

Announcements:

- Members are encouraged to connect with the NHERI group on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/ngsc/.
- Members interested in getting involved were invited to contact Diako Abbasi or Utkuhan Genc.
- Register to attend Mini-Conference: bit.ly/2026NHERIGSC_Mini-Conference.
- Abstract submission has been extended! Submit your Mini-Conference poster abstract by January 31, 2026: bit.ly/2026NHERIGSC_Mini-ConferenceAbstract. Selected posters will be featured in the 2026 NHERI GSC Mini-Conference Book of Proceedings, published on DesignSafe DataDepot.
- Learn more at the website: <https://designsafe-ci.org/learning-center/nheri-graduate-student-council/mini-conference-2026/>.

Conference opportunities:

Conference	Dates	Abstract
APPAM: Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	November 13-15, 2025	Closed*
SRA: Society of Risk Analysis Conference	December 7-11, 2025	Closed*
YCSEC: Young Coastal Scientist and Engineers Conference	April 2026	Closed*
Geotechnical Frontiers Conference	March 9-12, 2026	Closed*
	March 17-21, 2026	

AAG: 2025 American Association of Geographers		Closed*
ANNSIM: Annual Modeling & Simulation Conference	May 4-7, 2026	Closed*
ACWE: 16th Americas Conference for Wind Engineering	Not announced yet	Closed*
EMI: ASCE Engineering Mechanics Institute	June 2-5, 2026	Closed*
Natural Hazards Workshop & Researcher's Meeting	June 14-17, 2026	February 6, 2026
IWSHM: International Workshop on Structural Health Monitoring	July 7-10, 2026	Closed*
ASA: American Sociological Association	August 7-11, 2026	February 25, 2026
*Conferences that are closed are open for registration, but abstract submission is closed.		

- **Today's Speaker:**

Thank you, Dr. Mohsen Esteghamati, for sharing your expert and knowledgeable presentation. A recording of this presentation can be found on our website in the coming days (<https://www.designsafe-ci.org/learning-center/nheri-graduate-student-council/explore/meetings/>).

Contact details of our speakers:

Dr. Mohsen Esteghamati
Assistant Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Utah State University
mohsen.zaker@usu.edu

- The Coastal Engineering Subcommittee hosted a presentation by Dr. Tim Leijnse. Thank you to all who attended our Coastal Engineering RSR Meeting on January 16, 2026. In the meeting, Dr. Tim Leijnse, a coastal engineering researcher at Delft presented his work on compound flooding, highlighting how the interaction of storm surge, waves, and river discharge can significantly amplify coastal flood risk. He discussed how his numerical model, SFINCS, performs very well in predicting storm surge with good accuracy while maintaining short computational times, making it well suited for rapid forecasting and hazard assessment.
- Next month's meeting will be on Friday, February 20, 2026.

Welcome to New Members:

Seyed Pejman Fatehi

Luis Ceferino

Ali Ahmadi

J. Ramon Gaxiola-Camacho

Juan Miguel Valois Martinez	Jana Olivo	Nophi Ian Biton	Sanjeev Bhatta
Mohamed Shehata	Alok Kumer Saha	Elham Shokrgozar	Kexun Li
Godwin Tutu Ofosu	Raffaele Cucuzza	Vivian Powell	Rahul Das
Priata Rani Saha	Sagar Shrestha	Godfred Ababio	Ali Khodam
Ajaya Pyakurel	Ajay Bhattarai	Chenhao Wu	Cuong Pham
Jichuan Tang	Alan Ghafoor	Shubham Sharma Gyawali	Ahmed Mohamed
Nima Shokrollahi	Iraj Soltani	Jainish Maheshbhai Patel	Avishek Ghosh
Christopher Joa Chi Lang	Mohammad Movahhed		

Standing Committee Leadership and Contacts

Standing Committee	Chair & Vice-Chair	Contact
Workshop & Mentoring	Alireza Mirghafouri	alirezamirghafouri@gmail.com
Community Engagement	Rajee Tamrakar	rajee.tamrakar@siu.edu
Research	Pooria Mazaheri	mazaheri@IASTATE.EDU
	Zul Kazeem	azk15@case.edu
Networking & Community	Matt Van	mlvan@udel.edu
Membership	Diako Abbasi	dabbasi@umd.edu
	Utkuhan Genc	Ugenc@purdue.edu
Social Media & Outreach	Estovio Timothy	estovioo@gmail.com

Research Subcommittee Representatives and Contacts

Research Subcommittee	Representative	Contact
Coastal Engineering	Sadegh Nouri	msnouri@udel.edu
Earthquake Engineering	Unfilled- Contact Pooria Mazaheri, if interested.	Unfilled- Contact Pooria Mazaheri, if interested (mazaheri@IASTATE.EDU)
Geotechnical Engineering	Mohamed Hassan	mhasa9@lsu.edu
Reconnaissance	Unfilled- Contact Pooria Mazaheri, if interested.	Unfilled- Contact Pooria Mazaheri, if interested (mazaheri@IASTATE.EDU)

Simulation & Computational Methods	Mohammad Movahedi	eng.mohammadmovahedi@gmail.com
Social Science	Najiba Rashid	rashidna@oregonstate.edu
Wind Engineering	Arezoo Bakhshizadeh	ab22cd@fsu.edu

Attendance taken via zoom:

Meselhe, Amina E	Danial Golbaz	Narayan Kumar
Sadegh Nouri	arimal	Gloria Hyun
read.ai meeting notes	Zul	Ryan Brenner (he/him)
Jana Olivo	Mohamed Shehata	Jordan Nakayama
Utkuhan Genc (he/him)	Sarbesh Banjara	Avishek Ghosh
Brenna Derby	Syed Asif	Gwyneth Nolde
Zul Kazeem	Jaideep's Notetaker (Otter.ai)	Arezoo Bakhshizadeh
Nafeezat Ajenifuja	Estovio Timothy	manisha
Laura Luna	Destiny Howell	jyevuy1
Shailaja's Notetaker (Otter.ai)	Mohammad Movahhed	David's Notetaker (Otter.ai)
Jaril Deschamps	Ravindu Jayasekara	Mostafa Sameer
Denise Chavez Reyes	Ehsan Ahmadi Afzadi	Aayush Shrestha
mmovahhe	Fouad Elazaka	Mohsen Zaker Esteghamati
Parisa Toofani Movaghar	Daniel Yahya	Fireflies.ai Notetaker Laura
read.ai meeting notes	Rashid, Najiba	Bahar
Sagar Shrestha	Varun Singh	Diako Abbasi
leijnse	Samsung SM-S921B	Shova Rani (2004117_Shova Rani)
Safoora Safari	Saba Faghirnejad	Javier Robles Camacho
anamika malla	Iraj Soltani	Wesam Mohamed
Omar Abdallah	ajibo	Jaideep's Notetaker (Otter.ai)
Matthew Van	ahmed A. Ewis Mohamed	Robin Nelson
Juan Valois	mazaheri	Samir Nepal
Avishek Ghosh	Christopher Kolade	
	Alegbeleye	

Best,
Samir Nepal
Research Assistant
Texas A & M University
Vice Secretary of NSF NHERI GSC