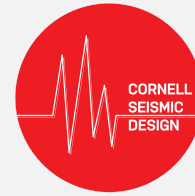


FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM



Visit to Cornell University: May 05, 2021

This report summarizes the visit of **Ezra Jampole** from Exponent, Inc. that took place at Cornell University on May 05, 2021.

ITINERARY OR AGENDA

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Ezra Jampole's Lecture –Legal and Insurance Disputes in Earthquake Engineering (Virtual)

STUDENT CHAPTER VISIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

LEAD ORGANIZER(S): Anita Zhang, Team Lead, yz626@cornell.edu

Nicolas Martinez, Seismology Lead, nxm3@cornell.edu

VISITING PROFESSIONAL LECTURE OVERVIEW

This lecture began with an introduction to the many opportunities available for younger members to EERI, including the Younger Members Committee, the Learning From Earthquakes program, and many others. Then, Dr. Jampole discussed the various legal and insurance disputes that can arise during construction and after an earthquake. Three different real-life scenarios were presented, and attendees answered questions posed by Dr. Jampole and asked many questions as well. This presentation was attended mostly by undergraduates within Cornell's civil engineering program, and many attendees expressed interest in the topics covered throughout the presentation.

Lecture Abstract

In an ideal world, an engineer's involvement in a structure would end after construction is finished. But the reality is that many structures are subject to costly litigation or arbitration because of allegations of inadequate design or performance. Additionally, when a structure is subjected to extreme loading such as from an earthquake, insurance disputes arise regarding the source of damage and if the damage was caused by the earthquake, and who is responsible. This talk will review the types of legal disputes that structural engineers can

find themselves in and how expert witnesses are used to sort through the issues and provide independent opinions. Several case studies on earthquake engineering disputes will be discussed, including: alleged reduction in the earthquake-resisting capacity of a building because of water intrusion; distinguishing between damage caused by earthquakes and caused by other actions following a large earthquake, the alleged insufficient earthquake resistant design of transportation infrastructure in a high-seismic zone, and more.

Professional Bio

Dr. Ezra Jampole visited Cornell University as part of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program.

Dr. Jampole is a managing engineer at Exponent in New York City. He specializes in risk analysis and performance of structures subjected to extreme loads such as earthquakes, wind, and flood events. He has served as a consultant on projects assessing the origin of damage to structures following natural disasters, adjacent construction incidents, corrosion and deterioration, settlement, and long-term issues. He has substantial experience investigating the engineering standard of care for complex energy and infrastructure projects.

Dr. Jampole also currently serves as an adjunct professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he teaches a graduate course on structural dynamics and researches high-performance concrete materials. He is extensively involved in the EERI through their Learning from Earthquakes Program and Younger Members Committee.

RESULTS, FEEDBACK AND LESSONS LEARNED

We had a very good response from everyone who attended the event. Dr. Jampole's lecture provided valuable insight into many of the challenges that can occur when designing a structure, and the challenges that come with trying to understand who is at fault when structural damage occurs due to earthquakes. Everyone who attended the event expressed interest in learning even more about this topic and other topics within the field of earthquake engineering in the future.

One of the challenges with this visit was coordination with attendees, faculty members, and others to find a time that worked well for everyone. Having this lecture in the last two weeks of class caused many students to be busy with work, which made the turnout lower than desired. In the future, we will try to plan this lecture for a quieter time during the semester. This was also Cornell University's first year hosting a Friedman Family Visiting Professional, so many organizational lessons were learned.

In the future, we intend to apply for this program again, and to host guest lectures throughout the year. Topics we are interested in include more about legal and insurance disputes, design of earthquake-resistant structures, and post-earthquake reconnaissance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Cornell University EERI Student Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of the Friedman Family for sponsoring the visit of Ezra Jampole through their Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program endowment.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Included at the end of this report are various attachments to supplement the information included above. A list of the attachments is included below:

- Event Flyer

Cornell Seismic Design invites you to...



EERI VISITING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

with **Ezra Jampole, Ph.D., P.E**

- Legal and insurance disputes in earthquake engineering
- Case studies on earthquake-resisting capacity, damage causes, various parties' legal responsibilities, and more

May 5, 2021
4:00-5:30 P.M. EST

**REGISTER
HERE**

OR
[Zoom Link](#)

