We are seeking applicants for two funded PhD positions to begin in September 2019 in Rennes (France). Application at the postdoc level is possible. The students/post-docs will contribute to a newly funded 5-years ERC (European Research Council) project aiming at understanding the role of extreme events on landscape dynamics.

Two subjects:
1) The first subject aims at better understanding the mechanics of landslide triggering and reactivation and to better monitor landslide 3D geometry. This project will involve numerical modelling, remote sensing with Lidar and SFM data and some field work [Advisors: Philippe Steer (Univ. Rennes), Dimitri Lague (CNRS / Rennes) and Harsha Bhat (CNRS / ENS Paris)].
2) The second subject aims at better understanding the relationships between bedrock fracturing, grain-size distribution and erosion efficiency. This project will involve remote sensing with Lidar and SFM data, numerical and/or experimental modelling and some field work [Advisors: Philippe Steer (Univ. Rennes) and Dimitri Lague (CNRS / Rennes)].

Candidates: Candidates are expected to be trained in Earth Sciences and/or in (Geo)physics with preferably a solid background in Geomorphology, Rock Mechanics, Numerical Modelling and Remote Sensing. Ability to work in an international environment, to communicate and to write scientific papers are expected. Although prior knowledge of French is not mandatory, spoken and written English proficiency is needed. Candidates will be part of an international and dynamic group of early career scientists in a team including geomorphologists, hydro(-geo)logists, geophysicists and geochemists working on surface and subsurface processes.

Rennes and its University: As the capital of Brittany, Rennes is the beating heart of the regional economy. Boasting international reach, Rennes is the largest higher education centre in the north west of France, with 66,000 students. Working closely with businesses and with over 5,000 researchers, this ecosystem fuels high-level research and innovation. Just 90 minutes from Paris and under an hour from both Saint-Malo and bay of Mont Saint-Michel, Rennes is famous for being a lively city. Ranked as best French city for quality of life by a European study, Rennes is reputed for its rich cultural calendar, the diversity of its heritage, its contemporary art programme and its vibrant student scene.

How to apply? Please contact me (philippe.steer@univ-rennes1.fr) if you are interested or if you want more details about these projects.