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Tal Feinstein, Ph.D., P.E.

Managing Engineer | Civil and Structural Engineering
New York
tfeinstein@exponent.com

Professional Profile

Dr. Tal Feinstein specializes in earthquake engineering, structural dynamics, and structural analysis. Her expertise extends to structure failures, construction defects, design errors and code compliance issues, spanning both domestic and international disputes. Dr. Feinstein also has experience evaluating the engineering standard of care for large-scale energy and infrastructure projects, having developed numerous expert reports for use in international arbitration and domestic litigation cases.

Dr. Feinstein has experience in a variety of structural laboratory testing methods, including quasi-static cyclic testing and large-scale shaking table testing. She received her Ph.D. at UC Berkeley, where she developed nonlinear analysis methods to evaluate flexible-rocking structures under seismic loading. Her doctoral research focused on seismic design of anchored floor-mounted nonstructural components, including shaking table tests at the PEER shaking table in Richmond, CA and at the NARlabs shaking table in Tainan, Taiwan. Her M.S. thesis from Ben Gurion University involved assessment of pipe-soil interaction based on large deformation analysis. She has also worked as a structural design engineer on steel bridges and concrete structures at Rokach & Ashkenazi Consulting Engineers, LTD.

Dr. Feinstein currently serves as an adjunct professor at San Francisco State University, where she teaches a graduate level course on bridge design. She is also the chair of the Seismology Committee of Structural Engineering Association of Northern California (SEAONC). Dr. Feinstein's involvement in the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) includes acting as a board member of the Northern California chapter and participating in the 2019 Learning from Earthquakes Travel Study Program in New Zealand.

Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

Ph.D., Civil Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, 2021

M.S., Mechanical Engineering, Ben Gurion University, 2016

B.S., Structural Engineering, Ben Gurion University, 2014

Licenses and Certifications

Professional Engineer, California, #94832

Professional Engineer, Connecticut, ##PEN.0038389

Professional Engineer, Michigan, #6201313242

Professional Engineer, New York, #112425

Prior Experience

Structural Design Engineer, Rokach & Ashkenazi consulting engineers LTD, Israel, 2014-2015

Research officer and team leader, Israel Intelligence Force, 2005-2010

Professional Affiliations

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC)

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI)

Provisions Update Committee (PUC) for the 2026 NEHRP (Corresponding Member)

Journal of Structural Engineering and Journal of Earthquake Engineering (Reviewer)

Publications

Feinstein, T. Moehle, J.P. (2022) “Seismic response of nonstructural components fastened with yielding elements”, Journal of Structural Engineering. https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)ST.1943-541X.0003496.

Feinstein, T, Moehle, JP. Seismic response of floor-anchored nonstructural components fastened with yielding elements. Earthquake Engng Struct Dyn. 2021; 1– 19. https://doi.org/10.1002/eqe.3553

Feinstein T, Moehle J.P., Mahin S.A. (2018). Anchored nonstructural component response to seismic loading - shaking table tests report. Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center, University of California, Berkeley, SEMM, 5.

Feinstein, T. Moehle, J. (2021) "Shaking-Table tests of idealized nonstructural component fastened with yielding elements", in Experimental Seismic Performance of Nonstructural Components Fastened with Ductile Elements. DesignSafe-CI. https://doi.org/10.17603/ds2-xg94-ds51

Feinstein T, Jack P. Moehle. (2020). Experimental Seismic Performance of Nonstructural Components Fastened with Ductile Elements, Proceedings of the 17th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Sendai, Japan.

Feinstein T, Jack P. Moehle. (2019). Dynamic Behavior of Anchored Nonstructural Component Connected Via Yielding Elements, Proceedings of the International Conference in Commemoration of 20th Anniversary of the 1999 Chi-Chi Earthquake, Taipei, Taiwan.

Feinstein T, Mahin S. (2018). Experimental Performance of Floor Mounted Nonstructural Components Under Seismic Loading. Proceedings of the 11th National Conference in Earthquake Engineering, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Feinstein T, Mahin S. (2018). Shake Table Tests to Evaluate Seismic Performance of Floor Mounted Nonstructural Components. Proceedings of the 16th European Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Trapper, P.A., Feinstein, T. and Gindis, M., Numerical Modelling of Submarine Landslides and Their Consequences on Offshore Infrastructure. In AAPG Geoscience Technology Workshop.

Invited Seminars

SFSU Invited Seminar – “Seismic Performance of Floor-Mounted Nonstructural Components”, San

Francisco State University, November 2021

SEAONC Seismology Committee - “Seismic Behavior of Anchored Equipment”, Structural Engineers Association of North California Seismology Committee meeting, October 2021

ASCE/SEI SF Webinar - “Nonstructural Components' Influence on Seismic Force Demand and Dynamic Response”, Structural Engineering Institute San Francisco, September 2021

OSU EERI Invited Talk - "Dynamic response of Anchored Equipment connected via ductile connections", University of Oregon State, February 2021

International Symposium on Construction, Strengthening of Structures and Seismic Engineering - "Research into Seismic Demands on Floor-Anchored Nonstructural Components", Simposio Internacional de Construcción, Refuerzo de Estructuras e Ingeniería Sísmica, Santiago, Chile, October 2020

NHERI/E-Defense research collaboration meeting Seminar - "Recommendations for Improved Seismic Performance of Nonstructural Components", Kobe, Japan, December 2019

NHERI/E-Defense research collaboration meeting - "Nonstructural components Collaboration Ideas", Tokyo, Japan, November 2017

National Cheng-Kung University seminar series - "Seismic Behavior of Anchored Equipment", Tainan, Taiwan, November 2017

Conference Presentations

17WCEE – “Experimental Seismic Performance of Nonstructural Components Fastened with Ductile Elements”, 17th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Sendai, Japan, September 2021

NEC2020 - "Lessons from the 2019 LFE program focused on socioeconomic aspects of community engagement", NEC2020 & EERI Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 2020

Chichi20 - "Dynamic Behavior of Anchored Nonstructural Component Connected Via Yielding Elements", International Conference in Commemoration of 20th Anniversary of the 1999 Chi-Chi Earthquake, Taipei, Taiwan, September 2019

11NCEE - "Experimental Performance of Floor Mounted Nonstructural Components Under Seismic Loading", 11 National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Los Angeles, CA, June 2018

16ECEE - "Shake Table Tests to Evaluate Seismic Performance of Floor Mounted Nonstructural Components", 16 European Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2018

Additional Education & Training

NHERI RAPID Intensive Equipment Training Workshop, 2021

Learning from Earthquakes Study Program in New Zealand, 2019

ATC- 20 Post-Earthquake Safety Assessment of Buildings Training