

## MSc or BSc Thesis: Russian Roulette on Everest?

Overcrowding, along with inexperience, has been blamed for this year's death toll, with "traffic jams" at the summit forcing climbers to wait in line, their precious stores of oxygen ebbing lower with each passing minute. Yet, accounting for the ballooning number of climbers, death rate has been falling on long term and 2019 is predicted as one of the safest years. How does this fit together?



Figure 1. Climbers waiting in line to summit Everest in 2019 ([www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au))

When, how and at what altitude do climbers die?

How likely are climbers to summit and who are these climbers?

Is climate change affecting death rates on high mountain expeditions?

Are you are interested such questions? If you answer yes, this is the thesis for you!

There exists some amount of scientific literature related to high-altitude health and medicine. Yet, the link to **natural hazards** and if they change over time remains unexplored. The thesis project aims to systematically explore incidents during high altitude mountaineering in the Himalayas associated with natural hazards, such as **rock fall, avalanches, storms** using expedition archives provided in the "Himalayan Database". The database covers all expeditions from 1905 through 2018 to more than 465 significant peaks in Nepal. Beside interest and enthusiasm about mountaineering, skills in statistical modelling, preferably in R, is required.

Interested? Contact Christian Mohr ([cmohr@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:cmohr@uni-potsdam.de))