After a seven year absence, returning to Christchurch, New Zealand, was startling, a return to a devastated city. An earthquake and subsequent aftershock in 2010/11 shook the city to its core, destroying life, iconic landmarks and the Central Business District. Nationally New Zealand changed as well, moving from a socially progressive platform back to a conservative neo-Liberal government policy regime. During my sabbatical leave in spring of 2012 I researched the connection between the natural physical earthquake and the social, economic, political and psychological quakes experienced by the people of the Canterbury region. As a geographer I will share the complex intersection between a natural hazard and neo-liberal policy using Christchurch as the case study.