The manuscript represents an original contribution to the scientific discussion on the M= 7.1, Messina, 1908 earthquake, occurred in the Messina Strait area. It was the worst catastrophic seismic event occurred in Italy and the scientific discussion is still very lively, as far as the assessment of the seismic source and the definition of the causative fault. This point could contribute to the knowledge of the seismic hazard of that area, therefore has a real significance as far as possible consequences on people living in the area, on industrial activity and on infrastructures. Moreover, the project of a ~3 km-long bridge across the Strait, connecting Reggio Calabria and Messina, is back on the table of the Italian national government, with all the scientific studies concerning the definition of seismic vulnerability of the project.

The manuscript carries out a logical analysis on the available data on the vertical movements inferred for both cost lines before the earthquake, by analyzing levelling and tidal gauges published data. The Author cites most of the previous papers published on this subject and particularly on the vertical costal movements inferred from levelling and tidal gauges data. He critically analyzed different conclusions and data available and made his own considerations giving a possible interpretations of the vertical movements before the earthquake.

The paper is concise and very well written and clear to understand.

I am here asking if it is possible to have the Author's interpretation concerning the features of the causative fault of the earthquake based on the results of this short communication, if he can contribute to the scientific debate by adding some consequences of his analysis in terms of assessment of the causative fault of the Messina earthquake.

In other terms, if he could add something to this sentence "As a conclusion, it can be definitely stated that no hypothesis of significant vertical movement preceding the 1908 earthquake can be considered reliable and, in turn, fault models relying on this assumption cannot be considered acceptable."