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Water Innovation
& Research
Centre



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Upcoming events

GW4 WSA [Cardiff Water Research Institute](#)'s early-career group is organising its fourth **Documentary Discussion** 'There's something in the water' Environmental and Climate Justice | **10th December 2020** | 17:00 - 18:30 GMT to [register](#).

from across the world. The conference was held virtually via Zoom and was the best-attended annual conference to date.

The conference featured high profile speakers including Kala Vairavamoorthy of the [International Water Association](#), Steve Kaye of [UK Water Industry Research](#), and John Pomeroy of [Global Water Futures Canada](#). These national and international connections are increasingly important in developing new research collaborations and opening accessing to more diverse funding streams.

If you missed any of the sessions, or would like to revisit them, recordings will be made available publicly on the GW4 WSA website in the near future, and all those signed up to the GW4 WSA newsletter will be informed as soon as they are published online. You can also review the headline takeaways from the conference in the form of illustrations, which are ready to access on the website's homepage: <https://www.gw4water.com/>.

[EPSRC impact session for Early Career Researchers: how to embed impact in your proposal](#)

8th December, 9-10 am

The EPSRC will host an informal and interactive workshop on impact with a focus on peer learning and sharing of knowledge. It will also be an opportunity to discuss with senior impact staff at EPSRC how to embed impact in your research proposal. It is primarily aimed at researchers based at Bath working in engineering and physical sciences research areas.

To register please complete the [registration form](#) by Friday 4th December. If you have any questions, please contact Ana Amelia Alvarez Serra aas35@bath.ac.uk

[WIRC colloquium series](#)

The second instalment of the WIRC water colloquia series took place on 19th November. Prof Arben Merkoçi, ICREA Professor at ICN2, presented, 'Nanobiosensors for environment diagnostics.' The event was well attended, and Prof Merkoçi's talk generated a stimulating and lively discussion.

graduate Dr Paul Bayle. Details, including registration information, will be disseminated in due course.

We have reserved slots in February and April for internal speakers. If you would like to present at our series, please get in touch with Stuart Bennett: sb2454@bath.ac.uk. The webinar could feature just one presentation, or a handful of smaller presentations from a group. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your work to our community.

Grant clinics

If you have a research idea you would like to develop into a grant proposal, or you if are already working on a proposal and would like to do some fine tuning before submitting it, please contact Stuart Bennett (sb2454@bath.ac.uk) to organise a grant clinic. Our last two clinics received positive feedback from the participants, who have said that they provide an invaluable opportunity to gather expert opinion prior to submitting a funding bid.

Call for volunteers: World Water Day 2021

22nd March 2021 is World Water Day, and to mark it WIRC will be organising an event to showcase some of our research to our local community. If you would like to help organise this event, please contact Stuart Bennett (sb2454@bath.ac.uk) or Tom Arnot (t.c.arnot@bath.ac.uk) to register your interest.

Research

International conference on Acoustics in the Arctic Ocean chaired by Philippe Blondel

Philippe Blondel (Physics) chaired the first international conference on Arctic Acoustic Environments, 11-12 November 2020. Held virtually and repeated over two time zones (Asia and Eastern Europe, followed with Western



intensive presentations and discussions.



[WRC COVID-19 Water Surveillance Programme](#)

Work on Covid-19 and waste water epidemiology continues at Bath with both a national and international impact. The South African Water Research Commission (WRC) has released [this infographic](#) to highlight their ongoing *COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance* programme. The programme, which involves WIRC's Barbara Kasprzyk-Hordern, is used to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in South African communities. The WRC's unique multiplier strategy enables it to use the strengths of its wide partner network to ensure greater impact of its programmes and as such the organization partners and collaborates with government departments, municipalities, laboratories and universities.

[Towards a zero-pollution strategy](#)

Water pollution has been on the political agenda for a very long time. It started in 1960s with a focus on organic loads from wastewater discharges, leading to implementation of wastewater treatment systems to prevent oxygen depletion in rivers. Later, targets for nitrogen and phosphorus levels were added. Urban wastewater discharges are regulated in the European Union since 1991 (Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, 91/271/EEC). Since the 1990s, analytical capabilities started to develop rapidly, leading to the discovery of organic micropollutants in surface waters in low concentration. This led to further regulations for surface water quality through the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (2008/105/EC). This led to a mechanism for setting up watch lists for monitoring priority substances to facilitate environmental risk analysis.

Over the years it has become very clear that the presence of water pollution is extremely important for public health and health of ecosystems. Presence of water pollution directly relates to biodiversity, drinking water quality and for

regulations, which showed that they are mostly fit for purpose but that some adaptations by some updates for micropollutants and putting the regulations in a framework of circular economy concepts are necessary.

The next step in regulations that now has kicked-off is the development of zero-pollution strategies. This is part of the European Green Deal, a programme to overcome the existential challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. The EC is currently developing a zero-pollution action strategy that includes a focus on water. After the on-going public consultation rounds, the action plan will be finalised and presented in the early summer, during the Green Week 2021.

Water Europe, the European water stakeholder platform, is currently developing a new white paper on water pollution. This white paper will give an overview of current state-of-knowledge on water pollution. Furthermore, knowledge gaps will be identified to articulate new research questions to feed into the Horizon Europe programme. Also, policy recommendation will be to the EC on behalf of the European water sector. **Prof Jan Hofman** ([leading Water Europe's working group on Urban Water Pollution](#)) and **Prof Barbara Kasprzyk-Hordern** of [WIRC](#) are both involved in the process of developing the white paper. This is a great opportunity to have influence on policy development and creating impact with our research on a European level. A draft of the white paper is expected by the end of the year.

Blog

[The COP26 Universities Network](#)

The University of Bath is a member of [The COP26 Universities Network](#), a growing group of more than 40 UK-based universities working together to raise ambition for tangible outcomes from the [UN COP26 Climate Change Conference](#), to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021. The Network will create lasting partnerships and legacies that reach beyond this single event.

Recent publications

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Acoustics, Blondel, P, Dell, B & Suriyaprakasam, C

- ['Adjusting Organic Load as a Strategy to Direct Single-Stage Food Waste Fermentation from Anaerobic Digestion to Chain Elongation'](#), *Processes*, Arnot, TC, Coma, M, De Groof, V, Lanham BA & Leak, DJ
- ['Determining stability of organic solvent nanofiltration membranes by cross-flow aging'](#), *Separation and Purification Technology*, Low, ZX & Shen, J

In the media

[UKWIR Virtual Annual Conference - Online - Transforming The Water Sector Through Collaborative Research And Innovation](#)

[12th Micropol & Echohazard Conference - Santiago De Compostela, Spain, 6 - 10 June 2021 - Extended Abstract Submission deadline - 30 November 2020](#)

Upcoming conferences

16 December 2020 - 19 December 2020, India, Vellore: [1st Trans-Asia IWA Young Water Professionals Conference on Smart Technologies for Water and Wastewater Treatment](#)

31 March - 02 April 2021 Riga, Latvia: [12th Eastern European Young Water Professionals Conference](#)

09 May 2021 - 14 May 2021 Copenhagen, Denmark: [IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2021](#)

You can find all IWA events on their [website](#).

Let us know if you are aware of any new colleagues or students working within water research at the University of Bath, so that we can add them to our mailing lists!

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