

Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Seminar Series Presents:

Thursday, February 8th 2024, 3:30-4:30pm, CPE 2.218



Using Microbial Community Engineering to Develop New Resource Recovery Technologies

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Abstract

In recent years there has been a paradigm shift in the way we see organic wastes. Instead of a burden, wastes are increasingly regarded as a resource to be converted to useful products, such as methane, hydrogen, medium chain fatty acids, and biocrude. Dr. Fonoll Almansa has used microbial community engineering to develop new technologies with the potential to recover energy and valuable products from wastes more efficiently. The presentation will show the development of a new technology that simulate the stomach of cows to grow microorganisms that can accelerate the transformation of wastes into resources.



Background



Dr. Fonoll Almansa started as an Assistant Professor at UT Austin in January 2024. He has a PhD in Engineering and Advanced Technologies from the University of Barcelona and worked as a postdoc for 4 years at the University of Michigan. Before coming to UT, he was a Researcher at the Great Lakes Water Authority for 4 years where he managed the biosolids treatment research program. Xavi is originally from Andorra and nowadays his hobbies are running, climbing and playing videogames.