

Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, and the Center for Water and the Environment Seminar Series Presents:

Thursday, February 13th 2025, 3:30-4:30pm, ECJ 1.324



Zoom Link: <https://utexas.zoom.us/j/94105241294>

Transitioning to Professorship After Graduation: Q&A Panel

Xavier Fonoll Almansa, PhD, Courtney M. Gardner, PhD, and Jun-Whan Lee, PhD

Come Ask Questions! *This week we will have EWRE professors who have recently spent time transitioning from graduate school to professorship. Come ask questions to hear their perspectives in navigating the transition from graduate school life to working full time as a professor.*



The Panel:

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.



Dr. Gardner is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Before arriving in Austin, she was a faculty member in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department at Washington State University. She obtained her Ph.D. in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Duke for her work evaluating the contribution of GE crops to environmental antibiotic resistance in wastewater treatment and agricultural systems and her M.S. in Civil & Environmental Engineering at Duke and B.S. in Biology from Stetson University. Her research interests lie in using principles from molecular biotechnology, biogeochemistry, and environmental engineering to understand and predict how external stress alters the structure and function of microbial communities in natural and engineered systems.

Dr. Lee is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil Architectural and Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin, specializing in coastal engineering. His research interests include coastal hazards (storm surges, tsunamis, and compound flooding), climate and coastal resilience, nature-based solutions in coastal and ocean environments, coastal vulnerability and risk assessments, and coastal processes. Through his research and teaching, he aims to build sustainable and resilient coastal communities by better understanding coastal hazards. Jun-Whan Lee obtained his Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech in 2021. He completed his B.S. (2012) and M.S. (2014) degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Hanyang University, South Korea. From 2014 to 2017, he worked as a coastal hazard researcher at the National Institute of Meteorological Sciences in South Korea. After obtaining his Ph.D., he served as a postdoctoral associate at the Center for Coastal Studies at Virginia Tech before joining The University of Texas at Austin.

