

Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Seminar Series Presents:



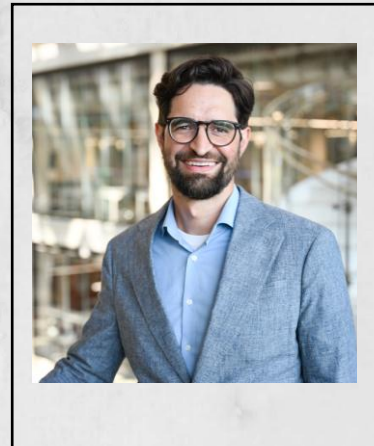
Thursday, September 10th 2026, 3:30-4:30pm, ECJ 1.324

Zoom Link: <https://utexas.zoom.us/j/84804724445>

Building a Career, Making a Life: A Faculty Conversation

About the Conversation

What does it take to build a fulfilling career while making room for life outside of work? Join Professors Blair Johnson and Manuel Rausch for an open conversation about the choices, challenges, and unexpected turns that have shaped their lives in academia. From navigating uncertainty to defining success on their own terms, they'll share experiences and perspectives on finding a path that works for you. Bring your questions, concerns, and curiosity.



Background

Blair Johnson is an Associate Professor in the Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on environmental fluid mechanics and experimental methods. Dr. Johnson completed her B.S. (2008) at Johns Hopkins University in Civil Engineering, with a concentration in Structures and a minor in Piano at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. She attended Cornell University where she received her M.S. (2012) and Ph.D. (2016) in Environmental Fluid Mechanics & Hydrology in Civil & Environmental Engineering. In 2012 she was a visiting researcher at the Instituto de Hidraulica Ambiental (IH Cantabria) in Santander, Spain. Following graduate school, she held a Postdoctoral research position in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering at Arizona State University from 2016-2017.

Manuel Rausch is an Associate Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on soft tissue biomechanics, using experimental and computational methods to understand the mechanical behavior of biological tissues and improve diagnostic tools, treatments, and medical device design. Dr. Rausch earned his Diplom in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Stuttgart and his Ph.D. (2013) in Biomechanical Engineering from Stanford University. Following graduate school, he spent two years as Director of Research and Development at a medical device company before returning to academia as a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University. He joined the University of Texas at Austin in 2017.