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**Water Innovation  
& Research  
Centre**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

Dear colleagues,

What strange times do we live in? Corona was in the news for some time, but then suddenly, within days, society seems to have come to a stop. It started as a storm, far away from us, but in the last two weeks Corona went as a hurricane through Europe too. A few weeks ago, I was still thinking to fly to Bath on 'my' Monday morning flight, but my wife Roberta told me not to go, and I'm glad she did. I'm working from home now and luckily everyone is healthy here at home.

But life seems mostly taking place between four walls now and the only connection to the outside is through a square screen and a webcam. It is a great proof of what technological innovation can achieve. When I started working in the water sector, I had to share a computer terminal with a colleague in my office. Now I take my phone or laptop and I can see the whole world. And it works almost flawlessly. Final year students fly home and one day later you are chatting with them in India or Hong Kong. Despite all the issues, it is still possible for them to finalise their degree – isn't it amazing? But we are also aware that there is still a group who has limited access to these facilities, and it is our duty to support them and stay in touch with them too.

I also fully understand that the situation for many of us, especially PhDs and Postdocs, is also very sad. Labs are closed. When your research depends on that, it will cause a significant delay. And if you were doing long-term

experiments, it might be possible that they have to be considered as lost and you may have to start them all over again. And of course, that creates big uncertainty for the rest of your project. If you need any kind of support, please let me know how WIRC can help.

And of course, there is a constant worry in the background for your own health and that of your family and friends. And also, not transferring it to other people is key. The staying-at-home policy will hopefully work, and in the end the storm will pass. In the meantime, let's stay in touch via all the social media and the virtual platforms.

Please stay healthy and be optimistic.

Jan

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## Upcoming events

29 September 2020: [GW4 WSA PHD CON2020: Knowledge Flow – Building Bridges between Science & Community](#), Bristol

Please note that all these events are free and open to all.

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## News



### [Assessment of urban water management in sub-Saharan African cities \(results of a workshop on water security\)](#)

On 27 and 28 February the University of Bath, [KWR](#), UNESCO Division of Water Science and the [International Water Association \(IWA\)](#) organised a workshop on water security in sub-Saharan African cities. The aim of the workshop was to train young professionals to develop a roadmap to enhance action for improved water security, and to kick off development of a city-to-city learning programme on water security and water governance.

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### [IWA UK YWP Conference 2020: Webinar Series](#)

IWA UK Young Water Professionals have organised a series of webinars to be held on the 15th and 16th of April, to replace the postponed 21st IWA YWP Conference in Cardiff.

The theme of the talks is sustainability, and speakers include Peter Davies (CBE, Welsh Government Sustainable Futures, Commissioner 2011-2016), Tony Harrington from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, and Dr Michael Singer and Prof. Peter Kille from Cardiff University.

[Register here](#)

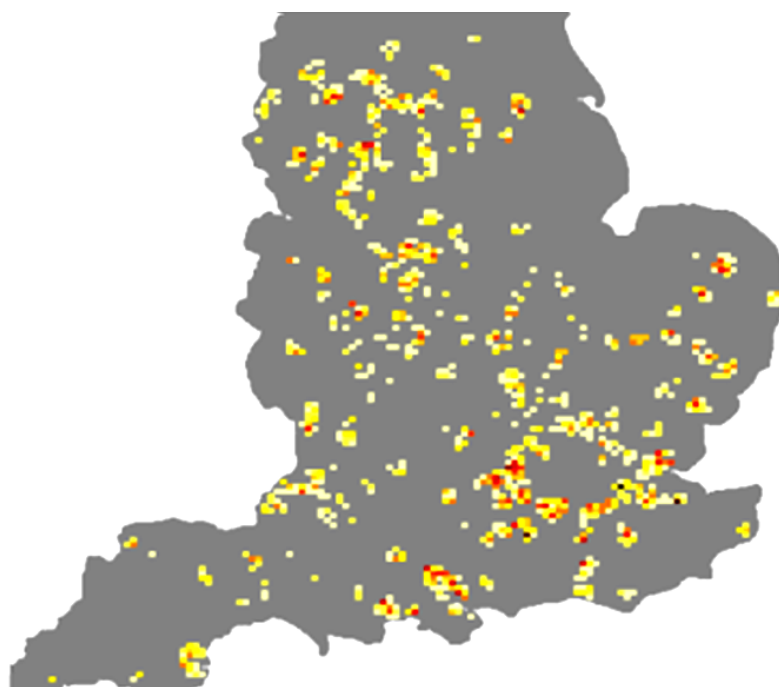
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## [Call for papers for UNESCO/i-WSSM 2020 Series: Global Water Security Issues](#)

IWRA is continuing its collaboration with [UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management \(i-WSSM\)](#), and you are invited to **submit abstract proposals for the 2020 'GWSI Paper Series' on Water Security and Sustainable Development Goals**. This year's theme will focus on *"The Role of Sound Groundwater Resources Management and Governance to Achieve Water Security"*. Proposals are due by Friday, May 22nd, 2020.

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## Research





## [Hot spot areas for new woodland in England](#)

Mathematical models are helping Natural England identify the most beneficial places to plant 10,000 hectares of new woodland to help fight climate change and flooding. This research was part of a three-day collaborative 'Study Group with Industry' at the University hosted by the [Institute for Mathematical Innovation](#) (IMI) and funded by the [Knowledge Transfer Network](#).

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## Blog



## [UoExeter Fresh Training Week](#)

FRESH CDT Cohort 2 student Tomo Homan wrote a blog post about the recent FRESH Core Skills training course in Exeter. Read about what the cohort got up to during their last training week - including beaver-spotting on the River Otter!

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## Recent publications

- [Improved modeling of sediment oxygen kinetics and fluxes in lakes and reservoirs](#). Man X, Bierlein K, Lei C, Bryant L, Wuest A & Little JC, 2020.
- [A simple, azulene-based colorimetric probe for the detection of nitrite in water](#). Murfin LC, López-Alled CM, Sedgwick AC, Wenk J, James TD & Lewis SE, 2020.
- [Phase Wrap Error Correction by Random Sample Consensus With](#)

[Application to Synthetic Aperture Sonar Micronavigation](#). Thomas B, Hunter AJ & Dugelay S, 2020.

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## In the media

- Professor Jan Hofman chaired the first public meeting of the Working Group Water Security of research and innovation platform Water Europe. [Wanted: actionable indicator for water security](#). Dutch Water Sector, 3 March 2020.
  - Are cobbles key to protecting our coasts? [Water Industry Journal 14](#) p. 10-11 and [Institute of Water magazine](#) p. 74-75, Spring 2020
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## Upcoming conferences

15 - 16 April 2020: [IWA UK YWP Conference 2020: Webinar Series](#)

27 - 29 May 2020: Delft, Netherlands, [6th International Symposium on Knowledge and Capacity for the Water Sector: From capacity development to implementation science](#) (online)

21 - 25 June 2021: Milan, Italy, [5th International Conference on Ecotechnologies for Wastewater Treatment \(ecoSTP2020\) "Impacting the environment with innovation in wastewater treatment"](#) (postponed - note new date)

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

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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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