

## Sara J. Marks, Ph.D.

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### Personal Data

Department of Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development (Sandec), FC-F27  
 Eawag, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology  
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### Research Interests

Applied research for safe and sustainable drinking water supplies, with a focus on: program-level evaluations of novel treatment technologies, rural laboratory strengthening, infrastructure assessments, and field-robust water quality testing methods.

### Education

2008-2012 **PhD**, Stanford University, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford, USA  
 2006-2007 **MSc**, Stanford University, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford, USA  
 1999-2003 **BSc**, University of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Chemistry, Pittsburgh, USA

### Professional Experience

2014-present **Group Leader**, Water Supply and Treatment, Sandec / Eawag, Dübendorf, Switzerland  
*Appointed Adjunct Professor in Civil Engineering, University of Victoria (June 2023)*  
 2012-2014 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Dept. of Environmental Health Sciences, Baltimore, USA  
 2006-2021 **Research Assistant**, Stanford University Environmental Engineering and Sciences Program, Stanford, USA  
 2005-2006 **Microbiologist**, Aspen Consolidated Sanitation District, Aspen, USA  
 2003-2005 **Consultant**, Marks Environmental Inc., Elverson, USA  
 2002 **Research Assistant**, l'Ecole des Mines d'Albi-Carreaux, Albi, France

### Current Grant Participation

2022-2026 Water, Behaviour Change and Environmental Sanitation (WABES-2). *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation* (CHF 7'725'461/4.5 years). PI: Lüthi C. Co-Pis: Zurbrügg C, Strande L, **Marks SJ**, Meierhofer R, Berg M (all Eawag).  
 2021-2023 The REACH Labs Project: Establishing Fit-for-Purpose Laboratories for Rural Water Supplies: A 3-Country Study. *REACH: Water Security for the Poor* (University of Oxford-UK Government joint programme) (£296'970/2 years). PI: **Marks SJ** (Eawag), co-Is: Katrina Charles (Oxford), Saskia Nowicki (Oxford), Bhatta M (Helvetas), Kunwar BM (Helvetas), Nyaga C (FundiFix), Rahaman F (SafePani), Muturi J (Univ of Nairobi).  
 2020-2023 Chlorination Interventions for Rural Supplies in Guatemala. *ETH4D Research Challenge Grant* (CHF 56'200). PI: **Marks SJ**. Co-Is: Tosi Robinson D (Eawag), Sanchez G (Helvetas), Crider Y (Stanford).

### Country Experience

In alphabetical order: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, and Zimbabwe.

**Selected Publications** (full list on [Google Scholar](#))

- Wainaina GK, Ochieng F, Peter M, Raude JM, Meierhofer R, **Marks SJ** (2023). Determinants of consistency of use of household water filters in emergencies: Insights from a protracted drought in Northern Kenya. *PLOS Water*, 2(6): e0000093. [link](#)
- Crider YS, Sainju S, Shrestha R, Clair-Caliot G, Schertenleib A, Kunwar BM, Bhatta MR, **Marks SJ**, Ray I (2022). Evaluation of system-level, passive chlorination in gravity-fed piped water systems in rural Nepal." *Environmental Science & Technology*, 56(19):13985-13995.
- Ambuehl B, Kunwar BM, Schertenleib A, **Marks SJ**, Inauen J (2022). Can participation promote psychological ownership of a shared resource? An intervention study of community-based safe water infrastructure. *J Environmental Psychology*, 81: 101818.
- Bänziger C, Schertenleib A, Kunwar BM, Bhatta MR, **Marks SJ** (2022). Assessing microbial water quality, users' perceptions and system functionality following a combined water safety intervention in rural Nepal. *Frontiers in Water*, 3: 750802.
- Narayan AS, **Marks SJ**, Meierhofer R, Strande L, Tilley E, Zurbrügg C, Luthi C (2021). Advancements in and integration of water, sanitation, and solid waste for low- and middle-income countries. *Annual Review of Environment & Resources*, 46: 196-219.
- Shrestha A, Six J, Dahal D, **Marks SJ**, Meierhofer R (2020). Association of nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene practices with children's nutritional status, intestinal parasitic infections and diarrhoea in rural Nepal: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*, 20(1): 1-21.
- Nadimpalli ML, **Marks SJ**, Montealegre MC, Gilman RH, Pajuelo MJ, Saito M, Tsukayama P, Njenga SM, Kiiru J, Swarthout J, Islam MA, Julian TR, Pickering AJ (2020). Urban informal settlements as hotspots of antimicrobial resistance and the need to curb environmental transmission. *Nature Microbiology*, 5(6): 787-795.
- Marks SJ**, Clair-Caliot G, Taing L, Bamwenda JT, Kanyesigye C, Rwendeire NE, Kemerink-Seyoum JS, Kansiime F, Batega DW, Ferrero G. (2020). Water supply and sanitation services in small towns in rural-urban transition zones: The case of Bushenyi-Ishaka municipality, Uganda. *NPJ Clean Water*, 3(21).

**Awards and Honors**

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| 2019 | Runner-up best paper in <i>Environmental Science: Water Research &amp; Technology</i> |
| 2013 | Johns Hopkins Kazuyoshi Kawata Sanitary Engineering Award                             |
| 2011 | Stanford Centennial Teaching Award  |
| 2008 | Stanford Center for African Studies Graduate Research Fellowship                      |
| 2007 | National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship                  |
| 2002 | IAESTE-France Research Fellowship, l'Ecole des Mines d'Albi-Carmaux                   |

**Service and Teaching (current)**

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| 2023- | Eawag Strategy Commission   |
| 2022- | Advisory Group, Groundwater Resource Management e-Learning Platform                                     |
| 2021- | Chair, Eawag Partnership Program (EPP)  |
| 2021- | Managing Editor, <i>PLOS Water</i>  |
| 2019- | Expert Advisory Group, WHO Water Quality Guidelines for Small Communities                               |
| 2016- | Coordinator, WHO-Eawag Collaborating Centre on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene                            |
| 2015- | Instructor, Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (Coursera MOOC)                                  |
| 2015- | Lecturer, Environmental Sanitation Planning & Infrastructure in Developing Countries (ETHZ)             |
| 2014- | Lecturer, Water Supply, Sanitation and Waste Infrastructure and Services in Developing Countries (EPFL) |

**Language Skills**

English – mother tongue; French – B1; German – B1