

Title and abstract for Eawag, ESS, Environmental Psychology presentation

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Individuals in context: Towards sustainable interactions of persons and their natural, technical, and social environments

Individuals' perceptions and behaviors are embedded in the environments that surround them. Individuals, in turn, influence these environments, which can have consequences for sustainable development, health and well-being. Environments include persons' natural (e.g. water-related risks), technical (e.g. water treatment devices), and social surroundings (e.g. institutions). In my talk, I will present empirical studies for each of these person-environment interactions. We found, for example, that a model of psychological factors helped understanding the use of different safe water technologies, and that enhancing persons' commitment can promote the sustainable adoption of arsenic-safe water sources. I will outline future directions of this research, particularly highlighting the importance of real life, real time, and within person perspectives to move forward in our understanding and optimization of person-environment interactions.