

## Eawag Seminar Invitation

# Co-Designing Infrastructures: engineering with local communities in London, UK

**Speaker** Prof. Sarah Bell, City of Melbourne Chair in Urban Resilience and Innovation; The University of Melbourne, Australia

**When** September 16, 2022, 11.00 – 12.00, CEST

**Where** Online via Zoom, contact [seminars@eawag.ch](mailto:seminars@eawag.ch) for access details.

**Abstract** Community resilience and infrastructure resilience are ever more important as cities prepare for and respond to multiple, intersecting shocks and stresses. Water infrastructures are central to challenges of urban resilience, and floods, droughts and poor water quality represent significant risks to cities. Engaging local communities in infrastructure resilience provides a pathway to reducing risks and improving recovery from disasters. This presentation describes the 'Bottom-Up Infrastructure' research program undertaken at University College London 2014-2020. Bottom-Up Infrastructure explored how community and infrastructure resilience can be better integrated through co-design. The work originated in the UCL Engineering Exchange, and was supported by UK research council funding. The presentation will describe co-design projects to address the water-energy-food nexus, air quality and water pollution in London. Learning across case-studies from within the same city, the presentation will reflect upon the success and limitations of engaging urban communities in infrastructure design and planning. For more information about the research - <https://www.bottomupinfrastructure.org/>

### **Bio**

Professor Sarah Bell is the City of Melbourne Chair in Urban Resilience and Innovation at the Melbourne Centre for Cities. Her research addresses urban resilience and community engagement with infrastructure, with a special interest in urban water systems. Her scholarly work draws on the social sciences to better understand how people, technologies and nature interact to create urban systems. Sarah is a Chartered Engineer, and Fellow of Engineers Australia, the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK) and Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (UK). Her latest book 'Co-Designing Infrastructures' will be published open-access by UCL Press in 2023.