



Meet Erfan Goharian

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Erfan Goharian is Assistant Professor of Water Resources Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of South Carolina (USC). He holds a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Utah and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of California, Davis. His research focuses on developing complex computational and data-driven models and integrated water resources systems with the goal of providing enhanced knowledge needed to better understand interactions between coupled human-natural systems, and how they are shaped by climatic, environmental, economic, social and political changes. His research has been funded by national programs at the NSF, NOAA, USGS, and DOD, state level at the SC Sea Grant Consortium and SC Department of Transportation, and by private entities, such as Microsoft. His research-education-practice nexus is centered on exploring holistic solutions and exploiting innovative methods for monitoring, modeling, and managing integrated water resources systems. At iWERS, his research group at USC, they develop and deploy intelligent innovative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and systems engineering techniques to enhance informed decision-making and modeling of integrated civil and water resources systems in the face of climate change and extreme events, such as flood and drought. He has published more than 50 top-notch peer-reviewed journal papers, has been appointed as a member of South Carolina's Floodwater Commission, by Governor H. McMaster, and has received South Carolina's Young Civil Engineer of the Year in 2021, South Carolina's Technical Merit Award in 2022, NSF Early CAREER Award in 2023, and many other awards and recognitions. He is currently the ASCE-EWRI's International participation committee vice-chair and has served as the conference track chair for more than 5 years.

"How do you plan on advancing UCOWR's mission of leading in education, research and public service in water resources?"

UCOWR brings together researchers, practitioners, students around the critical challenge of how to manage water and environmental resources for humans and ecosystems in an uncertain future. Our community is well-positioned to respond to this challenge, in part because of technical depth in scientific knowledge and depth, but also because of multi-disciplinary collaborative environment and ability to engage in a breadth of application areas including the natural and social sciences. I joined my first UCOWR conference in 2015 as a graduate student and continued to attend the conferences as a postdoctoral researcher, until now that my students are also attending every year. I have benefited substantially since from the efforts of this group and after I joined the USC, since our school was not a UCOWR member, I did my best to convince our department and college to be part of it. Right now, I am the lead delegate and recently received the runner-up for early career award in applied research by UCOWR. If elected Board of Directors, building on my leadership experience at ASCE committees and at the university level, I will prioritize i) supporting the current task committees activities, and the development of new ones, to investigate promising research topics and methods, ii) promoting our community members' accomplishments through award nominations within and outside UCOWR, iii) recruiting new early career members and new institutions to join UCOWR, iv) expanding our annual conference presence and participation by local and national wide public outreach and new national and international networks establishment and engagements, such as graduate networking event and webinars, and finally v) submit scientific state-of-the-art session proposals, such as Artificial Intelligence application in water resources, reviewing abstracts and convening sessions. These efforts would serve to enhance UCOWR's mission in research and education as well as increase our public profile.