

Saskia Nowicki

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Overview

As a social-ecological systems specialist, I do solution-focused research that cuts across natural, social, and health sciences to respond to long-standing and emerging water quality risks. I work collaboratively with interdisciplinary research teams and with partners beyond academia to co-produce insight that supports just transitions for healthy freshwater ecosystems and equitable safe water service delivery.

Employment

<i>Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford</i>	Oxford, UK
Research associate	06/2021 - present
Research assistant	09/2016 - 2018
<i>School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford</i>	Oxford, UK
Casual lecturer	09/2021 - present
Teaching assistant	09/2018 - 2021
<i>Central Science Division, Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</i>	London, UK
Policy secondment, One Health governance strategy	10/2022 - 03/2023
<i>Dept of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford</i>	Oxford, UK
Tutor, Myanmar TIDE Programme	04/2019 - 2020
<i>WASH Policy Team, Oxford Policy Management</i>	Oxford, UK
Consultant	09/2016 - 01/2017
<i>Geochemistry Group, SRK Consulting</i>	Vancouver, Canada
Consultant	06/2012 - 2015
<i>Gregory-Eaves Limnology Lab, McGill University</i>	Montreal, Canada
Research assistant	2011

Education

<i>University of Oxford</i> , DPhil Water and Health	2017 - 2021
Thesis: Data, Decisions, & Drinking-Water Safety [view]	
<i>University of Oxford</i> , MSc Water Science, Policy and Management	2015 - 2016
Thesis: Variability in Drinking-water Microbial Contamination Risk	
Top of class, distinction	
<i>McGill University</i> , BSc (Hons) Environmental Science	2008 - 2012
Concentration: Water Environments and Ecosystems, Biological Stream	
First class honours, distinction	

Selected Publications

- (2024) Reinforcing feedbacks for sustainable implementation of rural drinking-water treatment technology. *ACS ES&T Water*. Laauwen M & **Nowicki S**. [[view](#)]
- (2023) Water chemistry poses health risks as reliance on groundwater increases: a systematic review of hydrogeochemistry research from Ethiopia and Kenya. *STOTEN*. **Nowicki S**, Birhanu B, Tanui F, Sule MN, Charles K, Olago D, & Kebede S. [[view](#)]
- (2023) Results-based funding for safe drinking water services: How a standard contract design with payment for results can accelerate safe drinking water services at scale. REACH working paper 13. University of Oxford and Uptime Global. Oxford, UK. [[view](#)]
- (2022) Fear, efficacy, and environmental health risk reporting: complex responses to water quality test results in low-income communities. *IJERPH*. **Nowicki S**, Bukachi S, Hoque S, Katuva J, Musyoka M, Sammy M, Mwaniki M, Omia D, Wambua F, & Charles, K. [[view](#)]
- (2021) The utility of *Escherichia coli* as a contamination indicator for rural drinking water: evidence from whole genome sequencing. *PLoS ONE*. **Nowicki S**, deLaurent ZR, de Villiers EP, Githinji G, & Charles KJ. [[view](#)]
- (2021) Global prospects to deliver safe drinking water services for 100 million rural people by 2030. REACH Working Paper 12. RWSN and University of Oxford. Oxford, UK. [[view](#)]
- (2020) Including water quality monitoring in rural water services: why safe water requires challenging the quantity versus quality dichotomy. *npj Clean Water*. **Nowicki S**, Koehler J, & Charles KJ. [[view](#)]
- (2020) A framework for monitoring the safety of water services: from measurements to security. *npj Clean Water*. Charles KJ, **Nowicki S**, & Bartram JK. [[view](#)]
- (2019) Tryptophan-like fluorescence as a measure of microbial contamination risk in groundwater. *STOTEN*. **Nowicki S**, Lapworth DJ, Ward JST, Thomson P, & Charles K. [[view](#)]

Funding

Grants

Africa Oxford Catalyst Grant (Co-I, coordinated the application)	£3500 [2024]
UKRI MRC PHIND Grant (Co-I, led the application)	£150,000 [2023-24]
SoGE Research Environment and Culture Fund (led)	£1,000 [2023]
ESRC IAA Grant Stages 1, 2, 3 (Co-I, co-wrote the applications)	£35,000 [2020-23]
SoGE Engagement and Impact Inspiration Fund Grant (led)	£1,000 [2016]
Canada NSERC Undergraduate Research Grant (led)	\$6,000 [2011]

Awards

SoGE ECR Engagement and Impact Award	£500 [2022]
McGill University Davidovic Field Study Award	£1000 [2011]

Scholarships

Commonwealth Scholarship for Doctoral Study in the UK	£100,000 [2017-20]
Linacre Canadian National Scholarship & SoGE Departmental Scholarship	£10,000 [2015-16]