

# PhD

## STEPCHANGE

seminar series

### Newsha Ajami

Chief Strategic Development  
Officer for Research in the  
Earth and Environmental  
Sciences Area  
Lawrence Berkeley  
National Laboratory



### ABSTRACT

Water scarcity and the need for clean water and food security require innovative solutions. Water desalination and reuse are attractive options, but their success depends on local factors. To meet our climate and clean energy goals while achieving water security it is important to have comprehensive tools to capture tradeoffs and feedback loops across policy regimes. Here I present a data-driven assessment tool to evaluate risks and benefits, informing decision-making on technology deployment, and risk mitigation, and promoting sustainable outcomes.

## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ASSESSING THE POLICY, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRADEOFFS OF DESALINATION



### BIOGRAPHY

Newsha K. Ajami is the Chief Strategic Development Officer for Research in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Area at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. A leading expert in sustainable water resource management, smart cities, and water policy and finance, in her role at LBL, she is focused on developing and leading interdisciplinary and impact-focused research initiatives at the nexus of water, energy, and carbon. Dr. Ajami is a mayoral appointee to the San Francisco PUC, serves on the National Academies Water Science and Technology Board, is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute, and sits on several advisory boards. She received her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UC, Irvine.

**Event date:**  
September 25, 2024

**Time:**  
2:00 pm

**Location:**  
Alpha Room

**Contact:**  
Matteo Giuliani



DEPARTMENT  
OF ELECTRONICS  
INFORMATION  
AND BIOENGINEERING