

2018 John R. Freeman Lecture

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Engineering in International Humanitarian Response: Lessons from Haiti and Worldwide

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Tuesday, April 10, 2018

6:00 PM Reception; 7:00 PM Lecture

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Tang Center (Building E51)
70 Memorial Drive, Cambridge MA 02139

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Worldwide, both the number of emergencies (including natural disasters, outbreaks, and conflict) and the number of people affected by emergencies are increasing, and the rate of increase is anticipated to accelerate with climate change and population densification. Depending on context, affected populations may have both material and health needs, including shelter, health care, mental health care, and/or protection. Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) provision are often critical needs in humanitarian contexts. This talk will begin with a history of humanitarian response, followed by a discussion of the current humanitarian landscape (including types of emergencies, affected populations, and their health needs), the types of emergency WASH interventions, knowledge gaps in WASH response that engineers can help fill, and thoughts on the future of humanitarian response. The talk will be grounded with field experiences from Dr. Lantagne's 16 years' of work in humanitarian response in over 50 countries, focusing on Haiti.

Dr. Lantagne is an Associate Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Tufts University, with undergraduate and master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering from MIT, a PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a post-doc from Harvard's Center for International Development. She has provided technical assistance or conducted research, in both development and emergency contexts, in more than 60 countries in Africa, Asia, and Central/South America, and is a technical advisor to Potters for Peace, FilterPure, and charity: water.



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