

Meet Our Team



ECO-TOOLS-COAST (ETC): Advanced Skills on Coastal Environments



Dr. Irene Delgado-Fernández is an Associate Professor (Tenured) at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain. Her academic focus includes coastal dune evolution, beach-dune interactions, and aeolian sediment transport. She worked as Lecturer and Reader at Edge Hill University in England, where she became Full Professor of Coastal Geomorphology in 2018. She worked at Ulster University, and completed her PhD at the University of Guelph in Canada. She earned MSc and BSc degrees from the Universidade de Vigo in Spain, and was awarded a Full Professorship by Spain's National Accreditation Agency (ANECA) in 2020.



Dr. Javier Benavente González is an Associate Professor (Tenured) in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain. He obtained his PhD in 2000 with a thesis on the coastal morphodynamics of the external Bay of Cádiz. His research interests include coastal hazards, beach morphodynamics, and coastal dynamics. Dr. Benavente has over 20 years of research experience, with more than 50 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, contributing significantly to the field of coastal geomorphology. He was awarded a Full Professorship in Sciences by Spain's National Accreditation Agency (ANECA) in 2025.



Dr. Theocharis A. Plomaritis is an Associate Professor (Tenured) in the Department of Applied Physics at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain. His research focuses on coastal processes and hazards, with expertise in coastal resilience and storm impacts. He earned his PhD from the University of Southampton and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Cádiz, contributing to projects like MICORE and GERICO. Dr. Plomaritis worked at the University of Algarve on the EU RISCKIT project, and returned to Cádiz in 2018, where he continues advancing research in coastal morphodynamics.



Dr. Laura del Río Rodríguez is an Associate Professor (Tenured) at the University of Cádiz, , and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain, specializing in coastal hazards, erosion, and beach morphodynamics. She earned her degree in Marine Sciences from the University of Cádiz and completed her PhD in 2007, focusing on erosion risks along the Cádiz coast. Her doctoral work received the Extraordinary Doctorate Award and a European Doctorate mention. Dr. del Río has held various academic positions, including Assistant Professor and Associate Professor. Her research spans from extreme events to long-term coastal evolution and the application of GIS techniques to the study of coastal environments, dynamics and hazards.



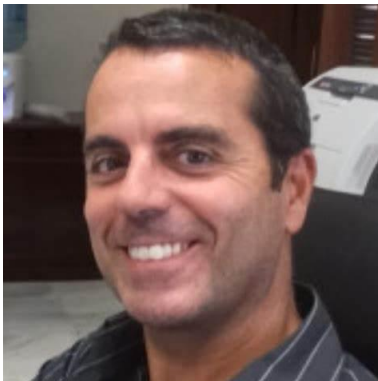
Dr. Gloria Peralta González is an Associate Professor (Tenured) in the Department of Biology at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain, specializing in ecology. She earned her degree in Marine Sciences at the University of Cádiz and completed her PhD in 2000, focusing on the growth dynamics and ecophysiological aspects of the seagrass *Zostera noltii*. Her research interests include the ecology of seagrasses and saltmarshes, with numerous publications and significant contributions to understanding aquatic ecosystems. She's currently involved with the iBESBLUE Project and has held multiple positions including the Secretariat of the Marine Research Institute (INMAR).



Dr. Tomás Fernández-Montblanc is an Associate Professor (Tenured) in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain. He earned his PhD from the same institution in 2016, focusing on the influence of physical, chemical, and biological conditions on the deterioration and preservation of underwater cultural heritage. His research interests include coastal dynamics, underwater archaeology, and the application of computational fluid dynamics to study submerged archaeological sites. He has a strong numerical modelling background, with research contributing to conservation of marine archaeological sites.



Dr. María del Pilar Martín Gallego is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain. Her research focuses on remote sensing, geography, landscape ecology, biogeography, and forest science. She has contributed to studies utilizing Sentinel-2 satellite imagery to detect and model alien tree presence in Chile's temperate forests. She earned her PhD at Edge Hill University in England and is actively involved in multiple science and science communication projects.



Dr. Manuel Bethencourt Núñez is a Professor in the Department of Materials Science, Metallurgical Engineering, and Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR), Spain. His research encompasses materials science, with a focus on the corrosion and protection of metallic materials. He has collaborated on interdisciplinary projects, including studies on the preservation of underwater cultural heritage and the application of computational fluid dynamics in underwater archaeological sites. Dr. Bethencourt Núñez's work contributes to the development of preservation strategies.



Juan Bautista Montes Pérez is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cádiz, and the Marine Research Institute (INMAR). His research research interests encompass coastal vulnerability to erosion and flooding, particularly in the context of climate change impacts on the Bay of Cádiz and Bay of Algeciras. In 2021, he earned his doctorate from the University of Cádiz with a thesis on coastal vulnerability in the context of climate change and rising sea levels. He is currently involved in the application of remote sensing techniques to coastal dynamics.



Andrea Celeste Curcio is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cádiz. In 2024, she earned her doctorate from the same institution with a thesis titled "Examining UAV-based LiDAR, multispectral, hyperspectral, and precision photogrammetry approaches for tidal salt marsh environments". Dr. Curcio's research focuses on the application of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with advanced sensing technologies to study coastal ecosystems, particularly tidal salt marshes and coastal dunes. Her work aims to enhance monitoring of these environments in the context of climate change.



Dr. Giovanni Coco is a Professor at the University of Auckland, specializing in coastal morphodynamics. He obtained his PhD from the University of Plymouth, UK, focusing on nearshore morphodynamics. Following postdoctoral research at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the USA, he worked at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research in New Zealand. In 2011, he joined the University of Cantabria in Spain with an Excellence Fellowship before returning to New Zealand in 2015 to take up his current position. Dr. Coco's research interests include the dynamics of coastal systems, sediment transport processes, and the impacts of climate change on coastal environments.



Dr. Iris Möller is a Professor at Trinity College Dublin. Her research examines the interactions between physical and biological processes in coastal environments, especially within intertidal zones. She aims to develop integrative solutions for coastal protection that balance human needs with ecosystem health. Prof. Möller's work emphasizes the role of coastal wetlands in mitigating flooding and erosion while providing ecological benefits. Prof. Möller is Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (2018) and Fellow of the British Society of Geomorphology, and worked on various positions at the University of Cambridge and HR Wallingford in England, following completion of her PhD on wave attenuation over salt marsh surfaces at Cambridge.



Dr. Eugene J. Farrell is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Geography at the University of Galway, Ireland. He joined the university in August 2012 and teaches physical geography modules in undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Dr. Farrell co-led the development and served as Director of the MSc program 'Coastal and Marine Environments'. His research focuses on coastal geomorphology, dune dynamics, and the impacts of climate change on coastal systems. In 2021 Dr. Farrell was elected as Ireland's nominee for the European Marine Board (EMB) Working Group on 'Coastal Resilience' and contributed to Volume 3 'Being prepared for Ireland's future climate' (272pp) in Ireland's Climate Change Assessment (ICCA) 2024 report.



Dr. Carlos Loureiro is an Assistant Professor in Geosciences at the University of Algarve, Portugal. He holds a BSc in Physical Geography and a PhD in Earth and Marine Sciences, specializing in geomorphology. Before rejoining the University of Algarve, he was a Lecturer in Physical Geography at the University of Stirling, Scotland, and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Ulster University, Northern Ireland. Dr. Loureiro's research focuses on coastal geomorphology, including the impacts of extreme storm events, sea-level rise, and mesoscale coastal evolution.



Dr. Susana Costas is a researcher at the Centre for Marine and Environmental Research (CIMA) of the University of Algarve. She graduated in Marine Sciences with a specialization in Geosciences from the University of Vigo in 2000. Her research began with contributions to the management of the Atlantic Islands of Galicia National Park, as part of her PhD on coastal studies. Dr. Costas has participated in projects such as MICORE and RISCKIT, focusing on coastal geomorphology, sediment dynamics, and the socio-economic aspects of coastal risk management. She is currently exploring the application of remote sensing to beaches and dunes and their evolution over the medium and longer time scales.



Dr. France Floc'h is a Maître de Conférences (Associate Professor) at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale in Brest, France, within the Géosciences Océan research unit. Her research interests include coastal hydrodynamics and sediment transport, with a focus on understanding erosion mechanisms during extreme events and sediment transport during accretion periods leading to beach recovery. Dr. Floc'h's work aims to clarify the relative contributions of physical processes to net sediment transport towards beaches, considering hydrodynamic and morphological factors.