

# Lyesse Laloui

NOMINATED BY THE SWISS GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY  
FOR THE EUROPEAN VICE-PRESIDENCY OF ISSMGE

PROFESSOR, SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, EPFL  
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## OPPORTUNITY IN ADVERSITY: A NEW ERA OF CREATIVE INGENUITY IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

Dear Colleagues,

I would consider it a great honour to serve as the next European Vice President of the ISSMGE. Our European community strengthens through the remarkable and pioneering achievements of you, the member societies. I share a great feeling that our community enters a new era in its history, full of opportunities to harness and shape our impact on the wider society. It is time to go full steam ahead towards harnessing new technologies and leading efforts towards sustainable and resilient development. I consider it a great challenge to serve you as the next VP of the ISSMGE, and I would like to encourage all member states and in particular, the younger professionals, to get involved in our future dialogues and efforts. Throughout my career, I have had the honour and pleasure to work alongside exceptional colleagues throughout Europe, some of whom are featured below. Together, we have witnessed how our profession is evolving and increasing its reach and influence. I would like to thank you for considering supporting this platform and looking very much forward to working with you.

### ENDORSEMENTS

#### — PROF. ANTONIO GENS

Polytechnic University of Catalonia,  
Barcelona

*"Lyesse Laloui is internationally recognized for his seminal research, professional excellence and successful entrepreneurship; with a special focus on key emerging geotechnical fields. I am certain that his proven leadership qualities and enthusiastic energy will be a huge asset to the ISSMGE."*

#### — DR SUZANNE LACASSE

Norwegian Geotechnical Institute,  
Oslo

*"Lyesse Laloui is a researcher and consultant, with positions in Switzerland, USA and China. He has initiated cooperation projects across the globe. His expertise ranging from experimentation to analytical and numerical analysis and his outreach makes him an outstanding candidate to ISSMGE VP for Europe."*

#### — PROF. ALEXANDER PUZRIN

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology,  
Zurich

*"Lyesse Laloui is a great colleague! His innovative ideas and broad range of interests, his ability to build and lead international teams, his energy and enthusiasm - will make him an excellent VP for Europe. I am looking forward to being a part of his effort in building a new European identity within the global geotechnical world."*

## WHO I AM

As an active scientist at EPFL since 1994, I have developed **innovative solutions** to help meet society's needs in areas such as climate change, renewable energy and the optimisation of natural resources. These efforts have been recognised and rewarded by the European Research Council with an **Advanced ERC Grant** for our BIO-mediated GEO-material Strengthening Project (BIOGEOS), followed by a **Proof of Concept Grant** to take this research further. My research portfolio includes **13 written and edited books** and well over **350 peer reviewed journal papers**, resulting in over 7500 citations and a **h-index of 46** (Scopus). Two of my papers are ranked among the top 1% in the field of Engineering. I have had the honour to give keynote and invited lectures at more than **40 leading international conferences**, and have received several **international awards** (IACMAG, RM Quigley, Roberval) and delivered **honorary lectures** (Vardoulakis, Minnesota; G.A. Leonards, Purdue; Kersten, Minnesota).

I am also active as **consultant and advisor** in several international projects in civil, geotechnical, and geothermal engineering, including legal and arbitration cases. I have four **patents** and have **founded/co-founded** four engineering companies. I also act as a **member of the board of trustees** as well as on the board of directors of various large engineering and financial companies.

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN ISSMGE

For a long time I have had strong links to ISSMGE. I was the chair of several of its scientific conferences, including: the **International Symposium on Energy Geotechnics** in Lausanne with 260 participants from 35 countries, in September 2018; the 2nd International Workshop on **Advances in Laboratory Testing and Modelling of Soils and Shales**, Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland, in January 2017; and the **International Workshop on Multiphysical Testing of soils and Shales**, Lausanne, September 2012.

I have delivered keynote lectures at the ISSMGE events such as: the **4th European Conference on Unsaturated Soils** - Lisboa, Portugal, 2020; **7th International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials**, Glasgow, 2019; and the **XVII European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Reykjavik**, 2019, amongst others.

I also served as **Chair** of several of its scientific conferences and **Vice-Chair** of the TC101 "Laboratory Stress Strain Strength - Testing of Geomaterials" (2013-2017).

## VISION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

I intend to create a true European geotechnical identity. We need to develop a common vision for our field, to be able to communicate together about the extraordinary developments that our engineers and researchers are achieving and to show our international leadership.



In these extraordinary times, **MONTHLY EXCHANGES** with the representatives of the National Societies will foster a sense of community



**REGULAR TOWNHALLS** as a pathway for live discussions



Promote **INTER-EUROPEAN, INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATIONS** through the creation of a monthly technical **MAGAZINE**



Mentor the next, diverse **GENERATION OF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS** through the creation of a mentorship program and an annual competition that recognises professionals in the early stages of their career