



Dr. Ning Dai (戴宁)
Assistant Professor
Department of Civil,
Structural and Environmental
Engineering
SUNY Buffalo
Phone: 1-716-645-4015
Email: ningdai@buffalo.edu

1. *My career path?*

I received my BS in Environmental Science and Engineering from Tsinghua University in 2008. I had a brief taste of California sun from September 2008 to June 2009 at Stanford University, where I received my MS degree from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. In August 2009, I joined Dr. William Mitch's research group at Yale University in the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering. My PhD dissertation focused on the formation of nitrosamine and nitramine byproducts from amine-based CO₂ capture systems. I also dabbled in some projects related to disinfection byproducts. After spending four years in New Haven, I moved with the Mitch Lab in the summer of 2013 to Stanford University, where I spent my last year of PhD and had the great opportunity to learn how to build a lab. I moved to Buffalo, New York in August 2014 and started as an Assistant Professor at the University at Buffalo.

2. *Current research areas, interests, and projects?*

I am pursuing research directions that address water scarcity, climate change, and agricultural pollution. I aim to identify emerging problems and develop solutions by integrating fundamental studies and engineering design. My first research area focuses on developing strategies to resolve the tension between controlling membrane fouling and limiting disinfection byproducts formation in wastewater recycling and seawater desalination systems. The associated research projects include characterizing disinfection byproduct formation from marine and wastewater organic matter and developing alternative treatment systems. My second research focus is built on my doctoral work on the formation of harmful byproducts from CO₂ capture systems, but with a new focus on exploring novel solvents to simultaneously maximize CO₂ capture performance and minimize byproduct formation. My third research area focuses on the transformation of pesticides on plant surface by sunlight and airborne oxidants.

3. *Courses you normally teach?*

I am fortunate to have been teaching the same two classes for the last three years: senior/graduate-level Aquatic Chemistry and graduate-level Physical Chemical Treatment Processes.

4. *My professional activities?*

I am a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). I am currently serving on the Internet Resource Committee of AEESP.

5. *Major attractions and cultural environment of your area and/or community?*

Buffalo is but 40 minutes from the Niagara Falls, is within short driving distance to Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, and has a vibrant downtown with wonderful food from all around the world. We occasionally make international news for our snow, but we should remember that media love the dramatics.

6. *Key factors that lead to your career today?*

From time to time, I would feel that running a research group has some resemblance of running a small business. We raise funding, hire and train (and hopefully never fire) employees (i.e., students), and oversee production (i.e., scientific research). I enjoy the diversity of challenges as well as fulfillment associated with academia. I love watching students grow, and I look forward to the day when I see my academic children prosper and make contribution to the environmental engineering and science discipline.

