

Moataz Hesham Ali Soliman

Ph.D. Student, Civil Engineering
University of Central Florida
Sinkhole Conference paper: *Experimental and Numerical Analysis on the Mechanical Behavior of Cover-Collapse Sinkholes in Central Florida*

Moataz Soliman has long believed that Civil Engineering has a significant role in the life of every human being. He received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering at Cairo University in his home country of Egypt. His high GPA qualified him for the honor of joining the teaching and research assistants' staff at Cairo University. After receiving his Master's degree in Civil Engineering from that same university, he joined the Ph.D. program of Civil Engineering at University of Central Florida (UCF) and received a fellowship upon admission in 2016. He considers himself lucky to be a part of the sinkhole research group at UCF where he can satisfy his curiosity of learning and exploring one of the most complicated geotechnical engineering problems. Mr. Soliman also considers studying sinkhole problems is one way by which a researcher can serve humanity, by finding solutions to this geohazard, predicting sinkhole occurrence, and finding proper precautions to avoid any human or property damage. He is eager to attend the Sinkhole Conference as an opportunity and place where different researchers and experts will share their knowledge and experience and have a great influence on research in this field and also on young researchers.



Mohammad Shokri Statement:

Mohammad Shokri was born in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, Iran, where he grew up and graduated from high school. He attended the College of Sciences, School of Geology at University of Tehran for an undergrad program in geology in 2005. He got very interested into hydrogeology during his bachelor and decided to pursue a master program in that field at Shahrood University of Technology. He got further interest in hydrogeology and karst springs during his master. He was working on the assessment of karst development in a karst aquifer basin using hydrogeological studies, GIS, and RS in NE Iran for his master thesis. He developed his GIS and RS skills and got passion about karst hydrogeology and application of emerging technologies for better characterizing surface and subsurface karst aquifers.

His interest in hydrogeology and succeeding as an international karst hydrogeologist led him to the United States, where he joined the Department of Geology and Geography, West Virginia University, in 2015. He was working on geochemistry of cave and karst spring sediment deposits for the assessment of the impact on electrokinetic remediation of karst groundwater. He attained important skills of working in hydrogeochemistry labs, collaborated with teams on projects associated to electrokinetic remediation, and acquired teaching skills in geology courses in the department. He expanded his GIS and RS skills by taking several courses in those fields and intrigued to apply LiDAR for detecting sinkhole and characterizing surface karst

development. Mohammad graduated from West Virginia University in 2017 and now pursues a PhD program in the Civil Engineering Department at University of Central Florida.

Mohammad's background in geology, hydrogeology, and karst attract him to think more about aquifer responses to geologic, lithologic, stratigraphic, and tectonic conditions to interpret groundwater flow condition and fate and transport of pollution as well as how groundwater exchange between conduit and matrix porosities. He would also like to apply geophysical methods for better characterizing vadose zone of karst aquifers.