

## School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment

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**Timnit Kefela**

PhD Candidate

Environmental Science & Management

UC Santa Barbara

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

**3:15pm – 4:15pm**

**College Avenue Commons (CAVC) 333**

### **Microplastic Pollution in Urban Environments: Sources, Pathways & Fates**

**ABSTRACT:** Plastics are durable and versatile polymers that have become significant parts of our built environments globally. Their prevalent use across different industries for different applications and subsequent degradation contributes to the emerging problem of microplastic (<5 mm) pollution, which has been found across different environmental matrices ranging from soils to oceans, and due to their size have potential to interact with biota. Recently, urban environments have been identified as major sources of microplastics, conveyed through stormwater runoff, into proximal aquatic environments with limited study of their sources, movement, and fates within urban environments. This presentation will provide insight into microplastic pollution within urban environments as well as potential mitigation measures.

**BIOSKETCH:** Timnit Kefela is a PhD candidate in environmental science and management at UC Santa Barbara where she studies the sources, pathways, and fates of microplastics in urban environments. She is actively involved in numerous local and international organizations and initiatives focused on the diversification and retention of minoritized students in STEM and the development of inclusive environmental futures. She received her BSc and MSc degrees in Biology from Rutgers University-Camden.

**All ASU health and safety protocols will be followed for in-person attendance in CAVC Room 333. No registration is required.**