Giulia Viggiani is a Professor of Infrastructure Geotechnics at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow at Corpus Christi College. She joined the University of Cambridge in 2017 from Università di Roma Tor Vergata, where she was a Full Professor of Geotechnics. After studying at Università di Napoli Federico II, Giulia moved to City, University of London, to undertake doctoral research, obtaining her PhD in 1992. She has been post-doctoral research assistant at Sapienza Università di Roma, MTS Visiting Professor of Geomechanics at the University of Minnesota, and Academic Visitor at Imperial College and at the Max Planck Institute for Applied Mathematics in Leipzig. She is the Academic Lead of the National Research Facility for Infrastructure Sensing and a member of the Executive Committee of Cambridge Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction.

Her interests are in the application of soil mechanics to geotechnical engineering. She has carried out research on tunnelling and underground construction processes, foundation engineering, and earthquake geotechnical engineering, using a combination of field monitoring and laboratory observations, theoretical analyses, and physical and numerical modelling. She has been involved in many infrastructure projects in Italy and the UK, including monitoring building response to construction of the Jubilee Line Extension in London, the design and construction of new underground lines for the Naples and Rome underground systems, and the design of the foundations, anchor blocks and terminal structures of the Strait of Messina Bridge. Part of her research is also devoted to topics in fundamental soil mechanics, such as the mechanical behaviour of freezing ground and of granular materials with crushable grains.