



Researching Water Governance: New theories for new practices

8 April 2011, Melbourne

Background

The Water Governance Research Initiative is a theme of the NCCARF Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity Adaptation Research Network (www.nccarf.edu.au/water/node/5). Our objectives are to create a community of conversation about water governance in Australia, build collaborative research links, create opportunities for co-researching and information sharing, and provide opportunities for early-career researchers to participate in a national network of researchers and research-users.

Aims

1. Explore the value of influential concepts in shaping future water governance research and practice;
2. Explore opportunities for framing and doing water governance research differently;
3. Consider value of diverse approaches.

Session One: Pathways to Water Governance Research

The aim of this session is to explore experience with different frameworks, theory and its value, and critical thinking. This will involve professional reflections on how different individuals have come to water governance research, and the theories and issues they have worked with along the way.

Design: Three presentations followed by small group discussions.

Session Two: New (and Old) Conceptual Approaches

The aim of this session is to explore the contribution of key concepts that are highly influential in framing consideration of water governance in the context of climate change. This will involve considering ways of thinking/framing water governance, including potential topics: maladaptation, power, subjugated

discourses, socio-ecological systems; transitions theories; cultural constructions of nature etc.

Design: Six presentations from leading researchers; small group discussions and plenary session

Session Three: Future Water Governance Research: towards an agenda for success

The aim of this session is to explore key aspects that need to be considered with regard to negotiating success and effective water governance research. Potential topics include: collaboration, relationships, communication, international and national networks, political economy of research, funding and publishing.

Design: Panel session with up to five short presentations

Who should attend?

Those with a professional interest in water governance including academics, policy makers from government, NGOs and the private sector.

Location

University College, University of Melbourne
40 College Crescent, Parkville Vic 3052

Cost

\$55.00 – to cover the cost of morning/afternoon tea and lunch. (Note: the workshop is free for those attending the ECR workshop on 6-7 April)

Registration

<http://researchingwatergovernance.eventbrite.com/>

Further Information

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Time	Topic	Speakers
SESSION ONE– Pathways to Water Governance Research		
9.30-10.30	Welcome and opening comments Short Presentations	Dr Fiona Miller Dr Caroline Sullivan Dr Philip Wallis
10.30-11.15	Conversations in small groups: Coming to water governance research	
11:15 – 11:45	MORNING TEA	
SESSION TWO – New (and Old) Conceptual Approaches to Water Governance		
11:45 – 12:45	Presentations (4 x 15 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maladaptation • Socio-ecological systems • Frameworks of power • Landscape sociology 	Dr Saffron O’Neill Prof. Ray Ison Dr Francine Rochford A/Prof. Ruth Beilin
12.45 – 1:15	Conversations in small groups: Promise and pitfalls – and other possibilities?	
1:15 – 2:00	LUNCH	
2:00 – 2.30	Presentations, 2 X 15 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subjugated discourses • Transitions theory 	Dr Sue Jackson Prof. Rebekah Brown
2.30 - 3:00	Conversations in small groups (continued): Promise and pitfalls – and other possibilities?	
3.00-3:15	AFTERNOON TEA	
3:15-3:45	Roaming report back from small group discussions	
SESSION THREE – Future Water Governance Research: towards an agenda for success		
3:45 – 4:30	4-5 brief presentations, panel discussion	Prof. Lee Godden Dr Philip Wallis Prof. Rebekah Brown Dr Kate Auty Others - TBC
4:30 - 5:30	Drinks	