
Seminar 2. Water, Climate Change and the Boomerang Effect

The Centre for Water Resources Research (CWRR) would like to extend a warm welcome to all our members and those interested to join the second Research on Tap Seminar for 2018. We especially encourage all Hydrology and CWRR students to join the Centre in welcoming Professor Larry Swatuk, a visiting Professor from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada who will be introducing his recently published book *Water, Climate Change and the Boomerang Effect: Unintentional Consequences for Resource Insecurity*.

Larry Swatuk is currently a Professor in the School of Environment, Enterprise and Development (SEED) at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada and is Director of the Master of Development Practice (MDP) Program. His particular geographic expertise is sub-Saharan Africa, yet has worked in Europe, Latin America and Central Asia. Prof. Swatuk lived for 14 years in Africa, primarily in Botswana, where he was a lecturer at the University of Botswana and Associate Professor of Resource Governance at the Okavango Research Institute. He is author of *A Glass Half-Full: Water in Southern Africa*, forthcoming from UKZN Press. Dr. Swatuk is also Adjunct Professor of International Development, St. Mary's University, Halifax; External Research Fellow, Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax; Senior Research Fellow, Bonn International Centre for Conversion, Bonn, Germany; Visiting Professor, Institute for Water Studies, University of the Western Cape; and a Research Fellow of both the Balsillie School of International Affairs and the Water Institute here in Waterloo, Ontario.

Water, Climate Change and the Boomerang Effect

In line with COP21 agreements, state-led climate change mitigation and adaptation actions are being undertaken to transition to carbon-neutral, green economies. However, the capacity of many countries for action is limited and may result in a 'boomerang effect', defined as the unintended negative consequences of such policies and programmes on local communities and their negative feedbacks on the state. To avoid this effect, there is a need to understand the policy drivers, decision-making processes, and impacts of such action, in order to determine the ways and means of minimizing negative effects and maximizing mutually beneficial policy outcomes.

This book directly engages the policy debates surrounding water resources and climate actions through both theoretical and comparative case studies. It develops the 'boomerang effect' concept and sets it in relation to other conceptual tools for understanding the mixed outcomes of state-led climate change action, for example 'backdraft' effect and 'maldevelopment'. It also presents case studies illustrative of the consequences of ill-considered state-led policy in the water sector from around the world. These include Africa, China, South Asia, South America, the Middle East, Turkey and Vietnam, and examples of groundwater, hydropower development and forest hydrology, where there are often transboundary consequences of a state's policies and actions. In this way, the book adds empirical and theoretical insights to a still developing debate regarding the appropriate ways and means of combating climate change without undermining state and social development. — Routledge ([Available now](#))

About the Research on Tap Seminar Series The seminar series aims to create an enabling environment for colleagues to connect and collaborate, across disciplines, positions and projects, meaning all staff and students are welcome and encouraged to participate; professors, lecturers, associates, contract, technical and supporting staff, research assistants, fellows, interns, post docs, and PhD, MSc, and honours students.

Send ideas or comments to the Seminar Organizing committee:

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