

# COMPARATIVE WATER STUDIES

## Workshop 24 + 25 October 2011

### Announcement

Contemporary processes of globalisation and liberalisation in water resources management make international comparative research both interesting and necessary, to contribute to and critique the development of policy and theory. The tradition of comparative research in water studies needs to and can be re-invigorated with more systematic and rigorous comparative methodologies, by learning from recent developments in comparative method in the social sciences. This two-day workshop aims to bring together researchers actively engaged in and concretely planning comparative water studies, particularly those using small-N/medium-N (qualitative) comparative approaches. Two keynote lectures will start the workshop; the larger part is devoted to discussing participants' research papers and research proposals on/with their comparative research designs and analysis. Geographically, the scope of the workshop is global, that is, not restricted to the global South or the global North, but exactly aiming at comparison across such binary divisions.

Participation is restricted and conditional on submission of a paper or research proposal for discussion. A (draft) Working Paper explaining the background and thrust of the workshop is available (Title: *Theorising structured diversity - an approach to comparative research on the globalisation-localisation dynamics in water resources management*). Those interested in participating are invited to write to the email address below indicating their engagement in comparative water studies, and a paper or research design they would like contribute for discussion.

### KEYNOTES

**Prof. James Wescoat** (Aga Khan Professor of Architecture, MIT, USA)  
*Comparative Water Studies: A Review and Assessment*

**Dr. Wendy Olsen** (Manchester University, UK)  
*Comparative Analysis, Critical Realism and Development Studies*

### Organisers

**Centre for Water and Development, SOAS, London, UK**  
**Irrigation and Water Engineering group, Wageningen University, NL**  
**ZEF Center for Development Research, Bonn, Germany**

*The workshop is the starting activity of the ICCWaDS (International Centre for Comparative Water and Development Studies) research programme initiative of the organisers (conveners Peter Mollinga - SOAS, Flip Wester - IWE and Saravanan S.V. - ZEF), which aims to be a platform for enhancing comparative studies on the politics of water resources management, globalisation and development.*

### Venue

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, UK

### Cost

Participation is free; participants will have to cover their own travel and lodging expenses.

### Contact and info:

Those interested to participate can email to [water@soas.ac.uk](mailto:water@soas.ac.uk) for further information.



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