

CALL FOR PAPERS: 2nd international workshop on "Comparative Water Studies", 20th -21st January 2012

The Center for Development Research ZEF in Bonn, Germany, will host the 2nd international workshop on "Comparative Water Studies" from 20th - 21st January 2012. This workshop follows the first one held in London from 24th - 25th October 2011.¹

The upcoming workshop will be carried out in cooperation with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, UK, the Irrigation and Water Engineering group of Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and the German Development Institute GDI/DIE, Bonn, Germany. It aims at discussing the state and prospects of comparative water studies and to advance networking and research design in four specific topic sessions:

1. **'Currencies of Globalisation'**, convener: Peter Mollinga (pm35@soas.ac.uk): This initiative aims to design a comparative and interdisciplinary research programme on the mechanisms connecting globalisation and regional processes of water resources management under different state forms. Theoretical themes addressed include the cultural political economy of the state, the politics of policy processes, and globalisation-localisation dynamics under (regulatory) capitalism.
2. **'Water resources, power and regime change in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA)'**, convener: Annabelle Houdret (ahoudret@aol.com): This initiative aims at exploring how water management reflects power relations, how it has been and is a component of regime (in)stability, and what impact the recent sociopolitical changes in the MENA region had in this regard.
3. **'Dams and development in Asia and Africa'**, conveners: Waltina Scheumann (waltina.scheumann@die-gdi.de) and Oliver Hensengerth (oliverhensengerth@gmail.com) This session focuses on the design of a comparative study of two interrelated topics: (i) the business operations and politics of new donors like China in the dam business in Asian and African countries, and (ii) the politics and economics in the respective 'recipient' countries. It aims at exploring the driving forces for changing hard-core engineering thinking and practices.
4. **'Water management, human health and urban planning'**, conveners: Daphne Gondhalekar (daphnegondhalekar@gmail.com) and V.S. Saravanan (s.saravanan@uni-bonn.de). This initiative aims at a discussion on the comparative methodology of interdisciplinary water management, human health and urban planning projects, focusing on the questions of "what to compare" and "why".

Participation: The number of participants is limited to max. 40. All participants are expected to submit and present a paper or concept note. Presentations are limited to 15 minutes each. Papers, proposals or concept notes can be submitted (a) for the above mentioned research topics, (b) refer to methodological approaches in comparative science or (c) relate to experiences of comparative research in water studies. Applicants may also propose other topic sessions.

Timeline:

December 15th: Abstract submission deadline. Please submit an abstract of no more than 200 words to the relevant session conveners directly (see above for email addresses).

December 20th: Abstract review decision will be sent to all applicants.

January 10th: Full paper deadline.

Financial: Participants will have to cover their own travel, lodging and food expenses. However, there may be opportunity for subsidized accommodation for student participants only.

Workshop organisers: For any further questions please contact: Daphne Gondhalekar (daphnegondhalekar@gmail.com) and Annabelle Houdret (ahoudret@aol.com) and refer to the ZEF website <http://www.zef.de/1548.html?pk=3751>.

¹ See <http://www.zef.de/1548.html?pk=3691&ref=199&view=archive&start=0> for more information.