



Discussion Minutes

C1 – Politicization and Securitization of the Nexus

Chair: Joyeeta Gupta

Speakers: Marcela Brugnach, Regina Buono, Simon Meisch, Jean Rodriguez

Minutes: Adriana Bernal

Discussions after each presentation

Marcela Brugnach – The Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Implications for Decision Making under Uncertainty

- Someone proposed to apply an agent based model (multi agent) as a parallel tool to analyze decisions under uncertainty/ambiguity.
- Later they discussed the existence different perspectives of the same issues between disciplines which exacerbates the ambiguities.
- Finally there was some discussion about the difference between frame and framing, and how through a clear definition of the framing + more dialogue so that perspective would converge to a common concept.

Regina Buono – Trading securities or entwined securities? A comparative study of water regulation and management for hydraulic fracturing in Texas (U.S) and Spain

- Someone asked about the Colorado case and suggested it was similar to the Texas case, however the speaker did not have a deep knowledge about that case.
- There was some discussion about the concept of regulatory capture. Also about the differences between regulatory agencies (Texas vs Spain).
- Someone also asked about the exact relation between fracking and water. At the end of discussion everyone concluded that there is clearly a trade-off between water security and energy security.

Simon Meisch – The water-energy food-security nexus – Securitizing Sustainability and its Implications for Governance

- There was some discussion about the unit of analysis in defining security. If we talk about water security it will not necessarily mean equal access to water and to human sanity. The open question left was whether we should put humans itself as the reference unit of analysis.
- Later the discussion turned to the current paradigm in scientific research: Copenhagen school vs. Paris school.
- Finally they discussed about the concept of post-political agenda. Some of the members of the audience did not agree that the future agenda will stop being political. At the end the conclusion was that the de-politicization term referred to the effect of a technological solution of the security problems. Similar to a “leave it to the experts” solution.



Jean Rodriguez – Payment for ecosystem services in the context of the water-energy-food/land nexus: Whose water-energy and land/food security matters?

- The discussion focused in how to solve the downstream socioecological problems, whether to use polluter pays schemes, benefit-sharing mechanisms or water use fees. However, at the end the speaker concluded that at least for the presented case the mechanisms was not the problem as it was a matter of power asymmetries in which the polluter will have the power to accommodate every situation to his own interest.

General Conclusion:

Joyeeta Gupta structured some final conclusion at the end:

- It is surprisingly common knowledge to think that resources are unlimited, from educated farmers in development countries and poorer farmers in developing countries.
- There is a huge security issue in using water for fracking and the issue should not be taken lightly.
- There can be some new externalities when using economic schemes similar to PES due to power inequalities.