

## Water Seminar - March 5th, 2010

### **Topic: Policy Entrepreneurs and Change Strategies: Lessons from 15 Case Studies of Water Policy Transitions across the Globe**

Human Ecology Forum, Friday March 5th between 10am and 12 noon in Room 101\* (Old Library) of the Forestry Building (No. 48), accessed from Linneaus Way, The Australian National University.

All welcome: if you cannot stay the full two hours feel free to come for as long as you can

**Speaker: Dr. Sander Meijerink, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands**

**Abstract:** In this seminar Dr. Meijerink will present the conclusions of a recently finished edited volume on water policy transitions, which he has co-edited with Dave Huitema, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. This volume was published by Edward Elgar Publishing and the International Water Association, December 2009.

The central questions of this book project are (1) who are the main policy entrepreneurs in water management and (2) what strategies have they used to bring about change? A survey of policy science literature suggests that policy entrepreneurs have an 'arsenal' of possible strategies for achieving change. Based on a comparative analysis of water policy changes in fifteen countries around the globe in combination with analyses of water policy changes at the EU and global levels, the contributing authors have asked which of those strategies have in practice been used by change agents, to what effect and which lessons for managing water transitions we can draw from this. The comparative case analysis shows that individuals play complementary roles, hence entrepreneurship in water management is often collective entrepreneurship. Strategies of coalition building, the manipulation of decision making forums, and the strategic framing of issues and windows of opportunity are crucial to understanding water policy change, which suggests that the management of water policy transitions is a highly political game.

The seminar concludes by listing recommendations for those who would like to direct water policy change.

For more information on the edited volume, visit:

[http://www.e-elgar-environment.com/bookentry\\_main.lasso?id=13428](http://www.e-elgar-environment.com/bookentry_main.lasso?id=13428)

**Bio:** Sander Meijerink is Associate Professor at the Institute for Management Research, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He has a broad research interest in institutional continuity and change, policy analysis and governance in the policy fields of water, climate and spatial planning, and participates in various government-funded programs on the governance of climate adaptation. He has published in the Journal of European Public Policy, Environment and Planning A and the International Journal of Water Resources Development, has just finished an edited volume on the role of water policy entrepreneurs in water transitions around the globe, and is working on a new book project on the effectiveness of river basin organizations across different institutional contexts.