



GovInn
Centre for the Study of
Governance Innovation

The Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn) and IFAS

are delighted to invite you to a seminar on

One basin, one governance?

“Grey governance”, structural inequalities and institutionalisation of cooperation in transboundary rivers in Southern Africa.

The institutional governance and sharing of rivers resources is often structured around the apparent naturality of the scales of a basin or a river, which is considered as optimal by many. A speech of naturalness serves then as a justification to many policies: if these territories are the most relevant by nature, institutions have to adapt to them or at least take them into account. This is especially observed on transboundary waters where institutions are often perceived as a warrant of stability (Keohane 1988; Schmeier, Gerlak, et Blumstein 2016). It is however commonly accepted that natural frontiers justified by sciences are also social constructs (Bourdieu 1976, 2001; Latour 2000; Bigo et Walker 2007). Because these scales gather multiple individuals and institutions, often overlapping or embedded in other regions and allegiances, the way these areas are conceived and lived as one entity is worth analysing.

This seminar offers two disciplinary approaches to analyse the sharing of freshwater resources on two Southern African basins, with a focus on the Sabie river, affluent of the Inkomati-Maputo (between South Africa and Mozambique), and another on the whole Limpopo river basin (shared amongst South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana), based on the research of two PhD candidates. The questions raised and observations made show “grey areas” of governance, where stakeholders are appropriating the rivers in various ways and at different scales and levels. With the insight of geography and political sociology, we will address fundamental questions on how riparian communities are structured and interact on transboundary waters in the region, from a bottom-up perspective.

Chair: Dr Magalie BOURBLANC, GovInn/Ceepa, University of Pretoria/ CIRAD UMR G-EAU, Université de Montpellier

PRESENTATION 1 – Nicolas Verhaeghe: “Sharing the Sabie river’s resources.”, PhD candidate University Paris Nanterre; UMR LAVUE 7218 / Laboratoire Mosaïques

PRESENTATION 2 – Paul-Malo Winsback : “‘This is not just about water...’ – The structuration processes of cooperation over freshwater on the Limpopo river basin.”, PhD candidate Sciences Po Toulouse-University Toulouse 1 Capitole (France); Laboratoire des Sciences Sociales du Politique

Discussant: Dr Michela MARCATELLI, PostDoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies, University of Johannesburg

Concluding remarks: Dr Chris Nshimbi, GovInn Director (to be confirmed)

Date: Tuesday, 6 November 2018
Time: 15:00 – 17:00
Venue: Seminar Room 1-09, Old College House, University of Pretoria
RSVP essential: kirsty.agnew@up.ac.za