



November 10, 2014

Re: Update on our research project and participatory video project component

I am writing with some key updates related to our project, *Experiences of Shifting Water Governance: Comparative Study of Water Access, Narrative, and Citizenship in Accra Ghana and Cape Town South Africa*, funded by Canada's Social Science and Humanities Research Council. I also am writing you to update you on some of our recent publications and completed theses, current plans and ongoing activities (including the recruitment of new students), and the next phases of our work—including visits to Ghana and South Africa in the coming year by our postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Crystal Tremblay. Details on all of these elements are provided below.

As a reminder, **overall project goals** include:

- 1) To analyze the effects and experiences of shifts in contemporary water governance among relatively impoverished and underserved communities in Accra, Ghana and Cape Town, South Africa
- 2) To analyze relationships between water use, access, governance, and citizenship
- 3) To develop new approaches for narrative analysis, particularly for political ecology
- 4) To contribute to policy debates regarding possibilities for extending water access and promoting participatory governance, particularly in underserved areas.

We also aim to work with partners in each context to promote research capacity and to disseminate knowledge.

In terms of **several timely items of interest for the very near term**:

Dr Crystal Tremblay, postdoctoral researcher working on this project, is now in Cape Town (November 5 to December 7, 2014). We plan to travel together to both Accra and Cape Town in March/ April of 2015. I am hopeful that Crystal will be able to meet with many of you during these times. The major focus of Crystal's work is to work with communities on a participatory video project, with focus on water and sanitation related issues. She is slated to do some initial work with the Iliso Care society in Khayletisha (November 2014), and also to work with ISODEC in Accra (March 2015). More details on Crystal's background and project are provided at the end of this letter.

Another timely item is that we are **currently recruiting MA and PhD students** to come to the University of British Columbia for future MA and PhD work related to the project

themes and goals as outlined above. If you are familiar with students who might be suitable for this funded graduate research opportunity, please put them in touch with me, as deadlines are fast approaching (December / January).

As a final note, we would like to congratulate Elizabeth Dapaah and Megan Peloso on the successful completion of their MA theses, and also welcome Scott McKenzie as a new PhD student associated with this project.

We are also happy to report on several **key project outcomes to date**:

We have several **publications out**, and several more in process:

- Morinville, C. and L.M. Harris. 2014. Participation, politics, and panaceas: exploring the possibilities and limits of participatory urban water governance in Accra, Ghana. *Ecology and Society* 19(3): 36. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-06623-190336>
- Peloso, M and C. Morinville. 2014. 'Chasing for water': Everyday practices of water access in peri-urban Ashaiman, Ghana. *Water Alternatives* 7(1): 140-159
- Harris, L.M., J.A. Goldin, and C. Sneddon (Eds.). 2013. *Contemporary Water Governance in the Global South: Scarcity, Marketization and Participation*. London, UK: Routledge.
- Morinville, C. & L.M. Harris. 2013. Participation's Limits: Tracing the Contours of Participatory Water Governance in Accra, Ghana In L.M. Harris, J.C. Goldin, and C. Sneddon (Eds.), *Contemporary Water Governance in the Global South* (pp. 216-231). London: Routledge.
- Harris, L.M. and C. Morinville. 2013. Improving Participatory Water Governance in Accra, Ghana. *Center for International Governance Innovation*. Policy Brief. <http://www.cigionline.org/publications/2013/6/improving-participatory-water-governance-accra-ghana>

Other **related publications** include:

- Mirosa, O. and L.M. Harris. 2011. Human Right to Water: Contemporary Challenges and Contours of a Global Debate. *Antipode*, 44(3): 932–949.
- Harris, L.M. 2009. Gender and Emergent Water Governance: Comparative Overview of Neoliberalized Natures and Gender Dimensions of Privatization, Devolution and Marketization. *Gender Place and Culture*, 16(4): 387-408.
- Morales, M. & L.M. Harris. 2014. Using Subjectivity and Emotion to Reconsider Participatory Natural Resource Management. *World Development* 64: 703-712.
- Harris, L.M. & M.C. Roa-García. 2013. Recent waves of water governance: Constitutional reform and resistance to neoliberalization in Latin America (1990–2012). *Geoforum* 50: 20-30.
- Morinville, C. & L. Rodina. 2013. Rethinking the Human Right to Water: Water Access and Dispossession in Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve. *Geoforum*, 49: 150-159.

**If you are unable to access any of these through our website, www.edges.ubc.ca please let us know and we will provide copies to you.*

We have **four completed MA theses** in the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at UBC. Again, thank you for any assistance you may have provided to these students as they were undertaking field-work. We invite you to visit our website, www.edges.ubc.ca to view the final theses of Cynthia, Megan, Lucy, and Elizabeth.

Cynthia Morinville, MA RMES, 2012. Beyond the Pipe: participation and alternative water provision in underserved areas of Accra, Ghana, MA thesis.

Lucy Rodina, MA RMES, 2013. Lived notions of citizenship and the human right to water in Site C, Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa, MA thesis.

Megan Peloso, MA RMES, 2014. Navigating water access and governance in peri-urban Ashaiman, Ghana : a case study, MA thesis.

Elizabeth Koryoo Dapaah, MA RMES, 2014. Water access and governance among indigenous and migrant low income communities in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA), Ghana, MA thesis.

In terms of other project outcomes to date, we are happy to report progress in working with several project partners, including ongoing communication and a gender-related workshop conducted with the Environmental Monitoring Group in Cape Town, as well as a recently funded partnership grant (also funded by SSHRC), involving several of our project partners. This partnership, **International WaTeRS** is a research and training network on water issues with focus on the global South. I am happy to provide you with further information or details should you or your organization be interested in becoming formally involved with the Network. In the meantime, information can be found at www.international-waters.org

We have also been working on **several publications from our 2012 survey** on water access and governance in Accra and Cape Town (implemented collaboratively with A. Darkwah in Accra and J. Goldin in Cape Town), and would be happy to provide you with drafts of those papers in process if that should be of interest (one is focused on the statistical linkages between water access and quality and participation in community governance, one evaluates gender issues related to water access and participation, one considers changing notions of the state and governmental responsibility in relation to water access, quality and satisfaction, and a final paper (led by J. Goldin) considers emotional and intangible elements of water access and participation.

Finally, I would like to provide a few further details related to the **work that is currently being undertaken by Dr. Crystal Tremblay**, a PostDoctoral fellow at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC. Crystal is an expert in arts-based engagement and participatory video, and will be working with several project partners in Accra and Cape Town over the next year. We are hoping that you might be interested in meeting with her and engaging in this exciting project.

Crystal has worked in Canada and internationally on similar efforts, using video as a tool for participatory public policy and action through engagement with local communities, particularly in the areas of resource management. She recently worked in Sao Paulo, Brazil with the informal recycling sector, producing a number of community documentaries that were used for public policy communication and education. The outcomes contributed to improved access, and participation in, public policy formation in some of the communities, and greater recognition of this sector in providing household recycling services. Ultimately, project outcomes included and increased support for the recycling community in the form of infrastructure and remuneration; both highlighted as significant achievements by the cooperatives.

The current project, '**Water Governance in Urban Accra and Cape Town: Building Citizenship Through Participatory Video,**' focuses on documenting some of the current *effects of water governance shifts* among potentially vulnerable populations in Accra, Ghana and Cape Town, South Africa. The process and potential outcomes of this project aim to enhance *participatory public policy design*, and assess in which ways this methodology can intervene and affect policy debates and implementation around water use and access. She is planning to co-produce participatory videos (with community partners, namely Iliso care society in Cape Town and ISODEC in Accra). Following on the production of the videos, we will follow up with local governments and other stakeholders, using the community-produced videos as a communication and policy tool. It is the intention that the videos will also be an important tool to share experiences and challenges with other communities. Youth in the communities will also gain key training related to video production and editing as part of the process.

As part of this broader effort, Crystal would like to facilitate a 2-3 day participatory workshop where key participants from partner organizations and the communities will be trained in story-board theme development, script writing, and all phases of production (preparation, production and editing). Workshops will also include attention to participatory research design and knowledge mobilization strategies. If this might be of interest for you, or your organization, please be in touch with Crystal directly at crystaltre@gmail.com. For Cape Town, please do so soon as the workshop is fast approaching.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or suggestions you may have. Our ultimate goal is to work with you in any way possible towards the objectives of this overarching project. We are very open to suggestions on particular efforts that might work towards achieving these goals. Sincerely yours,



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