



NISANSA



January 2024

ARUA NISANSA Research Forum 2024

13th and 14th of March

Graduate School of Business, Cape Town, South Africa

Session 3 (Water)

1:30pm – 3:00pm, Rooftop

'Pathways of change in water governance' (parallel)

Speakers: Janek Riedel, University Marburg (session lead); Simone Strambach, University Marburg; Anna Taylor University Cape Town; Themba Gumbo, Cap-Net; Aadrian Kurtz, CEO Wynlandwater; Nkululeko Mabila, Green Cape; Jessica Wilson, environmental consultant

Facilitator: Ruth Beukman

Abstract:

The escalating effects of climate change are becoming increasingly pronounced in the water sector, particularly in the arid and semi-arid contexts of Southern Africa. These impacts are closely intertwined with inherent systemic vulnerabilities and have significant implications for sustainable development. Water governance is a critical component in continuously adapting to water's changing availability and security, linking complex ecological, infrastructural, economic and organisational dynamics.

This session will discuss existing water governance pathways, i.e. changes in institutional arrangements, actor networks, norms and operating rules, highlighting their transformation over time and the related underlying mechanisms that influence the break-up of path dependencies and lock-ins. The transition to new approaches includes managing conjunctive use between surface-water and groundwater resources and demands organizational and institutional changes across sectors and scales.

Thus, the session invites a broad spectrum of participants, including researchers, civil society representatives, political actors, and water sector practitioners, to explore practical strategies for future water governance.



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