

Living Sustainably with Water: An Interdisciplinary Challenge

Water and Value Workshop – 13th May 2022

Organised by
Dr Minty Donald, Professor of Contemporary Performance Practice
and Dr Jill Robbie, Senior Lecturer in Law

Aim

University of Glasgow is hosting a series of Workshops which aim to bring together researchers from a diverse range of disciplines and relevant stakeholders to gain a greater understanding of the conceptualisation of water from a variety of perspectives. This will allow the co-production of a future interdisciplinary research agenda for living sustainably with water. Each Workshop will be organised under sub-themes which are intentionally interdisciplinary to facilitate exploration and collaboration.

The first Workshop will explore the process of framing the **value and meaning of water**. It will investigate how different conceptualisations of water feed into the governance of the resource, how this impacts on different social and ecological groups, and how alternative framings of water's economic, environmental, and socio-cultural value might facilitate living sustainably with water.

Outputs

After each Workshop, we will produce an interdisciplinary discussion paper based on the issues raised and explored. This will be posted on the [Glasgow Water Cluster website](#).

Programme

The Workshop will be held on **13th May 2022** between **10am-4:30pm** (GMT) in ARC Level 2 Seminar Room.

10am - 11:30am: Presentations

- Dr Rachel Clive, University of Glasgow and Dr Kirsty Stansfield – “For Freedom Space with Rivers: a Sharing of Artwork(s)”
- Prof Veronica Strang, Durham University – “Water, Democracy and Diversity: Bringing New Voices and Values into Contemporary Water Governance”
- Prof Andreas Bieler, University of Nottingham – “Water as an Economic Good? Interrogating the Fight over the Value of Water”
- Emma Ash, Senior Water Policy Officer, Consumer Scotland – “Exploring the Barriers for Consumers to Value Water”

11:30am – 12:00 noon: Coffee Break

12:00 noon – 1:30pm: Presentations

- Prof Andrea Ballesterio, Rice University, Texas, USA – “Plumes: Following Water and Taking Responsibility for Underground Worlds”
- Dr Kevin Grecksch, University of Oxford - “Narratives from Above and Below. Water Usage, Human Behaviour and Identity”
- Dr Diana Valero, James Hutton Institute – “Unpacking Public Narratives of Water Security in Scotland”
- Kirsty Holstead, University of St Andrews – “Delivering the Value of Water on the Frontline of Public Organisations”

1:30pm – 2:30pm: Lunch

2:30pm – 4:00pm: Attuning to the Aqueous Urban: Semi-guided Activities

Prof Minty Donald, University of Glasgow and Nick Millar

Attuning to the Aqueous Urban is an invitation to seek out, attune to, and interact with water in the environs of the Water and Value Workshop venue. Attuning to the Aqueous Urban takes the form of a suite of semi-guided, participatory actions or micro-performances, devised by artist-researchers Prof Minty Donald and Nick Millar. The micro-performances are intended to encourage playful, provocative, sensory, thoughtful, poetic, and generative interactions with water located within and around workshop participants. What might these micro-performances reveal about the ways that we value water? How do we characterise or categorise this water? Might ‘attuning to the aqueous urban’ prompt us to fruitfully re-frame our habitual, unexamined or pragmatic interrelations with water?

The workshop draws on Minty and Nick’s on-going practice-research project, *Guddling About* (www.guddlingabout.com). *Guddling About* focusses on humans’ interrelationships with water, and specifically rivers and other water courses, explored through participatory, more-than-human performance. The project has had iterations — via commissions, residencies, exhibitions, festivals, symposia, and conferences — in Australia, Canada, England, Finland, Germany, Scotland and Spain.

4:00pm – 4:30pm: Reflections and Discussion