



Call for Abstracts

Under the theme of “**Transformative Development Pathways – Critical Perspectives on Urbanisation, Land and Water**”, the WaterPower project invites you to participate in the project’s final symposium. Hosted by the Governance and Sustainability Lab at Trier University, the event aims to connect participants for discussions and exchanges on what efforts in knowing and governing the urban may be needed for transformative change.

We invite researchers and early career professionals working across diverse sub-fields in Geography, Urban Studies, Development Studies, Environmental Sociology, Ecology, and related fields. The symposium will be held in English. The deadline for applications is **07 April 2019**.

About Our Theme, ‘Transformative Development Pathways’

In five years of conducting research on Accra’s urban waterscape, WaterPower has analysed water and urbanisation processes from a political ecology perspective. In doing so, we assume that progress towards sustainable development in which socio-ecological inequalities are reduced and water security is guaranteed, is inevitably linked to questions of power and politics.

The symposium’s thematic sessions reflect the WaterPower research, connect different perspectives on urbanisation, land and water, and aim to explore critical perspectives on development pathways. Among others, we want to critically reflect and discuss recent political strategies that address Africa (Marshall Plan with Africa, BMBF Strategy).

Format of the Symposium

The symposium takes the form of a 2-day event with generous time for discussion and interaction built around the planned presentations. The event will host sessions covering the following themes:

- Water Governance, Institutional Bricolage and Hydro-Social Relations
- Water Practices in the Provision of Water
- Conservation Politics of Wetlands and the Articulation of Ecosystem Services
- Socio-Ecological Inequalities of Land and Water in the Peri-Urban
- Urban Water Futures

We envision an intense interdisciplinary dialogue and are determined to publish selected papers as a special issue.

Confirmed Speakers

Below you can find our guest speakers. Additional speakers will be confirmed over the next months. For regular updates on the symposium's program, please visit our website:

- Dr. Ellis Adjei Adams, Georgia State University (US)
- Dr. Jessica Budds, University of East Anglia (GB)
- Dr. Patrick Brandful Cobbinah, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (GH)
- Dr. Alexander Follmann, Universität zu Köln (DE)
- Prof. Dr. Christopher Gordon, University of Ghana (GH)
- Prof. Dr. Silja Klepp, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (DE)
- Prof. Dr. Michelle Kooy, IHE Delft (NL)
- Dr. Martin C. Lukas, Universität Bremen (DE)
- Dr. Marion Mehring, Institut für sozial-ökologische Forschung Frankfurt (DE)
- Dr. Adelina Mensah, University of Ghana (GH)
- Prof. Dr. Yaa Ntiamoah-Baidu, University of Ghana (GH)
- Dr. Maria Chiara Pastore, Politecnico Milano (IT)
- Dr. Sophie Schramm, Universiteit Utrecht (NL)
- Dr. Barbara Schröter, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (DE)
- Prof. Dr. David Simon, Chalmers University of Technology (SE); Royal Holloway (GB)
- Dr. Sandra Valencia, Chalmers University of Technology (SE)
- Prof. Dr. Paul William Kojo Yankson, University of Ghana (GH)

Your hosts, the WaterPower Project

WaterPower is more than a third-party funded research project – we understand ourselves as a collaborative research team that places an emphasis on an interdisciplinary dialogue rooted in a respect for different epistemological starting points. Our in-depths analysis on the waterscape of Accra, Ghana, explores how social-ecological inequalities are embedded in and reproduced by political and social relations, everyday practices of water provision, wetland conservation and urban expansion as well as biophysical elements and the material world.

More information on the Governance and Sustainability Lab, to which WaterPower is affiliated to, can be found > here.

Application

The symposium will be held on **15-16 July 2019** at Trier University. Titles and abstracts of approximately 300 words need to be sent to the organisers via email by **07 April 2019** for consideration. Please submit your document as **one single PDF attachment**. All applicants will be informed about the selection of participants by **mid April 2019**.

Organisation

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