

Why political economy matters in the water sector

An e-workshop by the Governance and RésEAU networks of SDC 25 October 2023

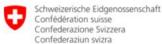
Starting soon!











Why political economy matters in the water sector

An e-workshop by the Governance and RésEAU networks of SDC 25 October 2023







Technical housekeeping



Your microphone is currently off

If you want to speak, click on the button at the bottom of the screen to raise your hand. Thank you for opening the mic only upon invitation.



If you have comments or questions during presentations, please post them in the chat, or wait for the Q&A moment to unmute yourself.



If you can't hear or see: leave and rejoin the meeting, and close other programs



Parts of this event are being recorded and made available to the RésEAU and Governance Networks.

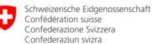


For more technical support, you can contact martin.laeng@skat.ch

Introduction







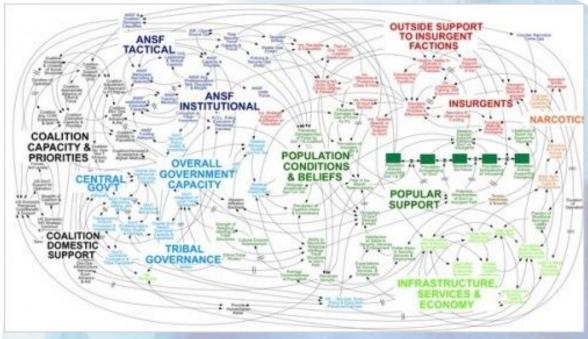
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Water challenges are both...

...complicated

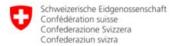


...and complex









Today's agenda

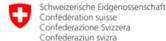
Welcome and introduction	Andreas Weber PGE Daniel Maselli RésEAU
Keynote	<i>Prof. Dr. Tobias Haller</i> Univeristy of Bern
Case study presentations & discussion (group work)	Javier Zubieta Helvetas Bolivia Anne Joselin Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Discussion	All
Poll and closing	Andreas Weber Daniel Maselli

Facilitator: Riff Fullan Helvetas Switzerland









Critical analysis of the RésEAU Brief on PEA

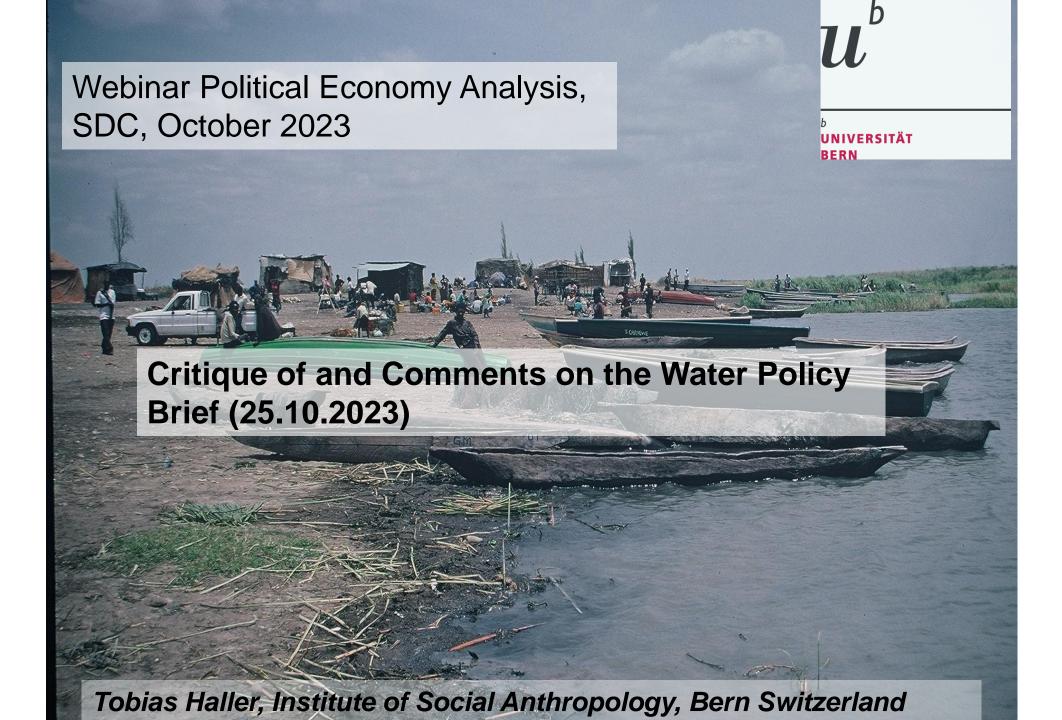
Prof. Dr. Tobias Haller

Co-Director

Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

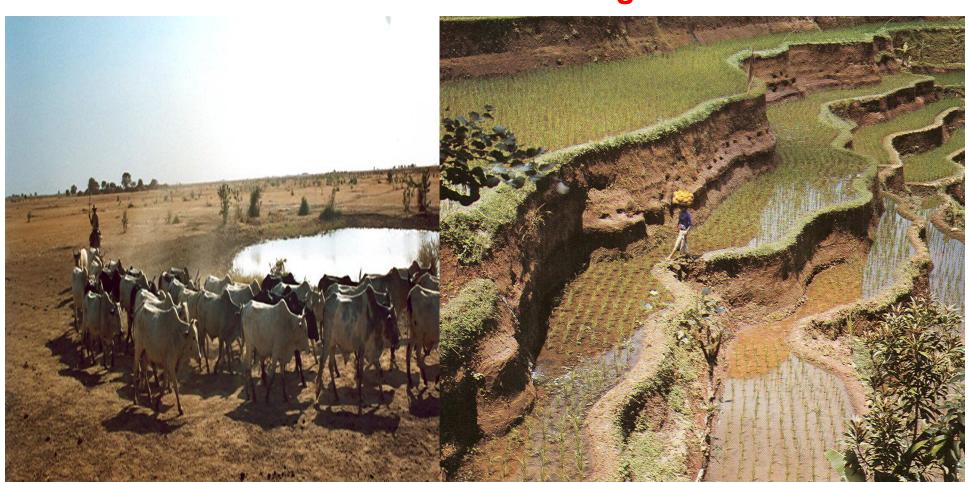
Resources

- Tobias Haller, Greg Acciaioli & Stephan Rist (2016) Constitutionality: Conditions for Crafting Local Ownership of Institution-Building Processes, Society & Natural Resources, 29:1, 68-87, DOI: 10.1080/08941920.2015.1041661
- Tobias Haller (2019) The Different Meanings of Land in the Age of Neoliberalism: Théoretical Reflections on Commons and Resilience Grabbing from a Social Anthropological Perspective, Land 8, no. 7: 104. https://doi.org/10.3390/land8070104
- Peter Bille Larsen, Tobias Haller, Ashish Kothari (2022) Sanctioning Disciplined Grabs (SDGs): From SDGs as Green Anti-Politics Machine to Radical Alternatives?, Geoforum, Volume 131, Pages 20-26, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2022.02.007.
- Tobias Haller (2020) Institution Shopping and Resilience Grabbing: **Changing Scapes and Grabbing Pastoral Commons in African** Floodplain Wetlands, Conservation & Society, 18(3), 252–267. https://www.istor.org/stable/26937766



Water is a common-pool resource

- since the work of Elinor Ostrom: water resources can be managed as a **common property** of local communities
- defining the rules and regulations (institutions) of water use.
- However, the word commons, common property or commoner's institutions are missing in the brief!



Fresh water bodies as commons: Anthropological research shows

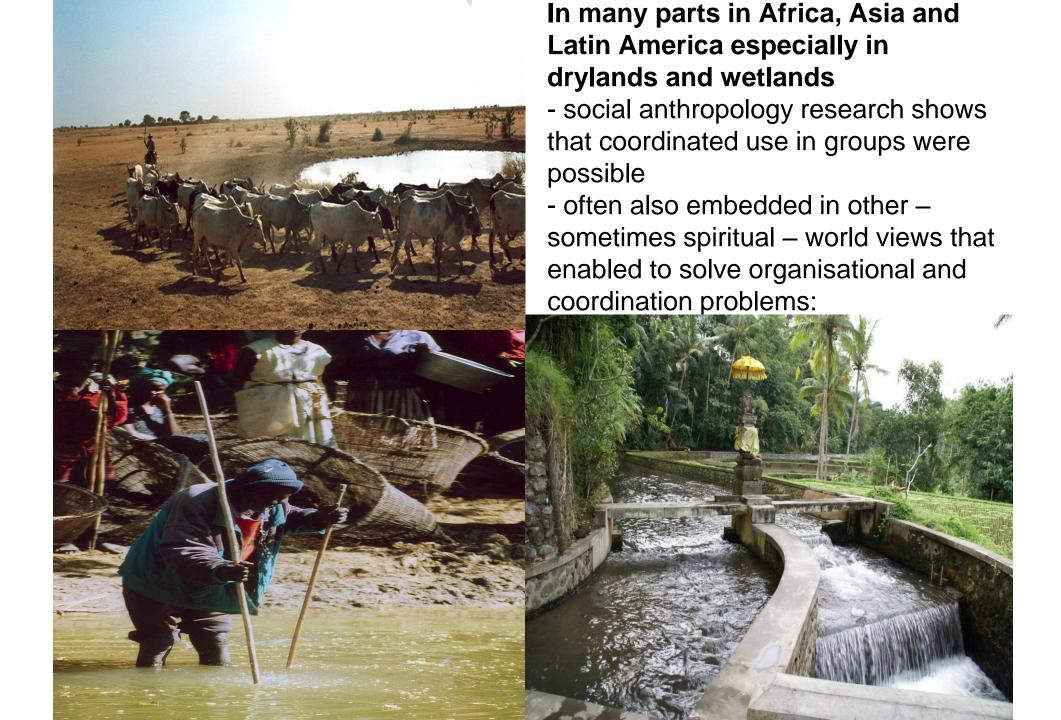
- that most of fresh water bodies in most societies before colonial times in the global south
- before state building in the global north
- → were managed under common property regimes for several uses.



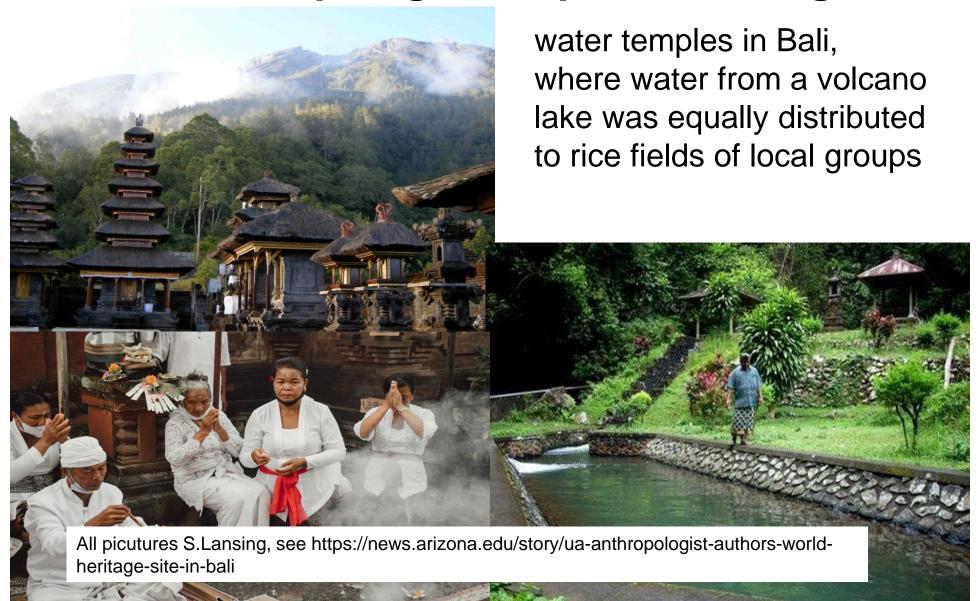
Colonialization and modern state building undermined the commons:

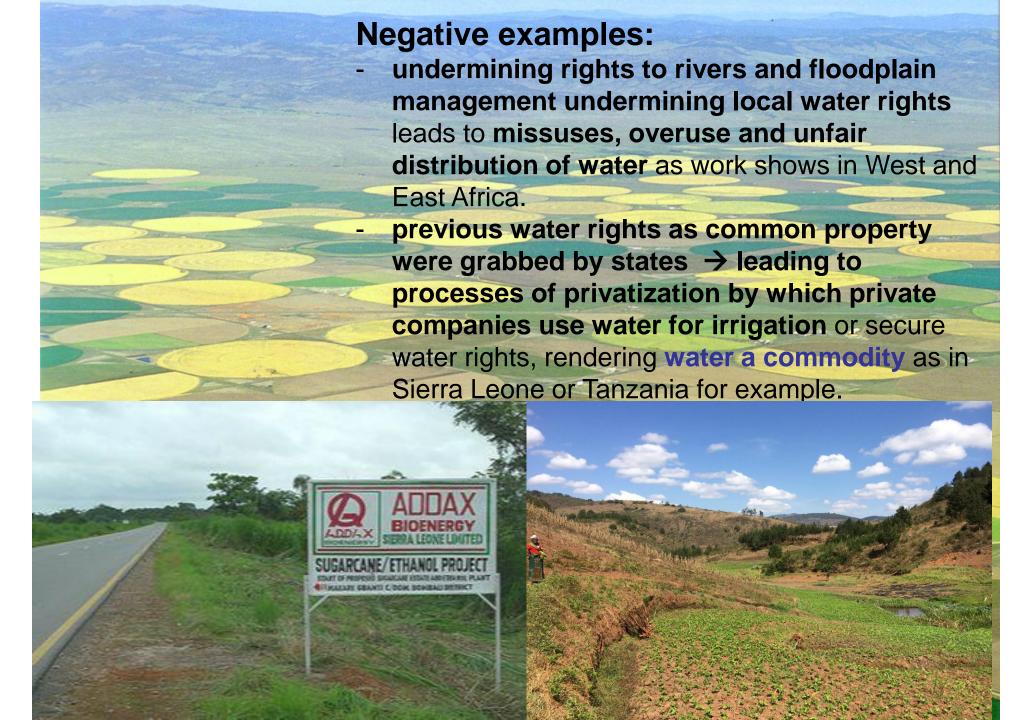
- **property rights changes** since colonial times have changed this collective rights to **state and as well private property**
- often **problematic distributional and overuse effects**: Ostrom's study on ground water in California shows the problems of bad state coordination
- collective water management in Switzerland shows solutions of sustainable water collective governance since the middle ages





Positive Example: see the work of the US-Anthropologist Stephen Lansing







Property rights in water governance matter:

- worldwide problems not just because of climate change but because property rights are defined either by state elites or during neo-liberal times by the private sector and no longer by local users with their rules and regulations: → Land and Water Grabbing

Political economy analysis and new institutional political ecology asks:

- What are processes and economic interests increasing the economic value of water
- impacts bargaining power of local actors defend land & what rules and norms are used (privatization), how legitimized ideological to grab water from local people and how water users are or are not organized.

→ This then leads to distribution of water and behaviour of water users:

- unruled water bodies will be overused if there are no rules and regulations leading to de facto open access or
- distribution will be very expensive and unfair, increasing pressure on 'open access' water bodies even more (the drilling groundwater problem..).



On all these levels a power analysis helps to see and understand

- who has the power to have influence on all these levels (be it having capital, or a powerful discourse or controlling the definition for what water is
- power to decide how it should be used (for example use water for large-scale hydropower than for decentralized irrigation)
- Green energy commons grabbing: In the SDG 7 water issues and policies are linked with energy and defined but without mentioning the issue of the commons and this means excluding a large number of people from property, governance and use.





In many societies water has different definitions, meanings, different uses and interconnecting different uses of resources beyond just drinking (irrigation, fisheries etc.)

→ thus linked to the land and more than human species.



Local commons property institutions often reflect theses multiple interconnections as our comparative research in African Floodplain Wetlands and other comparative studies on land and commons grabbing shows (see Haller 2010, 2016, 2022). → This teaches us that we cannot just focus on water but have to consider its interconnectedness with other common-pool resources.

Bottom-up institution building (Constitutionality) for re-establishing local water rights

- the possibility to redevelop water commons and common property institutions from a bottom-up process (constitutionality)
- strengthen more local water governance institutions building in a participatory way than to discuss regional and global issues only
- see for a general take on constitutionality for common-pool resources Haller et al 2016, 2018,
- for water commons very new publication: Van Koppen, B. (2023). Restoring the commons: a gendered analysis of customary water tenure in Sub-Saharan Africa. *International Journal of the Commons*, *17*(1).

Six basic Elements for Constitutionality

- (a) emic perception of need of new institutions,
- (b) participatory processes addressing power asymmetries,
- (c) pre-existing institutions,
- (d) outside catalyzing agents (fair platform),
- (e) recognition of local knowledge, creativity and social learning, and
- (f) higher-level state recognition

Major conference activities: Thematic, regional and biennial conference The next one in 2023 in Nairobi



Between Historical Legacies and Future Collective Actions

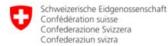
(Co-organized by University of Nairobi and Bern) https://europe.iasc-commons.org,

11 Subthemes

- Commons and SDGs
- Urban Commons Transformations
- Indigenous Peoples and Globalisation
- Between Colonial Legacies and the Anthropocene
- Modeling and Polycentric Systems
- Drama of the Grabbed Commons
- Global Health and the Commons
- Challenges of Digital Commons
- Environmental Justice, Conservation and the Commons
- Radical Solutions and Local Institution Building
- Advances in Theory







Resource persons



Javier Zubieta
Sustainable Landscapes
Subprogram Manager
Helvetas Bolivia

Case Study of Bolivia



Anne Joselin
Infrastructure Advisor
Foreign, Commonwealth &
Development Office, UK

Case Study of Democratic Republic of the Congo

PEA Case Studies

CASE STUDY:
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT IN
AREAS OF MINING
ACTIVITY - BOLIVIA

Javier Zubieta
Sustainable Landscapes Subprogram
Manager

La Paz, October 25, 2023





Javier Zubieta

Sustainable Landscapes Subprogram Manager

Helvetas Bolivia







Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Water supply and tap-stand management system, DR Congo



Anne Joselin

Infrastructure Advisor

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK

Case study 1: Watershed management in areas of mining activity - Bolivia

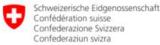


Strategic Basins: Suches (La Paz) and Cotagaita (Potosi)

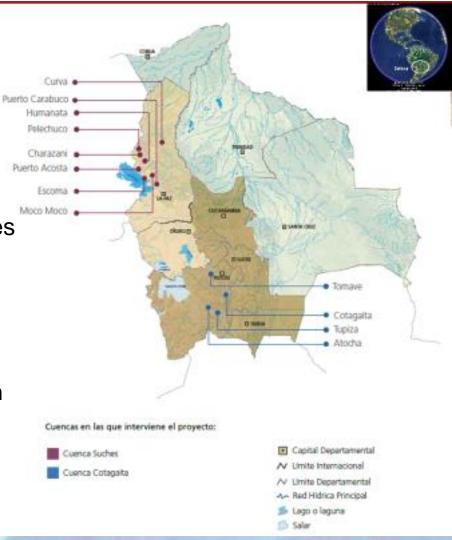
- Mining activities and watershed quality management
- IWRM and PEA through actor mapping





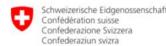


Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC









Case study 2: Public-Private management of urban water supply system, Democratic Republic of Congo

- Piped water supply and tapstand network
- Not-for-profit Public-Private-Partnership management 'replacing' water utility
- Disruptive institutional arrangement



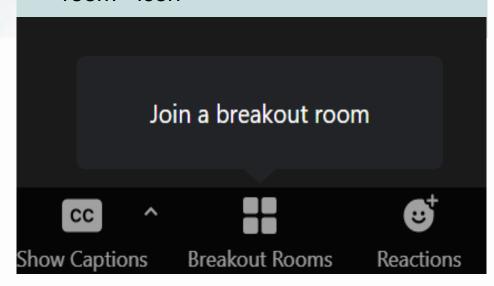






Instructions: Breakout rooms

 Join one of the two case study discussions using the «Breakout room» icon



2. Padlet will be used for note-taking – link in the chat!



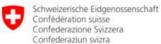
3. Define a volunteer for each group who will summarize points and present them in the next round.

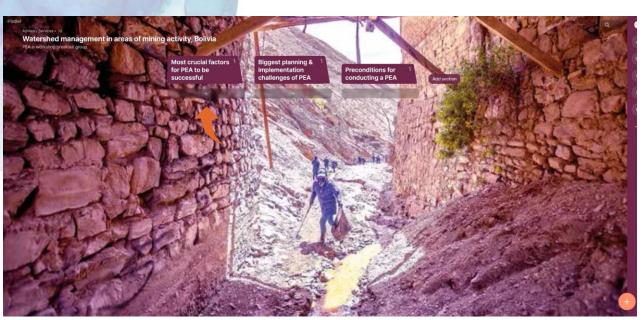










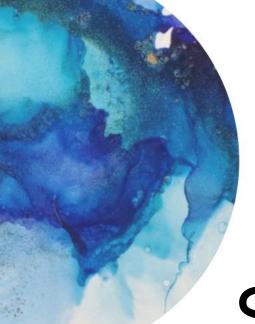




- Add notes by clicking on «+» under the columns.
- > Click «publish» to post them

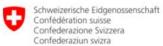


- You can move the notes around
- You can add as many notes as you need





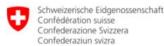




See you in 30 minutes!







Take a 5 min stretch break!



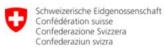
Photo courtesy of Unsplash.com

- Give your eyes a break from the screen
- Stretch out your arms and hands
- Stand up and stretch your back
- Or get a nice cup of coffee or tea :)







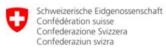












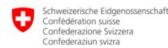
Discussion

- Summary of discussions
- Speakers' reactions
- Questions and answers









Poll time!

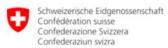
Fill in the poll (2 questions in a Pop-up window)

Optional:

Is there anything specific that would help you make more use of PEA in your work? If yes, please type it in the chat window







Conclusion

- Links to Padelt notes below
- Bolivia Case:

https://helvetasswiss.padlet.org/AdvisoryServices/watershed-management-in-areas-of-mining-activity-bolivia-5kix6ytrz1da6o9b

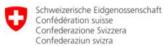
• DRC Case:

https://helvetasswiss.padlet.org/AdvisoryServices/enhancement-monitoring-and-operation-of-an-urban-water-suppl-Inctwp3dv6ely9pt











Join the communities

RésEAU - https://dgroups.org/sdc/reseau

PGE - https://www.shareweb.ch/site/PGE/Pages/Home.aspx