

Shaping communities and their role in water governance: A study of water policy and regulation professionals in Scotland

Kirsty Holstead, Shona Russell & Kerry Waylen





Communities & Governance

Blackstock & Richards 2007, Bakker 2008, Bakker 2010, Cleaver 2012, Blackstock, Waylen, Dunlinson & Marshall, 2012





Research Questions

Who are the key actors who shape water governance in Scotland?

How do these actors conceptualise the role of community in water governance?

What practices shape ideas of community engagement and what are their impacts?

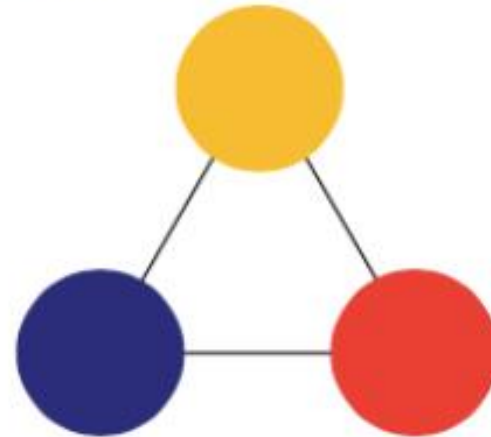


A practice approach

Examine how everyday routines of knowledgeable actors shape community engagement in water governance.

Attend to social & material elements

Meaning: cultural conventions, expectations and socially shared meanings



Material: objects, tools, infrastructures

Competence: knowledge and embodied skills



Concerns

Public water supply

To some degree, the fact that people don't think about it [water consumption] is probably complementary to Scottish Water, about the fact that they are doing a really good job [...] But what've we've done is created a paternal... public body.

(Regulatory professional)

Flooding

You're the council [local authority], so the council's always wrong! [...] Oh it's our fault. Definitely our fault. You know, the water comes from the sky, but it's our fault that it went in their living room!

(Local authority flooding professional)



Aspirations

Public water supply

You need to find some sort of way of supplying the service [mains water provision], [...] as something more collaborative, more involved in risk sharing [...] that thinks about resilience, that explains to customers that probably there would only be a few days in a hundred years where that the pie that supplies Dundee with water is not in full operation

(Regulatory professional)

Flooding

It's their responsibility as well as everybody else's in flood risk and flooding and flood management. Getting into their heads that we will not turn up and protect your property. It's your property [...] we won't come to save the day

(Local authority flooding professional)



So what?

Tensions between
joined up
catchment
approaches &
individual
customer/
householder

Information
provision,
financial
incentives &
education unlikely
to create active &
concerned
citizens

Need to attend to
cumulative
effects of policy
across water
domains

Shadowing water professionals to examine practices (meaning, *materials & competencies*) that shape & are shaped by communities & waters

Any Questions or comments?

This research is funded by the Scottish
Government Hydro Nation Scholars Programme

