



SCHOOL OF  
**PUBLIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Environmental Policy Seminar (Co-sponsored by the Ostrom  
Workshop's Program on Natural Resource Governance)**

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*Governing Transboundary Rivers: the Intersection  
between Science and Policy*

**Abstract**

Around the world, intensifying demands for water resources, changes in the hydro-climatic cycle, and degrading water quality pose threats to human and ecosystems. These risks are particularly of concern in transboundary river basins, where coordination across international political boundaries adds complexity to already challenging governance issues. The effective production of scientific knowledge and incorporation of that knowledge into decision-making will be a critical factor influencing how such water-related risks are mitigated, as decision-makers respond to potential impacts and externalities that span sovereign countries. River basin organizations play important roles in multi-level water governance, producing and influencing the production of science. This talk will explore what science is being produced and through what pathways science is used in several river basin organizations around the world.



**Bio**

Andrea K. Gerlak is an associate professor in the School of Geography and Development and an associate research professor at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on institutions for governing water resources. She examines cooperation and conflict around water, including questions of institutional change and adaptation to climate change in rivers basins, and human rights and equity issues in water governance. Gerlak is a senior research fellow with the Earth System Governance Project, and serves as a co-editor for the *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning* and an Associate Editor for *Climatic Change*.