

A JOINT SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SPRING 2009

As the 2009 Fifth World Water Forum approaches, think about the big questions: *Is there a global water crisis? Are international water issues a valid concern, or just alarmism? If serious, what are its dimensions, severity*



GLOBAL WATER ISSUES

and urgency? Is the water crisis a systemic international issue or an accumulation of regional/basin/local maladies? How do current water issues intersect with global climate change? What the social dimensions of water issues: why do the *poor* pay the *most*? Who is calling the shots in international water policy? What is the role of the public and communities, of non-governmental organizations, governments, international organizations, and corporate entities and organizations in water issues? Are there water mafias? Who are they? What power do they have? What are the interconnections among international water organizations? Who are the prominent spokes(wo)men for water? How have they achieved that role? What impact do they have? Do they continue to deserve it? Public or private water: which meets social needs best and most efficiently? Should water be treated as a commodity and be openly traded? Are big dams the solution? Is integrated water management 'the' solution? Will technologies such as desalination, treatment and recycling, and precision irrigation provide answers? If not, what will?

We address global, basin and regional hydrological processes, as well as forecasts of the impacts of global climate change, but the seminar will focus on policy and planning issues, bringing together the analytical acumen of geography, international relations and related natural and social sciences and technology ... water investigators unveiling the structure of the water world.

Spring 2009: Geography 507 or International Affairs 597 – apply for either one! Meeting time will be set to accommodate as many enrolled students as possible. See Prof. C. G. Knight (cgk@psu.edu) in 411 Beam (M-Th) or 322 Walker (F) for details.

