



ACADEMIC INSTITUTE
FOR STRUCTURAL
REFORMS

המכון
האקדמי
לרפורמות
מבניות



School of Social and
Policy Studies
The Gershon H. Gordon
Faculty of Social Sciences
Tel Aviv University

בית הספר ללימודי
חברה ומדיניות
הפקולטה למדעי החברה
ע"ש גרשון גורדון
אוניברסיטת תל אביב

סמינר מחקרי

המכון האקדמי לרפורמות מבניות

הסמינר יתקיים ביום שלישי ה-27.11.18 בשעות 15:00-16:30*

בחדר 419 בבניין נפתלי

מרצה:

איב גוטרמן

נושא המחקר:

Contrary Calculus: Institutional Formation in Scarce Transboundary Water Basins

As of 2013, more than 780 million people lacked access to clean water and over 2.5 billion people currently lack access to adequate sanitation. Given the interlinkages between sanitation, health, poverty, and violence, it is clear that universal access to, and fair and equitable sharing of freshwater is crucial for both development and peacekeeping. Literary debates over the relationship between resource scarcity and violent conflict tend to favour essentialist narratives that remove elements of human agency, contextual complexity and innovative potential. This work will propose a non-essentialist 'Political Economy' framework inspired by New Institutional Economics, through which to evaluate the formation of cooperative institutions for water sharing. The focus of this case study analysis will be the Mekong River basin in South East Asia, and the Jordan River basin in the Levant. In both basins, cooperative institutions were created and maintained, despite periods of intra-basin warfare. A cooperative water-sharing agreement among Mekong riparians later facilitated an efficient transformation from conflict to cooperation, despite periods of inactivity due to violent regional strife. In the case of the Jordan River basin, cooperative water sharing facilitated the ratification of a lasting peace agreement between previously warring neighbours. This work will shed light on the contextual environment that facilitated these agreements, with special focus on riparian incentive structures and regional dynamics. Water sharing institutions characterized by flexibility and dynamism prove to be not only sustainable, but capable of incentivizing cooperation on other matters, including economic development and even peace.