Capturing Critical Institutionalism
The dynamics of natural resource governance
18 – 19 April 2013, Kings College London

Critical institutionalism is a contemporary body of thought that explores how institutions mediate relationships between people, natural resources and society. It focuses on the complexity of institutions entwined in everyday social life, their historical formation, the interplay between formal and informal, traditional and modern arrangements and the power relations which animate them. Critical Institutional approaches are increasingly exciting both academic and policy interest but lack impact because they derive from different disciplinary/conceptual bases and are insufficiently synthesised. Further, analyses emphasising complexity are often relatively illegible to policy-makers.

This workshop therefore aims to consolidate and ‘capture’ critical institutionalism and move it beyond the ‘emergent’ stage to make meaningful academic and policy impact. It will draw together academics, policy-makers and practitioners from different disciplines (geography, sociology, anthropology, history, politics, economics) and sectors (water, forests, land, wildlife). In the workshop their task will be to:

- Define and synthesise key themes of ‘Critical institutionalism’.
- Further develop concepts such as bricolage and hybridity.
- Address the challenges of making these insights policy relevant.

The detailed program can be found on the next page. Please note that not all speakers are confirmed yet and that the programme might be altered.

People interested in participating in this workshop, can register by contacting Michelle Drew

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Programme*

18 April 2013 (Day 1)
10.30 Registration and Coffee

11.00-11.45 Introduction
F. Cleaver Setting the agenda for furthering Critical Institutionalism (King’s College London)
J. de Koning Rock in pond: three practices of Institutional Bricolage (Wageningen University)

11.45-12.45 Session: Disentangling the fine mess
V. Ingram and M. van Ros-Tonen A fine mess: bricolaged forest governance in Cameroon. (Wageningen University & University of Amsterdam)
F. Nunan Institutions and co-management in African fisheries: a critical institutionalist perspective. (University of Birmingham)
H. Smit On moving water and sediment – shaping water and sediment flows in the Gezira irrigation scheme (UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education)

12.45-1.45 Lunch

1.45-3.15 Session: Putting critical institutionalism into practice
I. Henneman and C. van Oosten Landscape governance as “bricolage in practice” a case study from Indonesia (Centre for Development Innovation)
S. Jones Bridging the gap between political economy analysis and critical institutionalism: a framework to help analyse institutional change for sustainable water and sanitation devices. (University of London)
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3.45-5.15 Session: Power and authoritative processes

K. Welle Understanding the informal power dynamics in performance monitoring of rural
water access in Ethiopia. (University of Sussex)

J.S. Kemerink, L.E. Méndez, R. Ahlers, P. Wester, P. van der Zaag The question of
inclusion and representation in rural South Africa: challenging the concept of Water User
Associations as a vehicle for transformation. (UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water
Education/Corresponding author)

D. Joshi ‘No right institution’: water, politics and democracy in Kalimpong town in the Eastern
Himalayas (Wageningen University)

5.30 Drinks

19 April 2013 (Day 2)

9.00-10.30 Session: The nature of agency

S. Kooij, van der, M. Zwartveen and M. Kuper Technology in critical institutionalism, the
agency of the Khrichfa canal in reconfiguring irrigation institutions.
(Wageningen University)

M. Funder and M. Marani Everyday implementation strategies among District Officers -
implementing Kenya’s Environmental Management Act on the ground.
(Danish Institute for International Studies & University of Nairobi)

S. Srivastava What regulation means to us’: Exploring regulatory cultures in water sector in
Maharashtra, India.
(University of Sussex)

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 Session: The field of practice

J. Behagel and S. van der Arend What institutions do: grasping participatory practices in
the Water Framework Directive (Utrecht University)

A. Verzič Institutional strategies and everyday practices in the Central Andes: the raison
d’etre of a Peruvian Water User Association. (Wageningen University)

S. Jarnvig Hybrid practices 3D-ing the Playing Field: A Tentative Critical Institutional Theory
for Community-based Management (unaffiliated)
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The dynamics of natural resource governance

8 – 19 April 2013, Kings College London

12.30-1.30 Lunch

1.30-3.00 Session Governance: spaces and scales

B. Arts Reconsidering the Failure of Global Forest Governance – A Critical-Institutional Approach. (Wageningen University)

T. Brett Public authority in Fragile States: Institutional Multiplicity, Hybridity and Inclusive Governance

T. De Herdt: Hybrid practices and practical hybrids: a Weberian view (Universiteit Antwerpen)

3.00-4.00 Coffee and Concluding Session: Capturing Critical Institutionalism

Plenary session on the findings of the workshop.

* Preliminary programme