

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Seminar Series

Collaborative FEW Nexus Governance for Water Security

Leah Jones – Crank

Earth Institute at Columbia University

DATE: Friday, 04/01/2022 Time: 9:00 am Location: Zoom

<https://miami.zoom.us/j/91040861431?pwd=YzVtbktMZHBmU1Ntd2hDekhmMGxDdz09>

Meeting ID: 910 4086 1431

Passcode: 305341

Abstract: Water management requires interdisciplinary approaches to achieve water security, especially with the uncertainty from climate change. The food-energy-water (FEW) nexus is one such framing to address this interdisciplinarity. The FEW nexus concept is an approach and framework that considers the interactions and interrelations relationships between the three resources within governance to increase resource security and decrease unintended consequences. Despite the proposed benefits, much governance continues to operate in sectoral silos, and there is limited understanding of the barriers to and opportunities for integrated FEW nexus governance. Therefore, I conduct a multi-method case study analysis of food, energy, and water institutions to understand the structure of collaborative governance across the three sectors, investigate the structures that uphold the “silo” mentality to decision-making, and identify opportunities for greater collaboration across the sectors. I employ stakeholder engagement, social network analysis, qualitative interviews, and case study synthesis to examine the case cities of Phoenix, Cape Town, and Singapore. By investigating the FEW nexus governance and institutions, this research advances knowledge and practice of integrated decision-making across the three sectors for greater resource security.

Bio: Leah Jones-Crank is a postdoctoral researcher at the Earth Institute at Columbia University. She received her PhD in Sustainability from Arizona State University. Her work uses social science approaches to examine collaborative governance and decision-making within the food-energy-water nexus for increased resource security and sustainability under conditions of climate uncertainty. She has done research in Phoenix and Cape Town and is currently in Singapore conducting fieldwork.

