



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science

Zoe Stein

Will present her scientific paper

**A future-oriented assessment of attitudes
toward urban water sustainability
transitions among young, ethnically-diverse
urban residents in Phoenix, Denver, and Las
Vegas**

Abstract

Water security is a growing challenge for urban cities around the world. A transition to sustainable urban water management systems is urgently necessary but requires multi-stakeholder support. Urban residents, despite being stakeholders, have been minimally engaged in this issue and their attitudes and perceptions on water sustainability transitions are not often considered. Currently, many semi-arid and arid cities, including populous hubs such as Denver, CO, Phoenix, AZ and Las Vegas, NV are experiencing a demographic transition as the number of young, and ethnically diverse residents (particularly those who identify as Latinx) grows. This population of young, ethnically diverse urban residents, despite their increasing share of the population, are historically overlooked and discounted. As a result, there is currently no robust understanding of their support for transformational water-management strategies.

This paper is a secondary analysis and a continuation of the multi-city cross-sectional, random-sample survey of residents conducted by White, et. al. 2019. Using their data set, we specifically focus on younger and ethnically diverse respondents. Our findings highlight possible high-impact opportunities for transformational water-management strategies and recognize potential barriers and opportunities that may exist in other sectors of society relevant to urban sustainability transitions. Our study aims to serve as a reminder to policymakers

that a key constituency may be seriously underrepresented if and when leaders determine transition strategies for sustainable urban water systems and we work to correct this oversight by providing suggestions for future research that is more inclusive, and producing a set of evidence-based hypotheses to guide that research.

Tuesday, June 18, 2019
5:00pm
WGHL 481

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Rob Melnick, Chair
Dr. Dave White, Co-Chair
Dr. Maria Cruz-Torres