



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts
Clea Senneville

Will defend her thesis

Integrating Knowledge and Action Through Boundary Organizations: A Study of the Arizona Water Institute

Abstract

Disconnects between science and decision domains are common and problematic, especially because they obfuscate already eminent and complex sustainability challenges facing contemporary societies. This thesis develops a conceptual model to analyze these disconnects and to highlight the analytical and practical importance of institutional arrangements to enhance the relationships between knowledges and actions for broader societal benefit. Informed by science policy scholarship and shaped by this study's corresponding qualitative empirical work, three themes are identified as significant to the institutional role connecting science and decision-making: (a) governance and ownership; (b) reconfiguration; and (c) managing dynamic processes. A boundary organization, the Arizona Water Institute, is explored using the model to demonstrate its "real-world" applicability, and to generate practical advice for institutions trying to manage the boundary between knowledge and action. The study indicates the efficacy of the three themes, thereby contributing a novel analytical framework for the study and evaluation of knowledge-action efforts.

Wednesday, July 22, 2009
2:00 PM
GIOS 401

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Clark Miller, Chair
Dr. David Guston
Ms. Katharine Jacobs