



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science
Eleanor Rauh

Will present her scientific paper

**Public Perceptions of Transformational Strategies for Water
Sustainability Transitions: A Multi-City Survey in the Western U.S**

Abstract

As one of the most allocated transboundary river systems in the world, sustainable water management of the Colorado River Basin is critical to the future of the southwestern United States. Phoenix, Denver, and Las Vegas each are experiencing increasing pressure on water resources as population, development, and uncertainty about the future increase. While a growing number of researchers and policymakers are calling for transitions towards urban water sustainability, few studies examine the role of the general public in moving towards water sustainability, despite the acknowledgement that transitions affect the public in critical ways. This study aims to fill that gap by conducting a multicity residential social survey. Using a socio-technical systems cause-effect framework, five explanatory variables are addressed including motives, assumptions, rules, capacities and resources, in order to understand perceived need for changes to the water system and attitudinal support for transformational strategies. We hypothesize that individuals who report a stronger environmental orientation, greater procedural knowledge, and more perceived personal responsibility are more likely to support water sustainability transitions.

Wednesday, April 11, 2018
9:00 a.m.
WGHL 323

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Dave White, Chair
Kelli Larson, Member
Paul Hirt, Member