

Global Phd Scholarship – St Andrews and Bonn

Water politics in Northern Kenya

Project description

Stakeholder participation in water management continues to be a key public policy objective worldwide. Likewise, understanding how and why conflicts about water emerge, and how they can be mitigated or resolved in the face of diminishing water security is one of the most important priorities for water research today. In Kenya, stakeholder participation has been formalized through the 2002 Water Act, which calls for the establishment of Water Resources User Associations (WRUAs) within the country's river basins. These institutions are composed of commercial and small-scale farmers, domestic users, service providers, pastoralists, conservancies, and other water users, as well as representatives from government and civil society. Among other purposes, WRUAs serve to coordinate water abstraction and rationing programs; they also help with the implementation and enforcement of national water laws and regulations and are the first point of contact for addressing any localized water issues.

Northern Kenya has a long history of conflict between different water users, perhaps due to the strong ecological, economic, and cultural diversity in the region. Research proposals are invited that broadly fall into the field of water politics/political ecology of water, using Northern Kenya as a case study. Potential research questions could investigate various aspects, focusing, for example, on the micro-politics of multi-stakeholder water management in WRUAs, inter- or intra-community water conflict, translation of national and international water norms to local scales, conflicts associated with groundwater use and management, cultural values and water management, the implications of foreign donor activity for water management in the region, human-wildlife conflict related to water access, and many others.

The project will be managed jointly between the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at St Andrews and the Institute of Geography at Bonn. The student will be supervised by Dr Christopher Schulz (St Andrews) and Prof. Detlef Müller-Mahn (Bonn).

Informal enquiries regarding this scholarship may be addressed to the co-supervisors

- **Dr Christopher Schulz:** christopher.schulz@st-andrews.ac.uk
- **Professor Detlef Müller-Mahn:** mueller-mahn@uni-bonn.de

For further information, please visit [Joint Doctoral Program St Andrews and Bonn](#) and [Global Doctoral Scholarships – St Andrews and Bonn](#).

Application deadline: March 31, 2023