MSc in Water and Sustainable Development

MODULE

Water, practices and institutional arrangements

Institutions, in the sense of rules-in-use, shape everyday practices of people interacting with water. In particular, for collective action to maintain and operate collective water infrastructure and protect common pool resources, institutions are assumed to play a vital role. Moreover, water related institutions shape how access to, and responsibility for water are distributed in society, often based on gender, race/ethnicity and class. This module teaches students the main theories and approaches for institutional analysis of water use practices, including collective action. The shared part of the module will introduce main theoretical frames and associated concepts, including neo-institutionalism, critical institutionalism and political ecology. After that students go into specific part tailored to their thematic track to apply these theories and concepts on specific cases.

In the Water and Health track students will examine institutions on collective action and water use practices in provision of water and sanitation services in the context of urbanization.

In the Water, Food and Energy track students will examine institutions on collective action and water use practices in irrigation systems (and possibly decentralized water-energy systems) including farmer-led initiatives.