



## Séminaire

Jeudi

**26 juin 2014**

10h – 13h

École Nationale du Génie de  
l'Eau et de l'Environnement  
de Strasbourg

1 quai Koch, Strasbourg

Accès

Tram C, E, F – Arrêt Gallia

<http://engees.unistra.fr/site/ecole/infos-pratiques/acces-angees/>

Contact

F. Destandau

Francois.destandau@engees.unistra.fr



## From the hydrologic cycle to the hydrosocial cycle: Changing representations of the relations between water and society

**Jamie Linton**

*This presentation considers how different ways of understanding the relations between water and human society have been reflected in different concepts of the circulation of water from the 1930s to the present in English-language hydrological and geographical literature. In 1931, the modern concept of the hydrologic cycle was introduced as a framework for the hydrological sciences in the United States by the American hydrologist Robert E. Horton. Originally conceived as representing a purely "natural" (i.e. non-social) process, the hydrologic cycle quickly spread in scientific, administrative and popular discourse. Scientific and cultural developments in the post-war years – especially the growing concerns for the human impact on the natural environment – gave rise to new ways of conceptualizing and representing the hydrologic cycle, so as to accommodate and reflect anthropogenic influences on the quality and flow of water in the hydrosphere. While integrating water and society, these concepts and representations reflected a rigid distinction and separation between nature and society, characteristic of modernity. As this distinction has weakened in more recent years, new concepts and representations of the hydro-social dynamic have appeared that reflect new ways of understanding this relationship. The presentation concludes with a discussion of the "hydrosocial cycle", a concept that has been developed by the author and other critical geographers as a way of representing and analyzing the political and social dimensions of water*

Enseignant-chercheur au département de Géographie de l'université de Queen's au Canada et chercheur associé au laboratoire GéoLab de l'université de Limoges, Jamie Linton travaille sur la dialectique eau/sociétés et le concept de « cycle hydrosocial », sur l'histoire de l'idée de l'eau dans la pensée moderne occidentale et les limites du paradigme de « l'eau moderne ». Il est responsable de la chaire « Capital environnemental et gestion durable des cours d'eau » du laboratoire Géolab.

Il a publié « *What is water* » en 2010 à UBC Press. S'inspirant de la sociologie des sciences et de la *political ecology*, il retrace le processus d'abstraction par lequel l'eau, hétérogène et complexe, a été transformée en une eau unidimensionnelle, commensurable, soutenant *in fine* l'idée d'une « pénurie mondialisée ». Jamie Linton est aussi l'auteur de nombreux articles, dont :

Linton, J. (2014). Modern water and its discontents: a history of hydrosocial renewal. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water*, 1(1), 111-120.

Linton, J., Budds, J. (2013). The hydrosocial cycle: Defining and mobilizing a relational-dialectical approach to water. *Geoforum*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2013.10.008>

Pour accéder à sa bibliographie complète:

<http://recherche.flsh.unilim.fr/geolab/james-linton/>