



President's Report



Best wishes for 2020 for all AARES members. I hope everyone has enjoyed the break, and not been impacted by the bushfires that been affecting so many communities across Australia.

There are only a few weeks to go to the AARES conference in Perth. Please remember to register by the 13th of January to catch the early-bird discount, and by the 15th of January if you are a presenting author.

We have finalised several awards for the conference, and welcome these attendees:

- The Travelling South award has been granted to Dr Leah Palm-Forster (University of Delaware) to present her paper 'Stewardship signaling and the use of social pressure to reduce nonpoint source pollution'.
- The Travelling West award has been granted to Amaka Nnaji (Lincoln University) to present her paper 'Do conflicts reduce household food security? Evidence from farmer-herdsmen conflicts in rural Nigeria?'
- The Donna Brennan award has been granted to Thanh Mai Ha, from Vietnam.

Please note the call for the Travelling North award to attend the AAEA conference in Kansas City in June this year is open, with applications due by the 1st of March.

The AARES Council has accepted a proposal from a University of Sydney led team to be the next AJARE Editors, comprising Associate Professor Tiho Ancev, Professor Mara Thiene and Associate Professor Shyamal Chowdhury. They will take over from the current team of editors (Professors Frank Scrimgeour, John Gibson and Ric Scarpa) progressively during 2020 and serve a three year term in the position. I thank both teams for their commitment to the journal and AARES.

The other major announcement is that AARES is establishing a new part-time position for a person or organisation to provide marketing and communication services to the society. This aligns with the current AARES Strategic Plan.

The Marketing and Communication officer's primary responsibility will be to develop and implement a membership recruitment strategy on behalf of AARES, act as editor of the principal forms of electronic communications of AARES (including the website and all forms of social media), and be the person primarily responsible for communications on behalf of AARES. That responsibility is currently open for tender, with applications closing on the 5th of February 2020. Further information can be found at: <https://www.aares.org.au/careers-and-networks/>

I look forward to meeting most of you in Perth in a few weeks time

Cheers

John Rolfe

HEADING NORTH AWARD

AARES and NZARES will facilitate the attendance of an agricultural and/or resource economist in the early stages of their career economist in to attend the AAEA annual meeting.

Applicants must be members of AARES and normally reside in New Zealand or Australia.

The award is valued at US \$3,000 (to cover airfares, conference registration and accommodation).

Applicants do not have to have a paper accepted at AAEA to apply – they should include their paper in their application for inclusion in our AARES session at AAEA.

Applications are to be submitted to Ms Cassandra Crisp at office@aaes.org.au

Also in this issue...

Quentin Grafton: ARC Laureate Fellow

Professor Grafton provides an overview of his recently awarded ARC Fellowship

AARES 2020 Perth

David Feldman and the Local Organising Committee provide some insights into what to expect

ARC Laureate Fellow 2020: Professor Quentin Grafton

Professor Quentin Grafton was recently awarded a prestigious ARC Laureate Fellowship associated with his work on water justice. Here Professor Grafton discusses the project associated with the fellowship.



The Thirsty Country: Non-market Valuation and Resilient Decision-making for Water justice

Brief Summary

The laureate project is planned to commence on 1 July 2020 and will run for 5 years. Cashing funding is in excess of \$3 million in total and is focused on water justice. The research will use valuation (in particular non-market) valuation and risk-based approaches to decision making to improve water governance and water outcomes, especially for vulnerable communities. The Laureate will focus on three sites: one in Western Australia, one in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin and one in British Columbia.

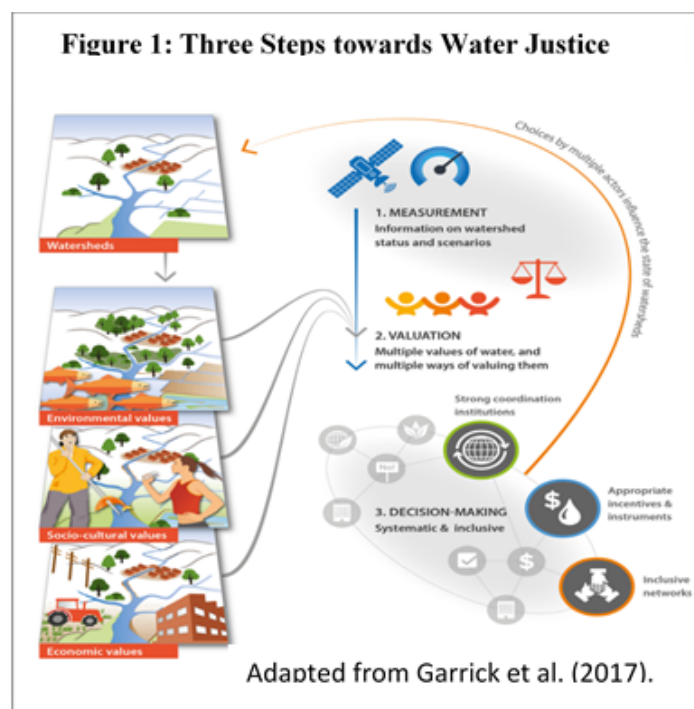
Background

Many of the world's rivers and lakes are degraded (Vörösmarty et al. 2010) and key aquifers have shrunk (Castle et al. 2014). Water availability is projected to further decline over much of Australia (CSIRO and BoM 2015) due to climate change (Cai et al. 2015). Without a quantification of water values, water injustice will continue, such as when First Peoples were dispossessed of their country from dams constructed on the Ord River in the Kimberley Region, WA (Barber and Rumley 2003). Estimation of values is necessary, but is not sufficient to achieve water justice. Integrated and evidence-based decision-making is also required to change outcomes. In Australia, the Thirsty Country and a land of droughts, an integrated understanding of water values (Grafton et al. 2011; Hatton MacDonald et al. 2012) and resilient decision-making is urgently needed to avoid the consequences to First Peoples, and all Australians, of another severe drought that is currently unfolding in southern Queensland and NSW.

Water justice demands foundational research to quantify missing water values and to respond to current and future risks of water access in the driest inhabited continent.

The research will: (i) develop the first-ever conjoint socio-cultural values of water, because missing values are almost always treated as zero by decision-makers and because First Peoples need these values to promote water justice; (ii) transform water decision-making to account for Indigenous values and risks; (iii) adapt and up-scale the methods via the applicant's international networks (including OECD, UNESCO and the World Bank); (iv) create a Water Justice Hub at the Australian National University (inspired by the Geneva Water Hub) that will connect researchers to the broader communities in Australia, and across the world; and (v) develop a generation of scholars expert in integrated water valuation, resilient decision-making, and Traditional Water Knowledge.

Securing water justice requires three key steps: Step 1, understanding and measuring water budgets, extractions and return flows (Grafton et al. 2018b); Step 2, valuing the multiple attributes of water, such as its environmental, socio-cultural and economic values (Garrick et al. 2017); and Step 3, incorporating the multiple values of water into resilient and inclusive decision making (Grafton et al. 2018a; Wyrwoll et al. 2018).



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Objectives

The world faces severe global risks (WEF 2015) of over-extraction and misuse of water (Mekonnen and Hoekstra 2016) that will prevent achievement by 2030 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (UN 2018). Many who lack adequate access to water of sufficient quality are the vulnerable and marginalised, and especially Indigenous Peoples. To respond to this immediate challenge, the Laureate will develop an innovative framework for water valuation, modelling and resilient decision-making to empower Australia's First Peoples, and enable effective and evidence-based policy solutions.

The overarching aim is to develop pioneering ways of valuing water and supporting resilient decision-making for water justice (Zwarteveen and Boelens 2014) with a particular focus on Indigenous Peoples, especially Australia's First Peoples. Water justice (McLean 2007), unlike environmental justice (Schlosberg 2004), has yet to be operationalised. It identifies peoples' values, net benefits and risks around water and occurs when: people have water access to meet their needs (physical, social, economic and cultural); there is recognition and protection of these needs (including cultural practices); and water management is founded on integrity and respect for all, especially vulnerable people..

Specific Laureate objectives include: (i) estimate multiple water values and the frequently ignored socio-cultural values of Australia's First Peoples (Jackson 2005); (ii) deliver resilient decision-making (including free user-friendly updatable software) in Australia, and other countries, to enable evidence-based policies and to ensure the socio-ecological systems, on which Indigenous and other communities are dependent, are resilient and can 'bounce back' following adverse events.; and (iii) create an enduring legacy of scholars with world-leading expertise in water valuation and resilient decision-making. The Laureate will have global impact by leveraging the multiple networks established by the applicant, such as through the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance that is one of more than 50 UNESCO Water Chairs worldwide and part of the only United Nations Programme dedicated to water research and education.

More details on the project including a range of new research positions are available at the Water Justice Hub (see <https://waterjusticehub.org/>)

AARES 64th Annual Conference 2020: PERTH 11th-14th February


The Perth organizing committee, and the AARES Federal Council, take pleasure in welcoming you to the AARES 2019 Conference which is being held at the University of Western Australia in Perth from the 11th to 14th February 2020.

The conference venue is located adjacent to the Swan River with riverside cycle paths, walking and running trails and a beautiful grounds providing a relaxed setting to a conference schedule that is exciting and interesting.

Keynote speakers include Professor Edward Barbier (Colorado State University), Professor Micheal Hanemann (UC Berkeley), Professor Madhu Khanna (University of Illinois), Professor Matin Qaim (University of Goettingen), Professor Celine Nauges (Toulouse School of Economics) and Associate Professor Marit Kragt (University of Western Australia).

More details overleaf...





AARES 2020

PERTH 11th-14th February

Outline

The 2020 AARES Conference will be held in Perth on the campus of the University of Western Australia. The campus is located adjacent to the beautiful Swan River with cycleways/walkways and buses providing access to the CBD. Registrants will be spoiled for choice and scope of pre-conference workshops, with three on Tuesday and an early career workshop on Monday. Be sure to check out the registration page for more details. Places in all workshops are limited and filling rapidly so early registration is advisable.

The Program

The conference format will continue the tradition of three days from Wednesday with an outstanding selection of invited speakers from overseas and Australia complimented by eight concurrent contributed paper sessions. A feature of the program will be opportunities for audience discussion in a selection of seven mini-symposia on a variety of topics and four concurrent policy sessions where different perspectives on current issues will be explored on subjects including, biodiversity conservation, drought assistance, information to primary producers, and trade agreements.

Some important dates to note:

- Early bird registrations close 13th January, 2020
- Presenting authors must register by 15th January, 2020

Early Career Delegates

A variety of events and activities are organised to provide a productive and enjoyable experience for early career professionals attending AARES 2020. This includes a dedicated early career professional workshop on Monday the 10th of February, an EC social event on Tuesday evening, a mentoring program, and a three minute thesis competition. To find out more, head to <https://www.aares2020.org/#/early/>

Our Sponsors

Finally, a vote of thanks to all of our conference supporters. ACIAR will again be providing high level support for our conference especially with media contact and publicity. Our key sponsors in 2020 are Griffith University Agribusiness, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, and The University of Western Australia, School of Agriculture and Environment. Continuing support from the GRDC and new sponsors include the UWA Oceans Institute, social event sponsor is RAID.

Child care

For delegates requiring child care services during the conference, there will be a subsidy offered by AARES. The subsidy is subject to availability and will depend on the number of applicants, so we recommend getting in touch soon if you require child care services at office@aares.org.au. Delegates will be responsible for organising their own child care services, but you can contact the Local Organising Committee via marit.kragt@uwa.edu.au for help and advice on services available in Perth.

Accommodation

There are many options for accommodation near the conference venue on the UWA Crawley campus. Accommodation ranges from modern, hotel-like rooms (at St Catherine's on Park, Trinity on Hampden and Forrest Hall) to basic and affordable, college-style rooms (at St Catherine's and in shared townhouses). Information about on-campus accommodation and links to booking accommodation are available on the conference website <https://www.aares2020.org/>. Delegates are recommended to book early, as on-campus accommodation is limited.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible in Perth next February

David Feldman
LOC Chair
AARES Perth 2020