

Conference 2008

Water

Water supply, its sources, ownership and accessibility, is one of the key political issues in our world today. The politics of water affect people across all contexts, urban and rural, whether wealthy or ravaged by economic disadvantage. The theme of water is the 2008 focus of the UN decade for Education in Sustainable Development. Water is at the heart of a wide range of pressing global problems, such as social inequality, environmental degradation, and gender discrimination. Guest lectures address: activism to promote a better response to problems of clean water supply accessibility and conservation; historical and contemporary trends in redirecting and controlling water as a resource; institutional restrictions on change in the politics of water, and prospects for future hope and transformation. Faculty seminars explore philosophical reflections on water, water and cultural memory, the human right to water, and the metaphorical implications of the shipwreck. Additional events include round table discussions, film screenings and a presentation based on an art exhibition. A student 'water fund' project features as an important component of the conference activities.

Guest speakers

- Tony Allan, Professor of Geography, King's College London and winner of the 2008 Stockholm Water Prize
- Maude Barlow, author of *Blue Gold*, recipient of the Alternative Nobel and founder of the Blue Planet Project
- David Blackbourn, Professor of History, Harvard University
- Michal Kravcic, Hydrologist, founder of People and Water, and Ashoka Fellow
- Petra Dobner, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
- Eva Sternfeld, China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Centre