

2017-2018 International WaTERS Network Fellowship Winners

Fuhar Dixit (PhD Student, University of British Columbia)



Access to dependably safe drinking water is a major challenge in India. Our project aims to develop and implement collaborative monitoring and mapping of water quality using new water quality sensing technology. In different pilot communities in India, working with appropriate authorities and NGOs, our initiative will provide a forum to engage and educate local citizens on water issues, allowing them to measure water quality and to log data on dynamic map using a smartphone interface. The technology and community framework promote inter-community knowledge sharing and contribute to know-how and awareness within the community and amongst local stakeholders.

Fuhar has been involved with IC-IMPACTS as a Masters student since 2015 under the supervision of Dr. Majhid Mohseni. His research focuses on developing cost effective treatment technologies for small and rural communities. Prior to starting his research at UBC, Fuhar worked on dye pollution control in the Ganges River. With a bachelor's degree from Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi, Fuhar gained valuable research experience in the field of water treatment through exchanges with the University of Tokyo (Japan) and Western University (Canada). He has been awarded the Honda Young Engineer and Scientist Award and a Mitacs' Globalink Graduate Fellowship. He is also an active member of RES'EAU WaterNet. In addition, Fuhar has a patent in India for a polymer membrane and process he co-developed. He has also had a research article published in an online water treatment journal.

Amanda Gcanga (PhD Student, Stellenbosch University)



Amanda Gcanga completed her MSc in International Land and Management from Wageningen University in the Netherlands in 2014. For her MSc thesis, she conducted qualitative research in the field of smallholder irrigation schemes and business partnerships in Chikwawa District of Malawi. Upon completing her MSc she returned to South Africa and worked for the Centre for Water and Sanitation Research at Cape Peninsula University of Technology focusing on

water allocation reforms at the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency. In 2017 she joined the Water Institute at Stellenbosch University to work on the SafeWaterAfrica Project (<https://safewaterafrica.eu/en/home>) and was also selected to participate in 2017 USA International Visitor Leadership Program on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change.

Amanda is PhD fellow of the Southern African Systems Analysis programme, <http://www.sasac.ac.za/programs> and is registered with the Centre for Systems in Transition, School of Public leadership at Stellenbosch University. Her study is on approaches for participatory water governance in the Breede River basin, Western Cape Province, South Africa, currently facing water allocation and pollution challenges. She will focus on diversified stakeholder engagement practices to tackle power, political, institutional and cultural dimensions of water governance. Through this study, she hopes to contribute to improvement of IWRM practises in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ultimately, over the coming years Amanda hopes to bring her work to new levels and contribute to the contentious and yet promising water and land reforms and other water governance interventions in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Javier Rodriguez Ros (PhD Student, Wageningen University)



Javier PhD project delves into the role of societies of Cultural Water Landscapes (CWL) as a hydro-social and territorial reference towards the sustainability of water ecosystems in Peru. Through an analysis of discourses and narratives of institutional actors and settings about CWL and Community Water Management Systems (CWMS), this research advocates for a transformative reconstruction of environmental and social problems by analyzing: 1) water and agricultural policies, legal framework and corporate discourses regarding CWMS and CWL, 2) legal, economic, social and technical barriers to CWMS in their performance, and 3) potential actions and capacities of the CWMS to preserve CWL and agree on policies.

Javier is an Agricultural Engineer specialized in Water Governance and Water Management for Rural Development. Javier coursed a Bachelor of Sciences in the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) specializing in Rural Engineering. After UPM, Javier completed two Masters of Sciences on International Land & Water Management and Agricultural Sciences in Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and Montpellier SupAgro respectively. Javier performed diverse research projects about farmers' perspectives on the evaluation of irrigation schemes, implication of State interventions in irrigation projects and discourse analysis of highland irrigators of the Peruvian Andes, with research centers (WUR, CIRAD, EAU4Food) and NGOs (AVSF, Alianza por la Solidaridad).

Cecilia Alda Vidal (PhD Student, University of Manchester)



In her PhD research, Cecilia takes an everyday lens to learn from the ordinary experiences and struggles of urban dwellers at the city margins. Her project: *Lived infrastructures. Mapping sanitation and hygiene in the low-income areas of Lilongwe, Malawi* builds on postcolonial urbanism, feminist political ecology and post-developmental analyses of sanitation and hygiene to understand how inequalities in access to sanitation infrastructure are produced and the impact of those inequalities on the day-to-day sanitation and hygiene routines of the residents of Lilongwe's LIAs.

Cecilia holds a MSc in Water Management (UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education), an MA in International Development and Cooperation (University of Granada), and a BSc in Environmental Sciences (URJC). Prior to commencing her PhD she has worked and conducted research in different water and sanitation projects in development contexts. Her countries of work include Mozambique, Malawi, Bolivia, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Bangladesh.

Sumit Vij (PhD Candidate, Wageningen University)



Sumit Vij holds a Masters degree in Sustainable Development Practices from TERI University, and completed his bachelors in Chemistry from University of Delhi. He also holds a masters degree in Development Management from Tata-Dhan Academy, a collaborative effort of Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) and DHAN Foundation. Before joining SaciWATERS, he worked as a consultant on the Living with Climate Change project with partners in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Canada. He was responsible for designing, planning, and the implementation of the project in semi-arid sites of India, the research methodology followed the socio-cognitive framework to capture community perceptions in the semi-arids. He also gained experience in project designing and coordination while working on the National Dairy Plan at National Dairy Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture, India. He is

currently on study leave from SaciWATERS where he focused on the peri urban water insecurity and climate change.

His current research interest lies in environmental (climate change) governance and brings special emphasises in the policy research through an integrated understanding of discourses related to social, political, and environmental significance.