

The Ohio State University
Department of Geography
COLLOQUIUM SERIES 2012-2013

The Regulated Landscape: Water resources at the
intersection of science, capital, and law

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The regulation of water resources in the United States and around the world is being refashioned under the rubric of “ecosystem services”. This talk focuses on the creation of stream and wetland sites that produce ecosystem services transacted in regulatory markets designed to satisfy the requirements of the Clean Water Act, and is drawn from ongoing NSF-sponsored research on stream mitigation policy in Oregon, Ohio and North Carolina. The interests of scientists, regulators and economists come together, imperfectly and always in translation, in negotiations over restoration methods, assessment methodologies, monitoring periods – in short, everything that contributes to the definition of the stream or wetland site and the ecosystem service commodity that is created there. The outcome is never simply the result of “science”, “capital” or “regulation”. The pitfalls and debates are best viewed from the field alongside the people making the regulated landscape: among the more contentious issues that will be discussed are long-term monitoring, the construction and deployment of assessment metrics, and the “stacking” of ecosystem services.

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3:30 pm



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