Critical institutionalism is a contemporary body of thought that explores how institutions mediate relationships between people, natural resources and society. It focuses on the complexity of institutions entwined in everyday social life, their historical formation, the interplay between formal and informal, traditional and modern arrangements and the power relations which animate them. Critical Institutional approaches are increasingly exciting both academic and policy interest but lack impact because they derive from different disciplinary/conceptual bases and are insufficiently synthesised. Further, analyses emphasising complexity are often relatively illegible to policy-makers.

This workshop therefore aims to consolidate and ‘capture’ critical institutionalism and move it beyond the ‘emergent’ stage to make meaningful academic and policy impact. It will draw together academics, policy-makers and practitioners from different disciplines (geography, sociology, anthropology, history, politics, economics) and sectors (water, forests, land, wildlife). In the workshop their task will be to:

- Define and synthesise key themes of ‘Critical institutionalism’.
- Further develop concepts such as bricolage and hybridity.
- Address the challenges of making these insights policy relevant.

The detailed program can be found on the next page. Please note that not all speakers are confirmed yet and that the programme might be altered.
Programme*

Introduction

- F. Cleaver Setting the agenda for furthering Critical Institutionalism
- J. de Koning Rock in pond: three practices of Institutional Bricolage

Session Disentangling the fine mess

- V. Ingram and M. van Ros-Tonen A fine mess: bricolaged forest governance in Cameroon. (Wageningen University & University of Amsterdam)
- F. Nunan Institutions and co-management in African fisheries: a critical institutionalist perspective. (University of Birmingham)

Session The nature of agency

- S. Kooij, van der, M. Zwarteveen en M. Kuper Technology in critical institutionalism, the agency of the Khrichfa canal in reconfiguring irrigation institutions. (Wageningen University)
- M. Funder and M. Marani Everyday implementation strategies among District Officers - implementing Kenya’s Environmental Management Act on the ground. (Danish Institute for International Studies & University of Nairobi)
- S. Srivastava What regulation means to us’: Exploring regulatory cultures in water sector in Maharashtra, India. (University of Sussex)

Session Power and authoritative processes

- K. Welle Understanding the informal power dynamics in performance monitoring of rural water access in Ethiopia. (University of Sussex)
- J.S. Kemerink’, L.E. Méndez, R. Ahlers, P. Wester, P. van der Zaag The question of inclusion and representation in rural South Africa: challenging the concept of Water User Associations as a vehicle for transformation. (‘UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education/corresponding author)
- D. Joshi Water policy fallacies, democracy and ground realities (Wageningen University)
Capturing Critical Institutionalism
The dynamics of natural resource governance

18 – 19 April 2013, Kings College, London

Session Governance: spaces and scales

- **D. Demeritt & H. Rothstein** Making space for failure? Rationalizing risk-based flood management in Europe. (King’s College)
- **B. Arts** Reconsidering the Failure of Global Forest Governance – A Critical-Institutional Approach. (Wageningen University)

Session The field of practice

- **J. Behagel** What institutions do: grasping participatory practices in the Water Framework Directive (Utrecht University)
- **A. Verzijl** Institutional strategies and everyday practices in the Central Andes: the raison d’etre of a Peruvian Water User Association. (Wageningen University)
- **T. De Herdt** Hybrid practices and practical hybrids: a Weberian view. (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Session Putting critical institutionalism into practice

- **I. Henneman and C. van Oosten** Landscape governance: a process of bricolage and social learning. Case study from Indonesia (Centre for Development Innovation)
- **S. Jones** Bridging the gap between political economy analysis and critical institutionalism: a framework to help analyse institutional change for sustainable water and sanitation devices. (University of London)
- **M. Morris*, C. Chonya, E. Koopmanschap, R. Llewellyn-Smith** Collective Learning in search of new Institutional Arrangements (WWF-UK/corresponding author)

Concluding session Capturing Critical Institutionalism
Plenary session on the findings of the workshop.

* Preliminary programme