

The Hydraulic Society, Revisited

Friday, April 21st 2017, 10am - 5:00pm
Institute for Research on Labor & Employment Conference Room
University of California, Berkeley
2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720

Workshop Schedule

*** A note on format: sessions I-III will consist of three 15-minute presentations, followed by 10-15 minutes of remarks by a discussant to segue into 30-35 minutes of open discussion from everyone in the room. ***

Opening Session and Introductions: 10 - 10:30

Andrew Lakoff & Caleb Scoville

Session I: New Spatial Relations: 10:30 - 12:00

Andrew Lakoff (Anthropology, Sociology & Communication, University of Southern California)
Sayd Randle (Anthropology and Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University)
Jess Goddard (Energy and Resources Group, UC Berkeley)
Discussant: Phil Garone (History, California State University, Stanislaus)

Lunch (Provided for Presenters and Discussants): 12:00 - 1:00

Vegan/vegetarian and non-vegetarian options provided by Ann's Catering (Berkeley, CA).

Session II: Institutional Ecologies and the Management of Scarcity: 1:00 - 2:30

Alejo Kraus-Polk (Geography, UC Davis)
Linda-Estelí Méndez (Center for Environmental Policy and Behavior, UC Davis)
Alida Cantor (Wheeler Water Institute, UC Berkeley School of Law)
Discussant: Holly Doremus (UC Berkeley School of Law)

Break: 2:30-3:00

Session III: Technologies of Extraction and Circulation: 3:00 - 4:30

Caleb Scoville (Sociology, UC Berkeley)
Emily Brooks (Anthropology, UC Irvine)
Patrick Carroll (Sociology, UC Davis)
Discussant: Richard Walker (Geography, UC Berkeley)

Closing Session: 4:30 - 5:00

Richard Norgaard (Energy and Resources Group, UC Berkeley)

Location, Map and Directions

The Institute for Research on Labor & Employment (IRLE) is located at 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720. It is two blocks south of UC Berkeley's main campus, between Telegraph and Bowditch. The Conference Room is on the first floor, on your left after you enter on Channing Way.

Building Access Instructions: Use the metal intercom box. Press the "start" button, then the # sign, enter the code 0915 and press # again. The door will unlock, you can hear it click. Please

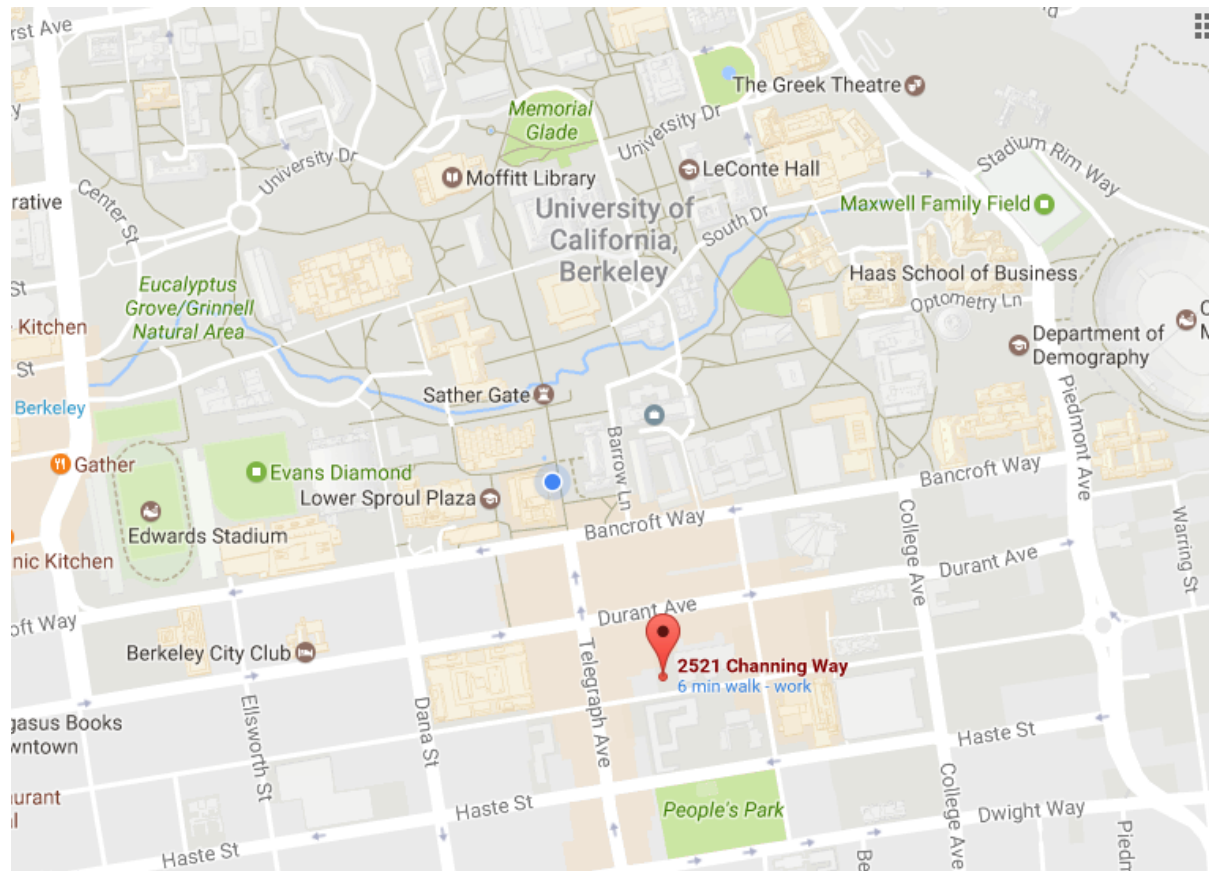
if it does not open wait a moment and repeat. Please call or text Caleb Scoville at (707) 616-2823 if you have trouble with access.

IRLE's full contact information is here: <http://irle.berkeley.edu/contact/>
Caleb Scoville's cell phone number for last minute calls or texts (don't hesitate!) is (707) 616-2823.

For walking, driving, or transit directions, please see Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/RjEFygGMPzR2>

- In case you are taking BART, IRLE is an 18 minute walk from the Downtown Berkeley BART Station (according to Google).
- Several AC Transit bus lines stop near the IRLE (see <http://www.actransit.org> for transit maps and line schedules).
- If possible, we encourage carpooling for the three participants coming in from UC Davis the day of the event.



Parking:

If you are driving to the workshop, you can either park at metered street parking or you can park in a garage/lot. Unfortunately, payment is required for both and we are not able to provide permits.

Parking garages/lots: the nearest parking garage is the UnderHill Garage, which is about 1.5 blocks from IRLE. There are entrances on Channing Way and on Haste St., both between College Ave. and Bowditch St.: <https://goo.gl/maps/o21uaTwMB9o>.

A map with all visitor parking at UC Berkeley is available here (keep in mind that not all lots at UC Berkeley allow for visitor parking):

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1dKyi0tMjVa68ekqWhyVjDTZn9KA&usp=sharing>

Full details on parking lots and pricing for visitors are available here:

<http://pt.berkeley.edu/parking/visitor/lots-pricing>

Metered street parking: there is usually 8-hour metered parking available within a couple blocks of IRLE. The boundaries of the 8-hour zone are Channing Way (North) to Dwight Way (South), between College Avenue (East) and Dana Street (West). See the above map and Google maps link for a reference, and make sure to check that you are in an 8-hour zone, and not a 2-hour zone.

Event Description:

What is California's relationship with water today? We invite your participation in a one-day workshop to forge a conversation about how social scientific and humanistic research can help us address this question.

Thirty-five years ago, the environmental historian Donald Worster described California as “a modern hydraulic society - a social order founded on the intensive management of water.” The issues that motivated Worster's political, economic, and ecological analysis remain relevant: the reliance of commercial agriculture and municipal growth on ongoing diversions, the relationship between economic interests and bureaucratic imperatives, the shared fate of humans and their natural environment, and the vulnerability of a civilization dependent on technologies for importing water. However, our relation to water has also evolved significantly in recent decades. One cannot understand water in California today without addressing topics such as: the entanglement of endangered species conservation and water policy, the proliferation of new groundwater management institutions and technologies, the institutionalization of adaptive management regimes, the specters of anthropogenic climate change and seismic vulnerability, and the increasing salience and visibility of environmental justice concerns.

In this workshop, we will revisit the “hydraulic society thesis” in order to assess its promises and limitations in light of our own research on water in California. With Worster's classic formulation as a shared point of departure, we will convene a diverse group of scholars in the social sciences and humanities to forge a new multi-faceted agenda for understanding California's relationship with water.

Suggested Reading: Donald Worster, “Hydraulic Society in California: An Ecological Interpretation”

https://www.dropbox.com/s/n0fa66z0hixz398/Worster_California_Hydraulic_Society.pdf?dl=0

Acknowledgements:

This event was made possible with the sponsorship of the UC Berkeley Department of Sociology. The IRLE graciously provided the space and logistical and technical support.