
Preface

The first plans for this book project were developed early in 2007, when we discovered our shared interest in water governance and policy science. In that year we started discussing possibilities for editing a volume on water policy transitions around the globe. The Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change in May 2007 offered a first opportunity to discuss our plans with others interested in continuity and change in water policies. There we met Per Olsson of Stockholm University, Saskia Werners of the Wageningen University and Research Centre, and Zsuzsanna Flachner of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. We are happy that they belonged to the first group of scholars who committed to the book project. This contributed much to the quality of this book, but even more to the fun we would have on various other occasions when we met to review progress. At the conference we also established our first contact with Felicity Plester, Commissioning Editor of Edward Elgar Publishing. She was enthusiastic about our book proposal from the very beginning, providing a main reason for us to start working with Edward Elgar on publishing this book. Felicity was always there to answer our questions, allow flexibility over deadlines when necessary and to do an excellent job during the production process.

Another important milestone came with the acceptance of our panel proposal for the 4th ECPR General Conference, in Pisa, September 2007. In Italy, we met Sara Hughes of the University of California at Santa Barbara who at that time was a Fulbright scholar at the University of South Australia, Peter Mollinga of the University of Bonn, and Per Olsson. Our fruitful discussions happily led Sara and Peter to promise chapters on Australia and Indonesia respectively. Two months later, we presented a draft of the theoretical introduction to this book at the Conference on Adaptive and Integrated Water management (CAIWA), in Basel, Switzerland. Here we had the opportunity to introduce our project to Helen Ingram, professor emerita of planning, policy and design, and of political science at the University of California at Irvine. We had both met her before and admire her for her in-depth knowledge of water governance and policy science, her contagious enthusiasm and her social skills (something often lacking in established scholars). We were greatly honoured when Professor Ingram committed to write a chapter on water policy transitions in the United States of America (USA) and we have benefited greatly from her advice during the making of this book.

Because we received a lot of interest in our research questions, we decided to organize a two-day international symposium on the role of policy entrepreneurs in realizing water policy transitions. The symposium, organized in July 2008 at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, was made possible through a conference subsidy of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, financial contributions by the EU NeWater (New Approaches to Adaptive Water Management under Uncertainty) project, the Dutch knowledge impulse programme Living with Water, and the research programme Governance and Places (GaP) of the Nijmegen School of Management, Radboud University Nijmegen. The first day of the symposium saw intense discussion by water management experts from

Australia, Asia, Africa, the US and Europe of the roles of policy entrepreneurs in water policy transitions. We are much indebted to Helen Ingram, Louis Lebel of Chiang Mai University and Anthony Turton of TouchStone Resources, for their guidance of the deliberations, and their help on defining key themes of transition management. We owe a debt of gratitude also to our other chapter authors for their attendance and input at the conference. On the second day of the symposium reviews of the draft chapters became the subject of the meeting. We are grateful to the reviewers, since their points and questions helped a great deal to sharpen the research questions and contributed much to the coherence of this volume. The social programme, which included a visit to the National Parc de Hoge Veluwe and the Kröller-Müller Museum, generated enjoyable and productive group dynamics. Saskia, thank you for your creative suggestions for the symposium programme and workshop in Amsterdam. Jan, thank you for your practical assistance during these days.

A first draft of the conclusions was presented at the *Freude am Fluss* final conference, 'Space for the River, Space for People?' in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, October 2008. Our thanks go to Thomas Birkland of North Carolina State University for his willingness to discuss our work there, and his valuable suggestions. Around this time, we also met Paul Sabatier of the University of California, Davis, who raised our awareness of some methodological pitfalls in the case comparison. Finally we are much indebted to Ron Wunderink of the Nijmegen School of Management for drawing most of the maps included in this volume and to Maria Gordon who did an excellent job in revising our English and that of some other chapter authors. The interesting thing is that she actually did much more than we asked her to do. She put her finger on inconsistencies and pushed us and the authors to explain our stories better. We are very grateful for her essential contribution to this book.

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