

**CALL FOR PAPERS for SPECIAL ISSUE on
The Political Economy of Water**

Manuscript submission deadline: May 1 2008

We strongly encourage authors to send a brief title and abstract as soon as possible, so we can coordinate timely publication of the issue

Water is a matter of life and death. Water and food for nutrition enable us to live, but for many of the world's people the availability of both substances is tenuous at best. While food scarcity has been part of human history, more recent changes have heightened concern that limited availability of water threatens a rising portion of the population. The Editorial Board of the Review of Radical Political Economics seeks formal inquiry and critical analysis, artistic expression, and policy proposals dealing with the political economy of water.

The themes that could be addressed under this call for papers range far and wide. For instance, water is increasingly a commodity in the global marketplace, and it seems likely to be the object of future conflicts within and between societies. Water is a natural resource, but it is frequently polluted by humans. The market could increasingly determine how water is made available to the world's population, but given problems of market failure, including those excluded from market participation for lack of income, the market will be a brutal determinant of who gets access to this essential substance. On the other hand, if water is a free good, all uses and abuses of it would be possible without carefully constructed and enforceable regulation.

Examples of specific questions of interest that could be addressed include:

- How do current processes for regulating private appropriation of water, for sale or use, work now, and how might they be improved?
- How does the availability of water shape households and the distribution of work in them?
- How might a "life-line" provision of water as a basic right be organized?
- What principles will guide new efforts to assure access to clean and safe water?
- Global land-use patterns and economic development have, and will, hinge on the availability of water. Is the world turmoil we see over petroleum a forerunner of future battles over water?
- Remediation of environmental pollution of water resources takes on increasingly urgent meaning, but resources for this work remain scarce. Can we better understand or modify how global climate changes affect conditions of drought or flooding?

We invite work on these topics and others relevant to the questions of who has and does not have access to water, how privatization affects water, and how this vital resource can be safeguarded and access to it assured.

We invite submissions from a variety of perspectives in political economy, including Marxian, neo-Marxian, post-Keynesian, radical institutionalist, feminist, and postmodern.

Articles should be 5,000 to 10,000 words in length, inclusive of notes and references. The material submitted can be theoretical, empirical, historical, comparative, or based on case study. We also encourage manuscripts employing interdisciplinary approaches.

Please send four copies of submissions for the special issue by 1 May 2008 to:

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Submissions must follow the instructions to contributors listed in the back of the journal and available on our website <http://www.urpe.org/rrpesubm.html>. All manuscripts are subject to the RRPE's usual review procedures and should not be under review with any other publication. We strongly encourage authors to send a brief title and abstract as soon as possible, so we can coordinate timely publication of the issue.