

Water Scarcity and Security in a Changing World

KATE BRAUMAN

University of Alabama

Presenting Author: kbrauman@ua.edu

Water is in the news, with alarming headlines about water wars and dire photos of dried-up reservoirs. Is this our new reality? We'll look at global assessments that reveal where and how declining water supply clashes with human water use, and whether changes in water management could ameliorate conflict. Water measures and flow forecasts are critical to decision makers, but they need information interpreted and integrated with contextual geographic and social data in order to operationalize research. The national security community in particular is looking to integrate water and climate information in assessments of water, food, health, energy, and associated unrest as they anticipate demands for assistance. We'll look at how science is translated for this type of policy use through boundary organizations like the Global Water Security Center.

Dr. Kate Brauman is the associate director for analysis and communications at the Global Water Security Center at the University of Alabama. Prior to this, she was a 2020-21 Water and Climate Resilience Fellow at the US Department of Defense through a AAAS Science Technology Policy Fellowship, where she worked on water resilience at military installations. Brauman's academic research includes assessment of worldwide trends in water consumption and availability, irrigation and agricultural water use, and the science and implementation of investments in watershed ecosystem services. She was a coordinating lead author for the 2019 Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a section lead for the 2021 UNEP Global Synthesis Report "Making Peace with Nature", and a 2018 AAAS Leshner Leadership Fellow for Public Engagement.

