COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE, & TECHNOLOGY

Seminar in Interdisciplinary STEM Research

December 5th – Thursday, 3:05-4:20 PM PST

Location: E&T C-256

HOSTED BY CREST-CATSUS AND SIKAND SITI CENTERS



Jessica Bremner, PhD

Jessica Bremner is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, Geology, and Environment at California State University Los Angeles. Her research interests lie at the intersection of spatial justice, gender, housing, participatory practices, and the environment. Her most recent work examines the processes that shape the spatial inequality of water access in the Coachella Valley. Prior to receiving her doctorate in Urban Planning from UCLA, Jessica was the Planning Director of Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), a non-profit community development and design firm based in Los Angeles, USA and Nairobi, Kenya.

Examining water sustainability under conditions of drought, dispossession, and uneven access in the Eastern Coachella Valley

Abstract: Like much of California, the Coachella Valley faces significant challenges around water sustainability. Over a century of uneven water access, groundwater overdraft, and imported water dependence is now exacerbated by rapidly changing climate and its attendant (mega)droughts. In the Eastern Coachella Valley, long dominated by agriculture, new economic development pressures are exacerbating existing disparities in water access. As a result, spatial inequality in water access has shifted from a geographic, center-periphery pattern to one primarily defined by socio-economic factors. Gated, water-intensive communities are being constructed next to long-term residents who have struggled with limited water access for decades. The construction of new water infrastructure to serve these exclusive developments is not being extended to neighboring communities, raising concerns about equitable and sustainable water management. This presentation will use the case of the Thermal Beach Club development in the Eastern Coachella Valley to explore how the region's pro-growth model, manifested through land-use and water regulations, is impacting the sustainability of water resources and perpetuating spatial inequality. The contestation over this development process reveals the uneven regulatory landscape that prioritizes profit-motivated urban growth over the long-term water security needs of existing residents.

NSF CREST CATSUS
Center for Advancement toward Sustainable Urban Systems

SIKAND SITI CENTER
SUSTAINABLE AND INTELLIGENT INFRASTRUCTURE