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“Maxwell School to Host International Conference on Water Rights”

Prominent Central New York and International Experts Are Among the Speakers

The Maxwell School of Syracuse University will host an international conference on “The Right to Water” on March 29 and 30, 2010. Lectures and discussions on local, national, and global struggles for the right to water in communities around the world will be delivered by leading figures from the academic, policy, and activist communities. Speakers will include experts from Central New York, such as Onondaga Nation Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, as well as internationally-renowned experts such as Patrick Bond from South Africa.

According to geography professor Farhana Sultana -- the conference chair and organizer -- speakers will bring significant new insights into how to understand, recognize, and apply a human right to water in differing geographical contexts. In recent years, struggles over the right to water have emerged as a focal point for political mobilization in a range of locations around the world. This conference will look at various strategic possibilities for ensuring equitable access to water worldwide, including: How important is the human right to water and how is it mobilized in different regions? How influential are international discourses on rights in shaping access to water? How do broader international discourses relate to historical struggles for local water rights? Specific lectures by national and international experts will focus on water rights, governance, and struggles in a number of countries around the world, as well as on legal and philosophical perspectives on the right to water.

The conference runs from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday, March 29, in the Maxwell Auditorium; and on Tuesday, March 30 from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm in the Public Events Room, 220 Eggers Hall. All sessions are free and open to the public, but registration via the conference website or in person at the event is requested. For more information about the conference, speakers, and the full conference program, please go to: www.maxwell.syr.edu/waterconference.

The conference has been generously supported by several sponsors across Syracuse University.

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The [Maxwell School of Syracuse University](http://www.maxwell.syr.edu) is the premier academic institution in the United States committed to scholarship, civic leadership, and education in public and international affairs. Maxwell is home to Syracuse University's social science departments and to numerous nationally recognized multidisciplinary graduate programs in public policy, international studies, social policy, and conflict resolution. Maxwell's graduate program in public administration -- the first of its kind in the nation -- is ranked consistently the leading graduate public affairs program in the country.