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## Laurier researcher discusses water scarcity and human rights at THEMUSEUM

WATERLOO – What does it mean to speak of a world water crisis? How does water become scarce, and who feels the strongest impacts of that scarcity?

On Nov. 10, Alex Latta, an associate professor in Laurier's Global Studies Department, will discuss his research in a public talk, "Water Scarcity and Human Rights in a Global Perspective," as part of the Water Dialogues series at THEMUSEUM.

His talk will look beyond water as merely an "environmental" issue to be solved by better science and management. Instead, it will examine the way that social inequality within and across human societies influences people's access to water.

"If we want to understand the diverse water challenges facing human societies around the globe, we have to move beyond the simplistic notion of a global water crisis and look at specific social and ecological relationships, which are invariably marked by tremendous inequality," said Latta.

On the heels of the United Nations' 2010 resolution declaring a human right to water, a growing international movement for water justice is playing a key role in struggles and debates over the meaning of this right, and potential policy options to implement it. Latta's talk will examine these debates, along with specific flashpoints from different regions of the world where governments, communities, water activists and corporations clash over control of this vital resource.

Latta is a member of the Laurier Institute for Water Science, focusing his research on water governance, and the debates over environment and development in Latin America and in Canada's North.

His presentation will be at 1:30 p.m. Admission to the talk is free, and registration is available at [www.themuseum.ca](http://www.themuseum.ca).

Water Dialogues, presented by Laurier, educates and inspires conversation around the subject of water. Discussion topics range from the steps Waterloo Region is taking to conserve drinking water, to water scarcity around the world. For more information, visit [www.wlu.ca/research/water](http://www.wlu.ca/research/water).

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