

## ISA's 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

**The Politics of International Diffusion:  
Regional and Global Dimensions**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA  
APRIL 3-6, 2013**

**Thursday, 4 April 2013, 4.00-5.45pm (TD63)**

### **Sustainability Transition: Theories, Approaches and Perspectives from Europe and Latin America**

Ursula Oswald Spring, UNAM/CRIM

#### **Sustainability Transition in a River Basin in Mexico: The Case of the Yautepec River**

The River Yautepec Basin Committee in Morelos (Mexico) was set up involving all stakeholders and the three levels of government. This created a basis for a short, middle and long term river management transition with the goal to reduce the risk of annual flash floods and droughts. The agricultural sector still uses 95% of surface water and 25% of groundwater, employs 16% of the people and creates only 4% of the GDP of Morelos. This specific consumption constrains the available water for domestic use and industry and creates also water access conflicts among the people, which are usually consensually resolved. Due to the short distance from the glacier of the Popocatepetl and the flood plain (25km), with a difference in altitude of more than 4,000m, complex challenges exist for river management transition that are aggravated by hurricanes and droughts during the dry season. Massive reforestation, soil recuperation, waste management, recycling of treated sewage water and small reservoirs in the upstream offer the whole region possibilities for sustainable development processes. Education and a cultural change of the consumerist behaviour are crucial. Governance is enhanced and confidence in local authorities is re-established due to the control of public work projects by citizens.

sustainability transition, basin management, participative governance