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Present on:

Thursday, January 29, 2015

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Social & Behavioral

Science Gateway - Room 1517

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Dr. Jessica Barnes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment and Sustainability Program at the University of South Carolina and holds a PhD from Columbia University. Her work focuses on the culture and politics of resource use and environmental change in the Middle East. Other publications include *Climate Cultures: Anthropological Perspectives on Climate Change* (coedited with Michael Dove, Yale University Press, forthcoming 2015), and articles in *Critique of Anthropology*, *Social Studies of Science*, *Geoforum*, *Geopolitics*, *Nature Climate Change*, and forthcoming in *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*.



# Dr. Jessica Barnes

## "The Everyday Politics of Water in Egypt"



Cultivating the Nile

THE EVERYDAY POLITICS  
OF WATER IN EGYPT

JESSICA BARNES

Often accounts of water in the Nile Basin focus on trans-boundary conflicts over the shared resource. In this talk, Dr. Barnes presents an alternative view of water politics, building on ethnographic work with farmers, irrigation engineers, policymakers, and international donors in Egypt. Drawing attention to everyday practices of blocking, releasing, channeling, and diverting water, which take place on a variety of scales, she shows how the waters of the Nile are constantly made and remade as a resource. Dr. Barnes argues that it is in these quotidian practices, which shape how much and what kind of water different people are able to access, that some of the most significant political contestation actually lies.