



IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2019-2020 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

“THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER AND MORAL LIMITS TO WATER MARKETS”



PRESENTED BY:

C. Tyler DesRoches, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of
Sustainability and Human Well-Being
School of Sustainability
Arizona State University

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (SC 203)

Reception 5:30 p.m. | Lecture 6 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge.

For additional information, contact the
Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade
at 956.326.2820, e-mail cswht@tamiu.edu,
or visit <http://freetrade.tamiu.edu>.

Sponsored by



Texas A&M International University, A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business,
5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041



IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2019-2020 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

“THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER AND MORAL LIMITS TO WATER MARKETS”



Does the human right to water entail moral limits to water markets? This question is striking, not least because the most esteemed theorists in the history of economic thought regularly invoked water as *the* example of a good without economic value and, therefore, *no* market.

Today, as water becomes increasingly scarce, no one denies that water possesses enormous economic value. Free-market economists emphasize the wide variety of benefits associated with water markets, including the efficient distribution of a scarce resource. As the water supply dwindles, economic theory predicts that, other things being equal, the price of water will rise. Far from being unfavorable, this incentivizes the owners of water to either conserve it or sell it to buyers who will. Given such advantages, most economists do not explicitly recognize any moral limits to buying and selling water. However, some environmental thinkers have argued that, because water is a human right, it should never be bought and sold in the marketplace. From this limited purview, the choice is stark. Either water markets are to be left completely unbridled, without any moral limits, or the human right to water entails that no water market should be sanctioned.

This talk will engage a philosophical conception of the human right to water and argue against both of these views. While the human right to water entails that *some* water markets should be blocked, DesRoches suggests that there is no necessary connection between commodifying some water and violating the human right to water.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom

Reception 5:30 p.m. | Lecture 6 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge.

For additional information, contact the
Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade
at 956.326.2820, e-mail cswh@tamui.edu,
or visit <http://freetrade.tamui.edu>.

Sponsored by





IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2019-2020 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

C. TYLER DESROCHES, PH.D. ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN WELL-BEING, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



C. Tyler DesRoches is an assistant professor of sustainability and human well-being at the School of Sustainability and assistant professor of philosophy at the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He is also the Project Director of Philosophy of Economics at the Center for the Study of Economic Liberty.

Dr. DesRoches has a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of British Columbia, and his areas of specialization include the history and philosophy of economics, human well-being, and sustainability. Formerly, DesRoches was a forest economist with Natural Resources Canada and a sessional lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia.

He is a founding editor of the *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics*, and a co-founder of the Canadian Society for Environmental Philosophy/Société Canadienne de Philosophie Environnementale. He has published articles in several peer-reviewed journals, including the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, *History of Political Economy*, *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology*, *Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, *Environmental Values*, *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, and *Sustainability*. DesRoches' first book, edited with Byron Williston and Frank Jankunis, is entitled, *Canadian Environmental Philosophy* (2019). Currently, DesRoches is writing a monograph entitled, *Sustainability without Sacrifice: A Philosophical Analysis of Human Well-Being and Consumption* (under contract with Oxford University Press).

For more information, visit: www.tylerdesroches.com.

