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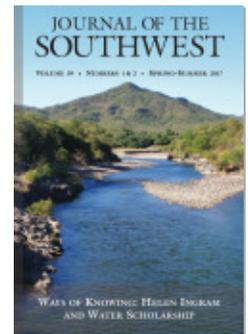
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Festschrift

Margaret O. Wilder

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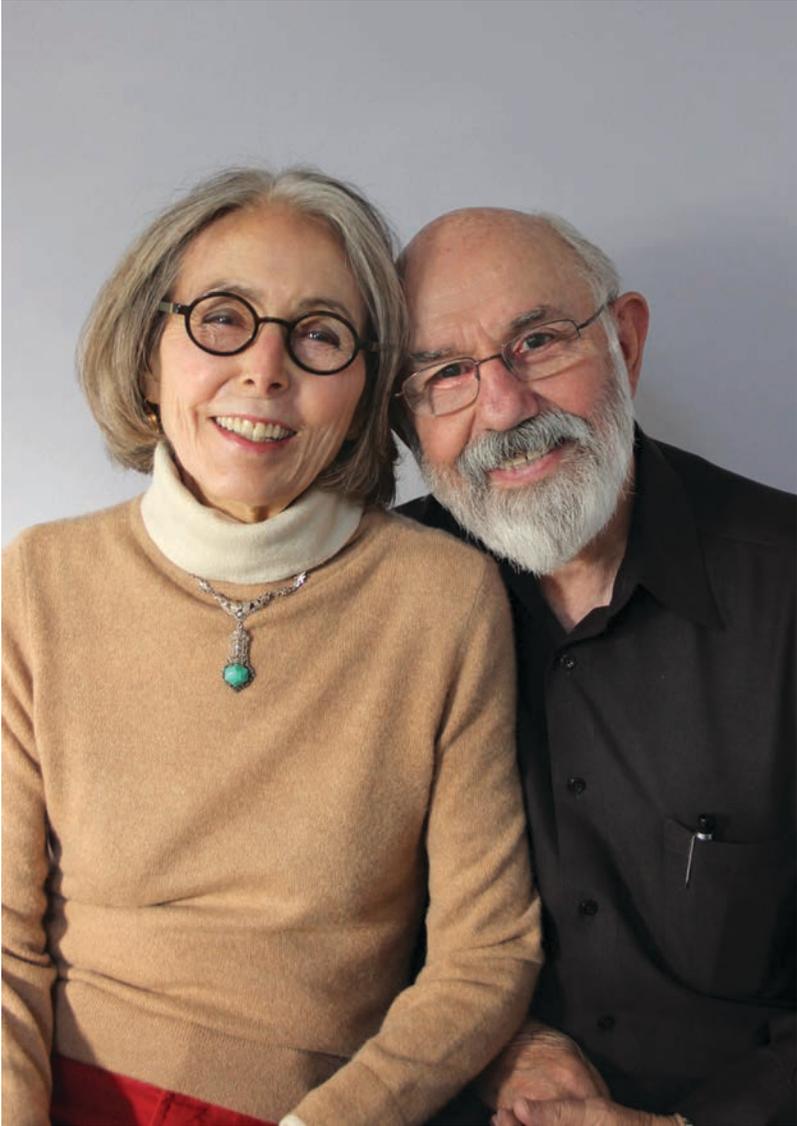
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Helen Ingram and her husband, David Laird.

Helen Ingram, Mentor and Colleague: An Introduction to the Festschrift

MARGARET O. WILDER

Many people stand in awe of Helen Ingram: her intellectual firepower, her incisive analytical capacities, her ability to derive exciting theoretical insights from apparently bland environmental policies and processes. This awe is much deserved. As this special festschrift double issue of *Journal of the Southwest* attests, Helen not only has been a scholar in her own right for over 50 years but has also served as a mentor for numerous junior colleagues in multiple disciplines, many of whom have now themselves reached important pinnacles in their professions and, in turn, have passed on some of Helen's intellectual genes to newer generations of environmental researchers.

Through her own research and publishing, and her mentorship of academics both in the United States and internationally, Helen has left her imprimatur on transdisciplinary environmental policy studies. Her major contribution has been to guide water and environmental policy in the direction of greater equity for marginalized peoples, communities, epistemologies, and cultures. She has made sure that we do not forget there are diverse groups who must have a seat at the table. In this issue, we celebrate Helen Ingram's transformational impact on regional and global water policy studies.

My journey with Helen began in 1984, when I was a master's student at the University of Chicago (in what is now the Harris School for Public Policy Studies). I was a young woman who grew up in urban northern Indiana, living in a region that was then turning from a place of thriving industry to the Rust Belt. I had lived in Mexico as an undergraduate for a year and spoke Spanish, and I had a vague idea that I could bring my Mexico and policy interests together by studying water policy in the Southwest borderlands. My husband hailed from a family with roots in Arizona Territory and our plan was to build our lives in Tucson. I was

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enrolled in a water resources class taught by then assistant professor Jim Wescoat, working on a research paper about the Central Arizona Project (CAP). And I came across a citation of an article by Helen Ingram that was critical of the CAP. At that time, we were still a few years' shy of full-tilt use of email or even faxing, so I wrote an old-fashioned letter to Professor Ingram at the University of Arizona to ask for a copy of her paper. Imagine my surprise when Helen wrote me back, sending her paper and encouraging me to stay in touch.

By "stay in touch," I doubt if she meant I should call her while on her honeymoon, but that is what I did when I was in Tucson for a summer internship. Helen was kind enough to meet me for lunch on a scalding July day, one week after she had married the wonderful W. David Laird, University of Arizona librarian (a position that is now known as the dean of Libraries).

From that point on, Helen and I did stay in touch, and she encouraged me many years later when, at the age of 35, the mother of one child, and the assistant dean of a college at the University of Arizona (UA), I decided to enter doctoral studies in geography. Seven years later, now as the mother of two children, and as an associate dean, I finished my Ph.D. and ultimately was offered a full-time faculty position at the UA.

Throughout three decades, I have seen Helen in multiple contexts and gotten to know and admire more facets of her character. Helen is a person of petite physical stature yet she has an outsize presence; I have seen small crowds part at international conferences when she entered the room, then circle around her to share ideas or compliment her work. Helen is worth listening to, quick with a sharp wit and wry perspective. She couples brilliance with being eminently prepared, and thus is capable of advancing compelling critiques of accepted truths where other scholars might just step on toes. Despite her prominence, Helen is the person who will reach out to the newest graduate student or nervous assistant professor in the room and bring them into her fold.

Helen Ingram was an undergraduate at Oberlin College and earned her Ph.D. in public law and government at Columbia University. She began her career as a lecturer and assistant professor at the University of New Mexico (1962–1969), then worked as a staff political scientist for the National Water Commission in Washington, D.C. (1969–1972), moving to the University of Arizona as an associate professor in 1972, achieving the rank of full professor in 1979. One of the few tenured women faculty at that time, Helen was also an outlier as a public policy scholar in her field of political science, as she entertainingly recounts in

her essay (this volume). During a leave from the UA, Helen worked for Resources for the Future (1977–1979). In 1988, she was appointed the first director of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and served for seven years, before being named, in 1995, to the Warmington Endowed Chair in Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine (UCI). Since 2007, she has been professor emeritus at UCI and a research fellow at the Southwest Center, University of Arizona.

Over her career, Helen has been recognized with important awards, including, in 2015, the Elinor Ostrom Career Achievement Award from the American Political Science Association (APSA) and, in 2008, the Aaron Wildavsky Award for Enduring Contributions for “Policy Design for Democracy,” also from the APSA. She chaired a writing committee for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (2005–2009) and has been an executive committee member and regular participant in the prestigious Rosenberg International Forum of Water Policy.

Helen has authored or edited 15 books and has published more than 100 articles and book chapters. Her scholarship has given new shape and dynamism to environmental policy and water governance scholarship. Helen’s has been a voice that consistently has argued for equity and fairness in water resources decision-making, for moving beyond the dominant narrow, technocratic (economic and engineering) constructions of problems and calling for broader epistemological frameworks that embrace multiple “ways of knowing” held and practiced by diverse peoples and groups. From early work (with Anne Schneider) on the social construction of policy design that targets winners and losers among affected populations, Helen (with co-authors Raul Lejano and Mill Ingram) has developed new theoretical insights into the “narrative-networks” that guide environmental policy, actors in environmental conflicts who are bound together by their shared stories of the meaning of place.

Helen Ingram is also in large part responsible for the very existence of this journal. In 1986, she was on the committee that formed the Southwest Center and envisioned a redesign and redirection for the historical journal *Arizona and the West* to focus on the contemporary Southwest, and hired a new editor, Joseph C. Wilder (my husband, as the astute reader will have guessed), to re-create it as *Journal of the Southwest*.

A dynamic engagement with Helen Ingram’s influence on contemporary water scholarship awaits the reader of this special issue.

The reflective section contains Helen's own reflections on her career, a personal essay from Merrill Ingram and Maia Ingram on their lives growing up as Helen's daughters (with their brother, Seth), followed by essays from Peter Gleick and Henry Vaux regarding her career-long contributions to water policy research in the domestic and international spheres.

Following that are 13 peer-reviewed research articles, written specifically in Helen's honor, by an impressive group of invited scholars, many of whom were mentored and supported by Helen during their careers. These articles illuminate the major themes and influences of Helen Ingram's body of work. The articles are loosely organized by theoretical and thematic topics. Papers in the first section (Brugnach, Arnold, Huitema and Meijerink, and Wessells and Lejano) focus on Ingram's theoretical interventions or reflect their influence, including, respectively, ways of knowing, moral economy, innovations in water governance, and narrative-networks. Four papers follow that treat issues of water governance in the North American context, including papers by Mumme (U.S.-Mexico), Gerlak (U.S.-Mexico), Schmidt (Canada), and Pineda (Mexico). The third and final group of articles demonstrates the breadth and depth of Helen Ingram's influence on southwestern and western water governance scholarship, including contributions by Lach and Rayner (Pacific Northwest), Hirt et al. (Arizona), Welsh and Endter-Wada (Nevada), Oshio (California), and DiMento (California).

It has been a great pleasure to serve as the issue's guest editor and to work with this talented and congenial group of authors, Helen's colleagues, whom I sincerely thank for their hard work and patience as it came together. Special gratitude to *JSW* editors Jeff Banister and Joe Wilder and copyeditor Debra Makay for bringing this festschrift to fruition. I also want to acknowledge Robert G. Varady, Sharon Megdal, Irasema Coronado, and Kathy Jacobs, colleagues of Helen's who contributed to the success of this issue. Finally, thanks to many anonymous peer reviewers who made this special issue possible. ❖