



TASA The Australian
Sociological Association

TITLE: Reflections on the neoliberal response to drought: considering the value of Heller's 'double bind of modernity'

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A neoliberal, risk management approach continues to formally underpin the Australian response to drought – that it remains a risk to be managed for, rather than a 'natural' disaster.

This paper, drawing on a PhD thesis, considers how a reflection of the impact of the Millennium drought in the Goulburn Valley between 2006 – 2010 highlights the continuing struggle between powerful agrarian and neoliberal ideologies, which in turn shape responses to it.

Drawing on Heller's theory of the double bind of modernity, this presentation will analyse how the historical imagination and technological imagination of what it means to farm in Australia actually undermines the capacity of people who farm to better manage for drought within a neoliberal framework.