

UEA Water Security,
UEA Global Environmental Justice Group,
and London Water Research Group present

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HH6: Sixth International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony



TRANSBOUNDARY WATER JUSTICE

12-13 January 2013

Researchers, practitioners, journalists, and
activists are called to join in open, creative
and critical discussion, to answer the question:

*To what extent can 'justice' serve
transboundary water interaction?*

Thirst for freedom by www.zanstudio.com

UEA London • 102 Middlesex Street • E1 7EZ

For further details see www.uea.ac.uk/watersecurity/events

Attendance is free but advance registration is required: contact Karis McLaughlin at decada.karis@gmail.com

If you have ideas that you would like to contribute or discuss please contact Mark Zeitoun at m.zeitoun@uea.ac.uk

HH6: Sixth International Workshop on Hydro–Hegemony Transboundary Water Justice

The purpose of the workshop is to explore to what extent ‘justice’ can serve transboundary water interaction.

Equity and fairness are at the very heart of the Dublin Principles, IWRM, many developing notions of ‘water security’, International Water Law, and multiple transboundary treaties – or so it is claimed. The reality in many transboundary basins and aquifers is very different: power asymmetries allow steering of the outcome, whenever there are trade–offs made. When expectations about what is achievable and what is fair are set, social equity typically loses out, against economic efficiency and – possibly – environmental sustainability.

The stated but wanting concern for equity is yet another factor that helps to explain what has been explored at HH4 and HH5: how situations of transboundary water interaction can appear calm, even when the outcomes are asymmetric or extremely asymmetric. *Social justice theory* serves to elucidate: a situation where the lion’s share of water goes to the state that squeezes the most ‘dollars per drop’ (Allan 2007) may be fair to someone with a utilitarian world view, for instance, and outrageous to an egalitarian. For their part, liberal conceptions of *environmental justice* may focus on the process of transboundary water interaction, ignoring the outcome decried by social activists.

Effective analysis of transboundary water interaction, then, must consider ‘justice’ alongside the role of soft power, sanctioned discourse, power asymmetry, and coercive cooperation. Understanding whose world view is invoked and whose interests are served is critical to evaluate claims that an asymmetric outcome is fair, or ‘fair enough’ – particularly when these come from hegemonic actors. The interests of those holding prevailing concepts of justice may contribute, after all, to re–enforcing an unfair status quo. Justice may also serve to break it, and counter the hegemony.

All practitioners, academics, journalists and activists are called to London in January 2013 to test the assertions in an open, critical and creative atmosphere to help answer the following questions:

- Do ‘power asymmetries allow steering of the trade–offs away from social justice’ in transboundary water interaction, or do they only lead to a different form of equity?
- More precisely *how* does power affect an evaluation of what is just and unjust?
- How are conceptions of justice used to undermine or reinforce bargaining and ideational power – and vice versa?
- Which groups invoke which world views on justice? On which philosophical basis and legitimised in which ways?
- How is bargaining power used in social justice movements over transboundary waters?
- To what extent is international water law informed by justice? By power?
- How can the re–production of unjust situations be avoided, through counter–hegemonic efforts?
- What sense of justice underlies ‘pro–poor’ and other apparently subjective justice policy (even on transboundary water initiatives)? Who evaluates it and how?
- Is the term ‘equity’ more palpable than ‘justice’ to the prevailing order? Is it therefore more or less effective?
- How can activism for justice serve equitable outcomes?
- How many strawmen lurk in the text above?

DRAFT PROGRAMME – subject to change

SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 2013

08:30-09:00	Registration / coffee
9:00-10:00	<p>1. What is the relevance of social justice to hydro–hegemony? [60 min]</p> <p><i>Purpose: Theory to set the scene for the workshop, including basic hydro–hegemony, cooperation and justice theory</i></p> <p><i>Chair / discussant and opening remarks: Tony Allan, Kings College London</i></p> <p>Water hegemony, security and justice Mark Zeitoun, University of East Anglia</p> <p>Cooperation diverting from Justice Naho Mirumachi, Kings College London</p>
10:00-10:30	Tea/coffee break
10:30-12:00	<p>2. How does power asymmetry affect world views of justice? [90min]</p> <p><i>Purpose: To investigate the importance of: a) distinguishing both between western/ liberal conceptions of justice (i.e. egalitarian, libertarian), and between these and other forms of justice (i.e. Sen, local conceptions, etc); and b) power asymmetries legitimising some views and outcomes over others (through agenda–setting, discourses, steering trade–offs, etc). Qui bono?</i></p> <p><i>Chair / discussant: Naho Mirumachi, Kings College London / Clemens Messerschmid</i></p> <p>Lessons on transboundary justice from forests / REDD Thomas Sikor, University of East Anglia</p> <p>Environmental justice norms and international humanitarian law: incompatible and irrelevant? Michael Mason, London School of Economics</p> <p>Justice in different transboundary sectors (forests, energy, biodiversity, disasters, water) Adrian Martin, University of East Anglia</p> <p>Review of water and justice academic literature Karis McLaughlin, Oxford University</p> <p>Challenging reproduction in transboundary waters: Foucault vs Chomsky Jan Selby, University of Sussex</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:30	<p>3. How does soft (bargaining and ideational) power influence the process and outcome of transboundary water interaction? [90min]</p> <p><i>Purpose: To investigate more precisely how expectations are set, how ideational and bargaining power supports particular views of justice, and vice–versa, how unfair status quo is reproduced, the favouring of apolitical conflict management over conflict resolution.</i></p>

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Chair / discussant: Mark Zeitoun, University of East Anglia

Tipping the Scales of Justice: an analysis of how money and power influence notions of justice in the Mekong Basin Hydropower debate

Nathaniel Matthews, Kings College London

From equity legerdemain to justice transparency (or from sleight-of-hand to open hand): reflections from water allocation

Bruce Lankford, University of East Anglia

Co-existing conflict and cooperation and Justice in the Niger Basin [TBC]

Marisa Goulden, University of East Anglia

The limits of Turkish hydro-hegemony

Vakur Sumer, Selcuk University

Hydro-Justice provided by donors? The Palestinian Pentologue

Clemens Messerschmid, independent

Counter-hydro-hegemony on the ground in the Nile River Basin: tipping the balance of power in favour of upstream riparian states

Ana Cascao, Stockholm International Water Institute

15:30-16:00 Tea/coffee break

16:00-17:30 **4. What is the potential for transboundary water justice in a hegemonic political economic world order? [90min]**

Purpose: To investigate how the forces active in shaping the international political economy serve to discourage or encourage claims for justice. More on legitimisation, rules, exclusion, etc.

Chair / discussant: Francesca Greco, UNESCO / Thomas Sikor, University of East Anglia

Revisiting hydraulic mission approaches: the Red Sea - Dead Sea Conveyance and its alternatives deep in late modernity, 2002-2013

Tony Allan, Kings College London

Hydropolitical peacebuilding and justice in the Lower Jordan

Eric Abitbol, American University (Washington DC)

"Small is beautiful!": how a focus on smallholder farming in investment can deliver basin justice

Martin Keulertz, Kings College London

Transnational water governance and global food business: in search for equity and justice

Suvi Sojamo, Aalto University

Grappling corporate water hegemony - the trials of rule setting for transnational water justice through water stewardship standards

Nick Hepworth, Water Witness International

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17.30-18.30	5. Panel Discussion – Can water, justice and borders mix? [60min]
	<p><i>Purpose: To flesh-out current and established thinking and practice of justice and water (domestic leaning towards international)</i></p> <p><i>Chair / discussant: Jan Selby, University of Sussex</i></p> <p>Law, science and water imperialism Radha D’Souza, University of Westminster</p> <p>Have we got the scope right for water borders and justice? Melvin Woodhouse, LTS International</p> <p>Justice in the World Commission on Dams [TBC] Synne Movik, Norwegian University of Life Sciences</p> <p>Can anything to do with transboundary water be objectively ‘fair’? Owen McIntyre, University College Cork</p>
18:30-18:45	Wrap-up

SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2013

09:30-10:00	Summary of day 1 – Francesca Greco, UNESCO
10:00-11:30	<p>6. Counter–hegemony: lessons from transboundary and social justice movements about alternatives to the status quo [90min]</p> <p><i>Purpose: To investigate how the status quo can be challenged, through justice, law, soft power, or other means</i></p> <p><i>Chair / discussant:</i> Naho Mirumachi, Kings College London</p> <p>A-hegemony and counter-hegemony Jeroen Warner, Wageningen University</p> <p>Multi-level counter-hegemony in the Nile region: how the construction of large-scale dams is changing the hydropolitical relations between and within the Nile countries Ana Cascao, Stockholm International Water Institute</p> <p>Using human rights and advocacy for water justice in the West Bank and Gaza Cara Flowers, independent</p> <p>The Justicia Hídrica/Water Justice Alliance: research and action on water accumulation, conflicts and civil society defence Rutgerd Boelens, Wageningen University, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú</p> <p>Hegemony and counter-hegemony in virtual water trade: justice for indigenous people? Francesca Greco, KCL</p>
11:30-12:00	Tea/coffee break
12:00-13:30	<p>7. Panel Discussion – How/can international norms help? [90min]</p> <p><i>Purpose: To investigate the relationship between power, justice and international norms and international water law. Norms (e.g. economic efficiency) developed and reproduced by the powerful, or challenged by others (e.g. human right to water). International Water Law either a) serves conventional forms of justice, b) serves social justice, c) is devoid of justice. How can transboundary water justice be justiciable?</i></p> <p><i>Chair / discussant:</i> Mark Zeitoun, UEA / Radha D’Souza, University of Westminster</p> <p>Framings of water justice and security Jeroen Warner, Wageningen University</p> <p>International water law, power and justice in the Nile Basin [TBC] Jasmine Musa, University of Cambridge</p> <p>Inequity triggering collective action [TBC] Pieter van der Zaag, UNESCO-IHE</p> <p>Are global legal instruments better than basin treaties at bringing justice to transboundary water interactions Alistair Rieu–Clarke, University of Dundee</p> <p>There is no justice in international water law: the multiple roles of equity Owen McIntyre, University College Cork</p>

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13:30-15:00	Lunch
15:00-16:30	<p>8. Fishbowl – Justice into transboundary water practice [90min]</p> <p><i>Purpose: to investigate if and how transboundary water initiatives, finance mechanisms, law and diplomacy may seek to enable social justice.</i></p> <p><i>Chair / discussant:</i> Nathaniel Matthews, Kings College London</p> <p>Power and perceptions of justice in transboundary waters throughout the Middle East Michael Talhami, International Committee of the Red Cross [TBC]</p> <p>Justice and the durability of treaties David Phillips, independent [TBC]</p> <p>RBOs designed to deliver justice or projects? Melvin Woodhouse, LTS International</p> <p>Do GEF’s International Waters projects deliver social justice outcomes? Doug Taylor, independent</p> <p>+ Various practitioners involved in transboundary water initiatives (GIZ, DFID, SIWI, WWF, MRC, Oxfam, UNDP, etc.)</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>9. Summary and wrap-up</p> <p><i>Chairs / discussants:</i> Mark Zeitoun, Naho Mirumachi, Nathaniel Matthews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What forms of social justice does our group think best to pursue, and best to avoid• Answering of question: “to what extent does ‘justice’ serve transboundary water interaction?”

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Workshop venue

The address of the venue is: UEA London, 102 Middlesex Street, London, E1 7EZ.

Getting to the venue

UEA London is a 6 minute walk from either London Liverpool Street rail station / underground, or from Aldgate or Aldgate East underground stations.

Cost of attendance

There is no charge to attend the workshop, but advance registration is required: contact Karis McLaughlin at decada.karis@gmail.com

Financial support

This workshop is being run primarily on a volunteer basis. We regret we are unable to support or organise travel or accommodation in London.

Catering

Please note that meals will not be provided at the workshop. Lunch can be purchased at local cafes nearby the venue.

On Saturday 12 January, several of us will be enjoying dinner at a nearby Bangladeshi restaurant on Brick Lane. Everyone is welcome to join (at their own cost) – please let Karis know if you would like to reserve a place at decada.karis@gmail.com

Nearby budget accommodation

IBIS

5 Commercial Street, E1 6BF

<http://www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-5011-ibis-london-city/index.shtml>

7 minute walk to UEA London

There are a number of Travelodges within walking distance of the venue. They vary in price.

Travelodge London Liverpool Street

1 Harrow Place, E1 7DB

<http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/44/London-Central-Liverpool-Street-hotel>

2 minute walk to UEA London

Travelodge Central Tower Bridge

Lloyds Court Business Centre, 1 Goodmans Yard, E1 8AT

<http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/391/London-Central-Tower-Bridge-hotel>

11 minute walk to UEA London

Travelodge Central Aldgate East

6-13 Chamber Street, E1 8BL

<http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/355/London-Central-Aldgate-East-hotel>

13 minute walk to UEA London

Travelodge London Central Bank

19-23 St Swithin's Lane, EC4N 8AD

<http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/518/London-central-Bank-hotel>

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17 minute walk to UEA London

Travelodge London Central City Road

1-23 City Road, EC1Y 1AE

<http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/340/London-Central-City-Road-prev-Moorgate-hotel>

21 minute walk to UEA London

YHA London St Pauls

36 Carter Lane, EC4V 5AB

<http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/london-st-pauls>

Budget rooms and dorm beds available

26 minute walk to UEA London