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

KING'S College LONDON
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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?

FINAL PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 2013

08:30-09:00	Registration
9:00-10:00	**1. What is the relevance of social justice to hydro–hegemony?**
	Purpose: *Theory to set the scene for the workshop, including basic hydro–hegemony, cooperation and justice theory* *Chair / discussant and opening remarks*: Tony Allan, King's College London **Water hegemony, security and justice** Mark Zeitoun, University of East Anglia **Cooperation diverting from justice** Naho Mirumachi, King's College London **Water and justice: a literature review** Karis McLaughlin, Oxford University
10:00-10:30	Tea/coffee break
10:30-12:00	**2. How does power asymmetry affect world views of justice?**
	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*? *Chair:* Naho Mirumachi, King's College London *Discussants:* Clemens Messerschmid, independent, and Karin Aggestam, Lund University **Lessons on transboundary justice from forests / REDD** Thomas Sikor, University of East Anglia **Justice in different transboundary sectors (forests, energy, biodiversity, disasters, water)** Adrian Martin, University of East Anglia **Environmental justice norms and international humanitarian law: incompatible and irrelevant?** Michael Mason, London School of Economics **Challenging reproduction in transboundary waters: Foucault vs Chomsky** Jan Selby, University of Sussex
12:00-13:00	Lunch

13:00-14:30	**3. How does soft (bargaining and ideational) power influence the process and outcome of transboundary water interaction?**
	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. *Chair/discussant:* Naho Mirumachi, King's College London **Tipping the Scales of Justice: an analysis of how money and power influence notions of justice in the Mekong Basin Hydropower debate** Nathanial Matthews, King's College London **What does justice bring to Article 6 of the UN Watercourses Convention? Journeying from equity legerdemain to justice transparency for water allocation and sharing.** Bruce Lankford, University of East Anglia **Hydro-Justice provided by donors? The Palestinian Pentalogue** 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?**
	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*: Francesca Greco, UNESCO *Discussant:* 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, King's 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, King's 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

17.30-18.30	**5. *Panel Discussion* – Can water, justice and borders mix?**
	Purpose: To flesh-out current and established thinking and practice of justice and water (domestic leaning towards international) *Chair / discussant:* Jan Selby, University of Sussex **Law, science and water imperialism** Radha D'Souza, University of Westminster **Have we got the scope right for water borders and justice?** Melvin Woodhouse, LTS International **Can anything to do with transboundary water be objectively 'fair'?** Owen McIntyre, University College Cork
18:30-18:45	**Wrap-up**

SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2013

09:00-09:30	Tea/coffee
09:30-10:00	**Summary of day 1** – Francesca Greco, UNESCO
10:00-11:30	**6. Counter–hegemony: lessons from transboundary and social justice movements about alternatives to the status quo**
	Purpose: To investigate how the status quo can be challenged, through justice, law, soft power, or other means *Chair / discussant*: Mark Zeitoun, University of East Anglia **A-hegemony and counter-hegemony** Jeroen Warner, Wageningen University **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 **Using human rights and advocacy for water justice in the West Bank and Gaza** Cara Flowers, independent **Hegemony and counter-hegemony in virtual water trade: justice for indigenous people?** Francesca Greco, UNESCO
11:30-12:00	Tea/coffee break
12:00-13:30	**7. *Panel Discussion* – How/can international norms help?**
	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? *Chair:* Michael Mason, London School of Economics *Discussant:* Radha D'Souza, University of Westminster **Framings of water justice and security** Jeroen Warner, Wageningen University **International water law, power and justice in the Nile Basin** Jasmine Moussa, University of Cambridge **Inequity triggering collective action** Pieter van der Zaag, UNESCO-IHE **Are global legal instruments better than basin treaties at bringing justice to transboundary water interactions** Alistair Rieu–Clarke, University of Dundee **There is no justice in international water law: the multiple roles of equity** Owen McIntyre, University College Cork
13:30-15:00	Lunch

15:00-16:30	**8. *Fishbowl* – Justice into transboundary water practice**
	Purpose: to investigate if and how transboundary water initiatives, finance mechanisms, law and diplomacy may seek to enable social justice. *Chair:* Nathanial Matthews, King's College London **Lessons from experience in the humanitarian sector** Michael Talhami, International Committee of the Red Cross **RBOs designed to deliver justice or projects?** Melvin Woodhouse, LTS International **History of power and shared water at local levels: transboundary waters, justice and the Middle East** Esse Nilsson, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) **Finance mechanisms, economics and justice in transboundary water initiatives** Matthew Agrawala, London School of Economics **Diplomacy and government perspectives on social justice** Charlie McLaren, UK Collaborative on Development Sciences + Various practitioners involved in transboundary water initiatives
16:30-17:00	**9. Summary and wrap–up**
	Chairs / discussants: Mark Zeitoun, Naho Mirumachi, Nathanial Matthews • 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

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