

WE'RE LAUNCHING A NEW WEBINAR SERIES!

CONVENED BY KING'S WATER &
INTERNATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, COLOMBO

Changing political economies in large river basins: Environment, values and systemic pressures



The ever-present relationship between large river basins and development has been a feature of global political economy for hundreds of years. A recognizable 'water crisis' narrative emerged in the last few decades of the 20th Century, which shifted attention to improving water governance and considering systems interconnectedness – a concept epitomised, perhaps, in the water-energy-food nexus advocated in policy circles and key global water events. Yet these relatively technocratic narratives have sat somewhat uneasily alongside wider discourse on values, the politics of contestation, everyday struggles over water and, increasingly, the actions taken up to deal with climate change.

Embedded in these new concerns and challenges are global politics of trade, shifting geopolitics, aid siloes, climate security and post-colonial legacies. These processes of complex value (re)construction, absorption and contestation are beginning to shape river basin systems in new ways.

We are excited to be launching a webinar series at this particular moment of 2021, when the World Water Day 2021 theme is on valuing water. In this multi-episode series, we will examine values from a political economy perspective and with respect to a selection of the world's key river basins and regions. Extending our thinking beyond the 'water box', we invite a range of speakers from multiple fields to join in on the conversation.

Organisers



DR NAHO MIRUMACHI (KING'S COLLEGE LONDON)

Reader (Associate Prof.) in Environmental Politics, she has over 15 years of experience in interdisciplinary research, bringing together thinking on political economy of international transboundary river basins, security and geopolitics, particularly in developing country contexts. She has extensive experience in training and working with policy makers.



DR ALAN NICOL (IWMI)

Director of IWMI's Strategic Program on Water, Growth and Inclusion, he has more than 20 years of experience in research, policy advice, consulting and program development across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. He is a specialist in a range of water policy issues, working closely with both governments and policy influencers.

UPCOMING EPISODE:

28 April 2021 13:00-14:00 BST (GMT+1)

Webinar 1: Setting the scene – a chaotic landscape for valuing water

In our first episode, we ask questions around values, discussing the drivers and demands that are shaping the political economy of river basins today. We want to explore the big picture including the underlying ideologies and systemic pressures that matter but are often left unspeakable.

Who are the winners and losers in the processes of complex value construction and contestation and what, if anything, does this mean for our long-term capacity to build future-proof socio-economic systems and polities?

Register now!

Joining details will be sent after registration

Outline of Webinar

Welcome and overview of the webinar series

Presentation "Why is valuing water under threat? Rethinking the political economies of large river basins"

Naho Mirumachi & Alan Nicol

Interactive discussion

Closing

Watch this space

The second webinar will be on

26 May 2021 10:00 BST (GMT+1)

Webinar 2: Power Interplay (Re)shaping the Politics of Value in Mekong Hydropower

KING'S
water

About King's Water

Based at the King's College London Department of Geography, we are home to research expertise on water, environment and development. Our hub spans social and physical sciences to explore the challenges of water governance from global to local scales.

IWMI

About IWMI

IWMI's mission is to provide water solutions for sustainable, climate-resilient development. IWMI is a research-for-development organization, whose research results have led to changes in water management that have contributed to social and economic development.

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blogs.kcl.ac.uk/water/  [@KingsWaterKCL](https://twitter.com/KingsWaterKCL)