

# 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.

*\*\*This webinar series is dedicated to the late Prof Tony Allan, our friend and colleague who advanced academic and policy debate on the economic and political processes that (under)value water\*\**

# UPCOMING EPISODE

12 January 2022 at 12:30-13:30 BST (GMT+1)

## Circular economy: Towards a new political economy in an era of climate uncertainty?

**Register Now!**

Joining details will be sent after registration

## Speakers



### JOSIANE NIKIEMA (IWMI)

Over 10 years of post-doctoral experience in the field of environmental sciences, including three years as a professor in Université de Sherbrooke (Canada). Josiane is specialised in biological treatment of wastewater and contaminated air, as well as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. She joined IWMI in 2011, her research encompasses: domestic wastewater treatment and reuse, the recovery of nutrients and organic matter from fecal sludge and organic solid waste, and testing business models for safe resource recovery and reuse in Africa and Asia.



### MELISSA MACEWEN (CHATHAM HOUSE)

Melissa is a programme manager in the Environment and Society Programme at Chatham House, managing delivery for the Circular Economy and BECCS projects as well as conducting research and analysis on the circular economy in developing countries. She also worked in public affairs and corporate communications in the energy and industrial sectors.

Find our previous webinars here [Webinar 1](#), [Webinar 2](#), [Webinar 3](#), [Webinar 4](#), [Webinar 5](#).

#### 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.

#### 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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