

*The Eighth International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony*

# HH8 Law & Hydro-Hegemony



**24-25 October**

**King's College London**

*Registration open at  
[lwrg.wordpress.com](http://lwrg.wordpress.com)*

**Attendance is free &  
all are welcome**

**LONDON WATER RESEARCH GROUP**

**KING'S**  
*water*

**UEA Water  
Security**



**SOAS**  
University of London

**LCILP**  
London Centre of  
International Law Practice

Eighth International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony

**HH8: Law & Hydro-Hegemony**

24-25 October 2015

Organising Panel: Rebecca L. Farnum, Mia Tamarin, and Steph Hawkins

*There is no crueller tyranny than that which is perpetuated under the shield of law and in the name of justice.*  
— Charles de Montesquieu

The London Water Research Group has been organising workshops around themes of water resources, distribution, power, and politics since 2005. These International Workshops on Hydro-Hegemony have been essential in advancing theories around the Framework of Hydro-Hegemony and considering the ways that power over water influences realities and experiences on the ground. HH8 seeks to further that tradition by addressing a gap identified through conversations at HH6: Transboundary Water Justice and HH7: Contesting Hegemony between theories of international law and hydro-hegemonic arrangements, particularly around the role of law in furthering and/or contesting those arrangements.

Water and law intersect around multiple issues. International water law, most notably the UN Watercourses Convention, influences the ways that countries interact with each other, particularly around the utilisation of transboundary water resources that in turn significantly impacts the distribution of water for human use. Other relevant bodies of international law include international environmental law, which in part governs pollution in shared water sources and other related ecological concerns; international trade law, which implicitly directs policy over the 'movement' of virtual water by regulating commercial transactions between countries; international human rights law, as individuals and communities make use of extant redress mechanisms and 'rights' discourses to call attention to water access and allocation at local levels; and international humanitarian law, which governs water arrangements in the midst of interstate armed conflict.

None of these sectors of international law or issues of water management and distribution are free from issues of power, justice, and hydro-hegemony. The Organisers assert that law can be used or misused to further specific interests. The modern international legal regime governing nation-states is intrinsically tied to power: In some ways, it is hegemonic, both being produced by and producing those with power; in others, law provides a unique opportunity to 'level the playing field' between actors with different capacities and levels of material power and may thus be a useful tool for counter-hegemonic action.

Practitioners, researchers, students, and activists are called to London 24-25 October 2015 to consider the relation between law and hegemony in a critical and creative atmosphere leaning on some core contentions:

- The law is not truly blind, but instead sees – and benefits – money and power;
- State sovereignty principles often unfairly favour more powerful states at the expense of weaker nations;
- The extant international legal regime is both unjust and unrealistic in its lingering focus on states, inadequately taking into account the rights and responsibilities of individuals, communities, corporations, and organisations; and
- Lawyers should not have the sole voice in questions of law, justice, and power.

HH8 will be formatted and led in the spirit of these assertions, running as an interactive, participant-led workshop of collaborative learning rather than a traditional academic conference. Participatory small and large group discussions, practical simulations, and teaching sessions will explore the following questions:

1. How does the way international law is **made** help or hinder its use as a counter-hegemonic tool?
2. How should law confront hydro-hegemony and **power** inequalities?
3. How should law and activism approach issues of **state sovereignty** in hydro-hegemonic systems?
4. How does law serve as both a liberating tool of **justice** and an oppressive instrument of hegemony?
5. Can international law change, either in content or structure, to become more effective in **countering** harmful hydro-hegemonic realities? If so, how?
6. What is the role of international law in governing potentially hegemonic **virtual water** trades?
7. How can international law influence water resources **distribution** in aquifers and basins?
8. How might **human rights** discourses and systems help to redress hydro-hegemonic realities?

*Please visit <https://lwrg.wordpress.com/news/events/hh8/> for more information and to register.*

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### Programme

#### **Saturday 24 October 2015 – International Law, Water, & Power: Theories & Frameworks**

- 8:30am**      **Side Event: Early Career Networking Workshop (Room K4U.12)**  
*Saturday morning prior to kicking off HH8, the Organisers will be holding a frank, open session on networking and academic engagement – how to approach notables in the field, get the most out of conferences, and leverage academic experience for employability.*
- 9:30am**      **Registration; Tea & Coffee (Room K-1.56)**
- 10am**        **Opening Plenary – The Making of International Water Law (Room K-1.56)**  
*Owen McIntyre, University College Cork*
- 11am**        **Panel Discussion – Law Confronting Power: Case Studies and Reflections (Room K-1.56)**  
*Stephen Hodgson, WaterAid*  
*Natasha Carmi, Palestinian Negotiations Affairs Department*  
*Paula Hanasz, Australian National University*
- 12:30pm**    **Breakout Group Assignments and Lunch**  
*Groups will rotate between three topics for conversation:*
- Hydro-Hegemony and State Sovereignty (K4U.12)
  - Justice, the Law, and Water (Room K3.11)
  - Leveraging International Law as a Counter-Hegemonic Tool (Room K-1.14)
- 1:30pm**      **Facilitated Small Group Discussion A**
- 2:30pm**      **Facilitated Small Group Discussion B**
- 3:30pm**      **Facilitated Small Group Discussion C**
- 4:30pm**      **Reflective Plenary (Room K-1.56)**
- 6pm**         **Optional Group Dinner**

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#### **Sunday 25 October 2015 – International Law & Hydro-Hegemony in Practice**

- 9am**            **Plenary – International Law: Powerful Justice or The Powerful's Justice? (Room K-1.56)**  
*Clemens Messerschmid*
- 10:30am**        **Mini-Lecture: Aquifer and Basin-Level Water Resources Distribution (Room K-1.56)**  
*Alistair Rieu-Clarke, University of Dundee*
- 10:50am**        **Mini-Lecture: Trade and Virtual Water (Room K-1.56)**  
*Renee Martin-Nagle, University of Strathclyde*
- 11:10am**        **Topical Mini-Lecture: Human Rights and Water (Room K-1.56)**  
*Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Platform for International Water Law, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva*
- 11:30am**        **Case Study Simulations**  
*Participants will choose a track:*
- Aquifer and Basin-Level Water Resources Distribution: Modelling and Arbitration around Equitable & Reasonable Use Principles (K4U.12)**  
*Bruce Lankford, University of East Anglia and Kevin Wheeler, University of Oxford*
- Trade and Virtual Water: Trade Negotiation (K-1.14)**  
*Renee Martin-Nagle, University of Strathclyde*
- Human Rights and Water: Legal Mechanisms Protecting Water Access (K3.11)**  
*Rebecca Peters, King's College London*
- 1pm**            **Lunch Break**
- 2:30pm**        **Case Study Reflective Discussions**
- 4pm**            **Participatory Plenary (Room K-1.56)**
- 6pm**            **Closing**

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### Logistical Information

#### **Workshop Venue**

*HH8 will be held at King's College London, Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS, United Kingdom.*

#### **Getting to the Venue**

*King's College London is located near the Temple and Holborn Tube Stations and easily accessible by various bus routes. Charing Cross and Waterloo Rail Stations are both nearby.*

*Upon arrival, please enter the main King's College London Strand Reception. The HH8 Workshop will be held primarily in Room K-1.56. Volunteers will be available to help direct you.*

#### **Registration**

*There is no charge to attend the workshop, but advance registration is required. Please visit [lwrp.wordpress.com/hh8](http://lwrp.wordpress.com/hh8) or email [info@lwrp.org](mailto:info@lwrp.org) to register.*

#### **Financial Support**

*As with all London Water Research Group events, this Workshop is being run on a volunteer basis. We regret we are unable to support or organise travel or accommodation.*

#### **Catering**

*Please note that meals will not be provided at the Workshop. Lunch can be purchased at local cafes near King's College London.*

#### **Friday Night Pub Meet (Optional)**

*On Friday 23 October, all participants are invited to an informal meet-up at a pub. Time and location will be announced by the HH8 Team the week of the Workshop. Please email [info@lwrp.org](mailto:info@lwrp.org) for more details.*

#### **Saturday Evening Group Dinner (Optional)**

*On Saturday 24 October, all participants are invited to an informal dinner at a restaurant near the Strand. Time and location will be announced by the HH8 Team the week of the Workshop. Please email [info@lwrp.org](mailto:info@lwrp.org) for more details.*