

South Asia Water Studies Call for Papers

Special issue on Water Governance in South Asia

South Asian Water Studies (SAWAS) is an interdisciplinary journal that aims at providing space for alternative and critical thinking. The journal is an independent forum for discussion about water-related issues that affect South Asia: including issues in particular countries and regions within South Asia, issues at the level of South Asia as a region, and issues related to the global context in which South Asian water issues are situated.

SAWAS is hereby announcing a call for a special issue on '**Water Governance in South Asia**' for Volume 6, Issue 3, 2017. We welcome contributions from academics, development practitioners, activists and researchers working on related water issues in South Asia. Articles submitted should not have been previously published or currently be under consideration for publication elsewhere and should report original unpublished research results.

Scope of the special issue

Since the 1990s the concept of 'governance' has made a remarkable advance into governmental, developmental and other institutions. This is also illustrated by the increasing use of the term 'water governance', one of its spin-offs. The widespread use of the term for a variety of water issues and problems —e.g. irrigation, river basin management, flood protection, domestic water provision— suggests the existence of basic agreement about its meaning. However, if we focus on water governance 'on the ground', conflicts abound about the problem and possible solutions, whose knowledge counts, who should decide and has the legitimacy to devise policies, and which societal objectives should be given priority in governing water. While, for instance, propagators of the 'hydraulic mission' as a motor for development see water primarily as a resource for economic exploitation following the logic of the market, critical researchers and activists stress tend to foreground other values, such as sustainability, equity of access to water, or protection of cultural values of traditional water users. And then there are those who claim (ground)water may not be governed at all, resulting in 'lack of governance' or even 'anarchy'.

Different, often conflicting views also characterize the analysis of processes of governing water. Some approach water governance as a complex process of steering, ordering and controlling of an always contested resource, entailing winners and losers, inclusion and exclusion rather than win-win solutions. Others have a more normative or idealistic view of water governance, defining it in terms of specific configurations of 'state', 'market' and 'civil society' actors (e.g. 'network governance') that are expected to yield better solutions to water problems. Some stress the need for 'global water governance' to deal with the 'global water crisis', while others would rather focus on local, place-based practices of controlling and allocating water. Some limit the concept to distributional issues in situations of freshwater scarcity, while others explicitly include situations of an abundance of water, the flood risks associated with rivers, deltas and coastal settlements, and uncertainties related to these.

What is the state of the art in water governance practices and their analysis in South Asia? What are the dynamics over time? Has it moved 'from government to governance' or is that too simplistic a notion? What is the role of the 'global overlay' of global (geo)politics and institutions? Are 'anarchy' and 'chaos' widespread? What are the practices of governing water that such images claim to represent? How about the governance of transboundary waters? We invite papers based on in-depth individual or comparative case studies that critically engage with water governance 'on the ground', the actual practices of controlling and (re-)allocating water and, in doing so, controlling and (re-)ordering society. These processes can be critically analysed in various domains where water and people are governed such as, for instance: irrigation systems, rivers and deltas under conditions of sea level rise, pollution, or increasing risks of flooding; provision of water for domestic uses (drinking, cooking); reallocations of water associated with hydropower systems, the growing water demands of urban areas, or intensive commercial agriculture.

Abstract submission deadline	: May 30, 2017
Notification on acceptance of abstract	: June 15, 2017
Submission of full length pap	: May 30, 2017
Notification of acceptance	: June 30, 2017
Submission of revised paper	: July 30, 2017
Anticipated date of publishing	: September 30, 2017

The submission would be done electronically. The abstract should not exceed 500 words and should contain the brief context of the study, objectives/ research questions, approaches and methods employed and brief summary of your findings. Kindly send your submission to editor@sawasjournal.org. For more information on how to submit your work please visit the SAWAS website www.sawasjournal.org.

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