Summary

2016 was International WaTERS Network’s second year in existence. As we shifted from start-up to a more established network, we increasingly focused on addressing the key linkages between our case study sites of Cape Town (South Africa), Lima (Peru), and Bangalore (India). Building on the work of our Network partners and the field work conducted by our fellows, we hosted a number of academic and practitioner workshops around the world. We began assembling our work for a forthcoming journal special issue, finalized the training modules, and made progress on future goals for our research and training efforts, as well as future funding.

Major Events and Activities

Second Network Meeting with Justicia Hidrica - University of Wageningen (Wageningen, The Netherlands)
The International WaTERS Network and Justicia Hídrica conducted a successful workshop on July 10th, 2016 in Wageningen, The Netherlands with over 40 participants from both Networks and beyond. There were in-depth updates from each of the case studies sites (Bangalore, Cape Town, and Lima) presented both by graduate students who had been awarded Network fellowships and activists and professors who are active in the Network’s activities. Additional presentations covered Network themes such as urban-rural linkages and water equity in the global South, including work from Peru and Brazil. The workshop finished with a discussion of future directions for the network’s organization and outputs with a stress on the need for additional funding opportunities. We are currently pursuing a special journal issue as an outlet for some of this work, to be edited by several Network members (R. Boelens, L. Hommes, G. Veldwisch, and L. Harris)
Workshop on Water Equity and Resilience in Southern Africa - Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (Stellenbosch, South Africa)

The International WaTERS Network, with support of the Peter Wall Institute of Advanced Studies (http://pwias.ubc.ca/), the NEPAD Centers for Excellence (http://www.nepad.org/programme/nepad-water-centres-excellence), the Water Resources Commission of South Africa (http://www.wrc.org.za/), and other partners, hosted an international workshop on equity and water-related resilience in southern Africa. This workshop was hosted by the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies and included over 35 participants. Insights were shared from a number of researchers and practitioners focusing on, and based in, southern Africa. Additionally, this workshop focused on goal setting, research dissemination and grant writing for the future of the International WaTERS Network research program.

Thematically, the workshop critically interrogated notions of resilience, highlighted definitions and framings from different disciplinary traditions, and integrated insights from scholars and practitioners with focus on southern Africa. Considerable attention during the first two days was given to case study work in the region. The third day was made up of small group and plenary discussions of collaborative publications and grant applications to extend this work, looking ahead to future needs and collaborative possibilities. A special journal issue focused on the themes of water related equity and resilience in southern Africa is under development.

Please see our website for the detailed workshop agenda, as well as a full partner information, and participant list: http://www.waterequity.pwias.ubc.ca/

Saciwaters: Periurban Water Conflicts: Perspectives & Issues of Water Justice in South Asia Meeting

South Asian Consortium for Inter-disciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERs), Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India (Forum) and Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) organised a two-day workshop (24 to 25 May, 2016) for researchers and development practitioners in Hyderabad, India. The title of the workshop was "Periurban Water Conflicts: Perspectives & Issues of Water Justice in South Asia" and focused on investigating issues of water justice in the context of periurban South Asia. The workshop further discussed the water justice perspective from the conceptual lens of water rights including right to water and equity, as key features of ongoing water governance requirements in the region. The workshop provided a key contribution to our regional training and knowledge dissemination goals.

Annual Water Justice Alliance Researchers Meeting
From 16 – 20 November, the yearly Water Justice Alliance Researchers Meeting (Justicia Hídrica) took place in Cali, Colombia. Supported in part by funding from the International WaTERS Network, a group of around 40 researchers and civil society actors from diverse Latin American and European countries and the USA came together to discuss topics around water justice, hydropower development, extractive industries, agro-export and the cultural politics of water. Interesting presentations, including several concerning the International WaTERS case study in Lima, were given, followed by discussions about content, concepts and future research and action agendas. New Justicia Hídrica / Water Justice books were launched, events and actions were shared, and the Water Justice library was opened with numerous publications and studies by the alliance members (see www.justiciahidrica.org). Parallel to this meeting, also the 7th International Water Justice Course took place in which 20 young researchers and water professionals from countries like Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico and Peru worked on a case study in urban Cali on matters of water governance, socio-ecological conflicts and social movements. The case study enabled participants to learn about the specific context, conceptual approaches and the practice of participatory action research. The course was completed by a presentation of research results and the launching of the (In)Justicia Hídrica magazine, an inspiring and exciting initiative of former course participants.

The VIII International Water Justice Course and Workshop
From August 29th to September 9th 2016 the VIII International Water Justice Course-Workshop was developed in Cusco, Peru. The course was organized by the Centre for Regional Andean Studies, Bartolomé de las Casas, together with the School for Social Science at Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, the University of Bolivia in Medellin, Colombia, and members of the International Water Justice Alliance. There was strong attendance with 25 young professionals and trainers participating. Participants came from Chile, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador and Colombia and presented and compared important case studies of water in-justice from the different countries - analyzing current processes of accumulation by disposition and conflict. The course and workshop combine conceptual presentations and debate, with group exercises, case study presentations, participatory action research (PAR) introductions and applications, and exploring water justice concepts in a concrete watershed of the Hatunmayo River near Cusco, where several critical land, water and livelihood transformations are taking place. The course develops aspects such as, how to understand land and water extraction, how to do a stakeholder and power relations analysis, water rights and legal pluralism, intercultural communication and dialogue in integrated social water management and water governance. At the end of the course the students developed some practices and principals about visualization, photography and video for local social communication in water justice action. Finally the students reviewed examples in local communities of
alternatives for better life developments, food and water sovereignty, collected from social movements and cases of natural defense. With this VIII Water Justice Course and Workshop the Water Justice Movement grows and strengthens with different applications in the countries for the future and until the IX Course event in 2017.

**South African Water Caucus and Water Governance Meetings**
The South African Water Caucus (SAWC), a civil society network conducted a recent meeting to strengthen its core mission of improving civil society capacity to monitor water governance. For many reasons, participation and citizen-monitoring doesn’t happen well – citizens don’t know how to get involved, government doesn’t know how to consult and integrate multiple perspectives, there is mistrust on both sides, and even the role of citizens as monitors is questioned. With eyes and ears on the ground, and a public-interest ethic, organised civil society is able to observe and make sense of what is happening to water in ways that can support government fulfil its mandate as custodian of our water. Furthermore, it is legally required that civil society is included in decision making about water and the environment.

Over the course of two days (Oct. 18th - 19th) the participants conducted a very fruitful reflection section on gender dynamics in water governance, feminist and decolonial approaches to research, and discussed how this might be important for the outreach, research and ongoing work of the caucus. On day 2, the different members of the water caucus reviewed elements of an ongoing community based research project (funded by Water Research Commission), and several of the researchers graduated from a training program designed to help them learn techniques to develop case studies to strengthen civil society's role in water governance.

**Online training modules**
Significant progress was made this year in organizing the online training modules. Each module is designed to be a self-standing introduction to the material, containing rigorous academic texts, policy white papers, videos from leading experts in the field, and learning assessment. Each module has between 6-8, 1 hour long submodules and the whole course should take between 35-40 hours for the average student to complete. They will be available in late 2016.

1. **Biophysical Considerations for Water Resilience**
   - Primer on Hydrology, Water Consumption, Hydrologic Resilience
   - Water Contaminants
   - The Global Situation For Water And Sanitation
   - Approaches for Treating Water and Sewage

2. **Collaborative/Participatory Research for Water Justice**
Introduction to Participatory Research for water justice
- Puppetry
- Participatory game, making friends with water and experiencing water
- Visual methods, digital storytelling
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Emoticons
- Moodlines

3. Water Access and Equity
- Water Access & Equity: Introduction
- Water policy
- The Human Right to Water and Sanitation
- Measuring Access & Equity
- Financing Access
- Equity in participation on water access

4. Rural-Urban Connections and the Peri-Urban
- Current Urbanization processes: trends and overview
- Growth of peri urban spaces
- Conceptual issues and debates in classifying or demarcating periurban
- Rural-urban water flows: concepts and theoretical frameworks
- Implications of urbanization processes for water use and access
- Equity and justice dimensions in rural-urban water flows
- Governance challenges in addressing water security: approaches and interventions

5. Water & Society: Territories, Conflicting Uses
- An Introduction
- Political Ecology and Water Justice: Conceptual Building Blocks
- Contested Water Territories: Water Grabbing
- The Right to Be Different: Indigenous Struggles in Ecuador
- Transboundary Water Conflicts
- Water Law and Conflict
- Resistance, Social Movements and Community Building

Second Year of Network Fellows
- Devika Narayan (University of Minnesota) - Land use conversions and water infrastructures in North Bangalore.
Germaine Owen (University of Western Cape) - Reclaimed water for domestic applications - Beaufort West, Overstrand, and eThekwini townships.

Carolina Valladares (University of Amsterdam) - Water injustice and the rights of nature in formal and Cofan indigenous worldviews in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Scott McKenzie (University of British Columbia) - Citizen ideas and promotion of domestic water rights - Cape Town and Accra.

Emma Luker (University of British Columbia) - Water supply diversification and groundwater governance in Cape Town, South Africa.

Kelly Gunnell (King's College London) - Mapping ecosystem services for green and brown infrastructure for flood risk mitigation in world's cities.

Original announcement with details on the fellows and their projects here.

Policy Briefs
The first two policy briefs were completed this year based on the work conducted by our Network fellows and members from 2015.

- Lena Hommes (University of Wageningen). Rural-urban linkages and justice in Lima Peru.
- Matthijs Wessels (University of Wageningen). Understanding quality and safety indicators in light of water re-use for agricultural application in South Africa.

Other products and outputs
Water is Life: Participatory Video project in LEKMA, Ghana
A new video by International WaTERS Network members Crystal Tremblay and Leila Harris. This video is the product of a community-based research project with members of local government, NGOs and residents of LEKMA, in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. It is a partnership between the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada. The video has been used in focus groups with local government, civil society organizations and other communities as a tool to explore opportunities for enhancing community engagement and participatory public policy processes in water governance and sanitation. Available on youtube.

Key Links

Email: internationalwatersubc@gmail.com
Website: www.international-waters.org
Twitter: @InternatWaTERS
Email Announcements and Newsletter: Send an email to listserv@lists.ubc.ca with the words "subscribe internationalwaters-announce" in the body
Academia.edu: ubc.academia.edu/InternationalWaTERSNetwork