

WATER JUSTICE HUB NEWSLETTER

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and pay our respect to the elders past and present.



A Special Issue

Water Justice: pathways for voice, truth, reconciliation AND INCLUSION

The world faces severe global risks of over-extraction and misuse of water that will prevent achievement by 2030 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The crisis of water availability and access, and degradation of water resources, perpetuates a cycle of water injustice when: (1) people do not have water access to meet their needs (physical, social, economic and cultural); (2) there is inadequate recognition and protection of these needs (including cultural practices); (3) water governance is not inclusive and lacks procedural justice, especially in relation to vulnerable people; and (4) knowledge is withheld, obscured or marginalised to maintain the status quo. Those most afflicted by water injustice are the poor and vulnerable. Water justice issues play out across scales and axes of social difference such as gender, class, race and ethnicity.

To respond to the global problems of water injustice, this special issue will: (1) Amplify 'voice' to those suffering from water injustice; (2) Promote 'truth' in relation to injustice and the impediments to water justice; (3) Seek 'reconciliation' and meaningful pathways to overcome past and current water injustice; and (4) Support 'inclusion' with evidence and information for practitioners, governments, academics, civil society, and communities about how to incorporate water justice within the mainstream of water governance.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Law versus justice: the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve in the Northern Territory, Australia

William Nikolakis & R. Quentin Grafton

<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2021.1882406>

Perceptions of Tanzanian smallholder irrigators on impact pathways between water equity and socioeconomic inequalities

A. Manero & S. A. Wheeler

<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2020.1866506>

Water colonialism and Indigenous water justice in south-eastern Australia

Lana D. Hartwig, Sue Jackson, Francis Markham & Natalie Osborne

<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2020.1868980>

Water and land justice for Indigenous communities in the Lowbidgee Floodplain of the Murray–Darling Basin, Australia

Rene Woods, Ian Woods & James A. Fitzsimons

<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2020.1867520>

Informality and water justice: community perspectives on water issues in Cape Town’s low-income neighbourhoods

J. Enqvist et al.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2020.1841605>

Water Stories



Photo: Ana Manero

‘Water security’: four myths and why we need a fit-for-purpose definition

Kat Taylor

Australians say we want water security. But what is it? This simple term hides different meanings. Beneath the ‘water security’ rhetoric are water winners and water losers. As the climate dries, Australia’s water security policy must become clearer, more coherent and more equitable.

Read more: <https://www.waterjusticehub.org/water-security-four-myths-and-why-we-need-a-fit-for-purpose-definition/>

Bending Towards Water Justice – ‘valuing’ water and World Water Day 2021

Quentin Grafton, Safa Fanaian, Gabriela Sacco & Luis Liberman

World Water Day is celebrated each year on the 22 March. The theme in 2021 is ‘valuing water’ with the aim of getting people, institutions and governments to reflect on how water is central to our world. Access to water is essential to our very survival and sits at the heart of how we frame sustainability (set out explicitly in Sustainable Development Goal 6). It’s basic to life; it unites us, but it also divides us. Global Water Forum’s Quentin Grafton together with colleagues Safa Fanaian, Gabriela Sacco and Luis Liberman make a plea here to place water justice at the core of any reflection on the many values to water.

Read more: <https://www.waterjusticehub.org/bending-towards-water-justice-valuing-water-and-world-water-day-2021/>

Water Justice Podcast



Katherine Taylor



Timothy Whiffen

Introducing: The Water Justice Podcast

26 March 2021

The Water Justice Hub is a place for everyone, especially our First Peoples, to promote their voice and respond to the global challenges of delivering sustainable development and water for all.

This podcast is an initiative to represent water warriors and their stories from around the world, sharing ideas and narratives to assist in education, advocacy, and water policy. Along this series you will hear from a variety of voices about the fluid conception of water justice as critical to the survival of individuals and collectives. Please listen with intent, subscribe, and share this podcast to assist in the fight for independent voices, equitable decision making, and ultimately, water justice for all.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evD1oo4jESo>

Sub-Saharan Africa – Nothing in Isolation

31 March 2021

In our first episode of the Water Justice Podcast, we talk with experts from across Sub-Saharan Africa to fully get to grips with the water crisis plaguing the region. Africa best highlights the obvious inequities and water injustice we must confront. From urban centres like Cape Town, to arid rural land in Botswana and Nigeria, Africa's water scarcity is reaching dangerously unprecedented levels. In our first episode of the Water Justice Podcast, Dr. Katherine Taylor of Australian National University and Timothy Whiffen talk to Dr. Gina Ziervogel from the University of Cape Town, Adegboyega Adeniran from the Australian National University and Dr. Kathleen Alexander from the Chobe Research Institute to discuss this pressing issue and pathways forward for the region.

Water Justice Hub: <https://tinyurl.com/6fpmrjny>

Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/h4ddnaww>

Apple Podcasts: <https://tinyurl.com/wvjbcz2>

Google Podcasts: <https://tinyurl.com/7fkwa4nst>

Researchers in the News

Virginia Marshall: Women who change the world – spotlight on Macquarie alumnae, Macquarie University

18 February 2021

Earlier this year, WJH researcher and Postdoctoral Fellow at the ANU's Fenner School, Virginia Marshall was recognised by Macquarie University for her ground breaking research since becoming the first Aboriginal woman to gain a doctorate in law from the university in 2014. Marshall's doctorate thesis, which was later restructured into a book 'Overturning Aquanullius: Securing Aboriginal water rights', has exceeded 10,000 downloads on Macquarie's digital thesis library. Congratulations Virginia!

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/yu73vdw2>

Quentin Grafton: Bending toward water justice, Crawford School of Public Policy

19 March, 2021

Last month, WJH Convener Quentin Grafton gave a timely talk at the Crawford School's RE&D Research notes series, reviewing recent water justice research from Latin America, South Asia, Southern Africa, Europe and Australia. The talk can be found in full via the link below.

Watch: <https://tinyurl.com/th3bcsea>

Quentin Grafton: AUSTRALIA'S WATER POLICY MUST ADAPT, Radio Adelaide

6 April 2021

Quentin also talked to Radio Adelaide's *Barometer* earlier this month to discuss the Productivity Commission's recent report assessing Australia's water management since the pledging of the National Water Initiative in 2004. Have a listen to the interview below.

Listen: <https://tinyurl.com/248p3bzj>

INSTITUTE FOR WATER FUTURES SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION'S NATIONAL WATER REFORM INQUIRY

Matt Colloff, R. Quentin Grafton, Lorrae van Kerkhoff, Virginia Marshall, Deborah Peterson, John Williams, Carina Wyborn, Paul Wyrwoll

Members of the Institute for Water Futures at the ANU and the Water Justice Hub prepared a submission to the Productivity Commission's draft report on National Water Reform that was submitted in March. Their submission is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/jepjshvn>



Photo: Water Justice Hub Flickr