

## WATER JUSTICE

Water justice is becoming an ever-more pressing issue in times of increasing water-based inequalities and discrimination. Megacities, mining, forestry, industry, and agribusiness claim an increasingly large share of available surface and groundwater reserves. Water grabbing and pollution generate poverty and endanger ecosystems' sustainability. Beyond large, visible injustices, the book also unfolds the many "hidden" water world injustices, subtly masked as "rational," "equitable," and "democratic." It features critical conceptual approaches, including analysis of environmental, social, cultural, and legal issues surrounding the distribution and management of water. Illustrated with case studies of historic and contemporary water injustices and contestations around the world, the book lays new ground for challenging current water governance forms and unequal power structures. It also provides inspiration for building alternative water realities. With contributions from renowned scholars, this is an indispensable book for students, researchers, and policy makers interested in water governance, environmental policy and law, political geography, and cultural anthropology.

RUTGERD BOELENS is Professor of Water Governance and Social Justice in the Department of Environmental Sciences at Wageningen University and Professor of Political Ecology of Water in Latin America with CEDLA (Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation) and the University of Amsterdam. He is also Visiting Professor at the Catholic University of Peru and the Central University of Ecuador and coordinates the international Justicia Hídrica/Water Justice alliance. His work focuses on water rights, water grabbing, hydrosocial territories, legal pluralism, cultural politics, governmentality, and social mobilization.

TOM PERREAULT is Professor of Geography at Syracuse University in New York. His research examines the intersections of political ecology, resource governance, agrarian transformation, and indigenous and *campesino* social mobilization in the central Andes and western Amazon. His research has been funded by Fulbright, the Inter-American Foundation, the United Nations, and the US National Science Foundation.

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“This is a major book on the political ecology of water conflicts by the top experts in the field. It defines a new field of study, ‘water justice.’ It’s a great addition to the study of local and global movements against environmental injustice with a focus on water grabbing and unequal access to water for irrigation, mining, urban sanitation, and hydroelectricity.”

– *Joan Martinez-Alier, Emeritus Professor of Economics and Economic History, ICTA, Autonomous University of Barcelona*

“Boelens, Perreault and Vos have assembled a genuinely impressive set of authors to tackle the nature, meaning, and drivers of water injustices across the world, and to explore the possibilities of water justice. While the picture is far from rosy, the book provides rich theoretical and empirical perspectives through which to understand the inequities surrounding the control and use of water and to imagine alternative futures. This text will be a point of reference for many years to come.”

– *Anthony Bebbington, Australian Laureate Fellow, University of Melbourne, and Milton P. and Alice C. Higgins Professor of Environment and Society, Clark University*

“This timely and engaging volume by some of the world’s foremost scholars on water constitutes a loud sound of alarm. Not only that, it shows why liberal and neoliberal water rationalities ... won’t work. Proposed instead is a sophisticated approach to the question of water as nature, and of its relation to justice, from which emerges a powerful framework for alternative hydrosocialities. By reminding us that what is at stake ... is people’s very right to exist, *Water Justice* enables us to imagine and construct other paths for fair and wise water policies.”

– *Arturo Escobar, Professor of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

“It would be difficult to overstate the global significance of water injustice, which continues to be a major obstacle preventing millions of human beings from enjoying a dignified life. *Water Justice* addresses key aspects of this complex problem, bringing together a unique international team of scholars. This is not only a timely collection, but also one that provides access to rich theoretical arguments and empirical examples, allowing an in-depth treatment of the topic. The book is a welcome contribution for academics, students, and practitioners, and will attract a wider readership among those concerned with the future of civilized human life.”

– *José Esteban Castro, Emeritus Professor, Newcastle University*

“‘Water justice!’ is the rallying cry of this book. It explores in an illuminating and comprehensive way the multiple dimensions of water injustice and the diverse struggles to change them.”

– *Cristóbal Kay, Emeritus Professor, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Professorial Research Associate, Department of Development Studies, SOAS University of London*

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