

Boundless Basins- What are the Successes and Failures of Hydro-Solidarity?

Dr. Marwa Daoudy

For: The London Water Research Group (LWRG)

(www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/geography/research/epd/londonwater/)

5th World Water Forum - LWRG

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Rationale

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- **The London Water Research Group (LWRG) dedicates its scholarly and empirical work to the analysis of international river basins. The LWRG gathers international water professionals, activists and scholars from the social and natural sciences. Taking as the starting point that ‘power’ is a key factor in understanding and informing water policy, the Group has addressed issues of water allocation and management by taking an integrated approach involving modelling, explanatory and activist science. In doing so, it sheds a different light on the nature and content of conflict and cooperation, and the difficulty to achieve effective cooperation over water.**

I. The absence of war does not mean the absence of conflict

- COOPERATION/CONFLICT OVER WATER
- POWER/ASYMMETRY

II. Conflict and cooperation co-exist

- Conflict over shared and limited water resources
- Not all cooperation is effective- some can be a smokescreen that hides overt/covert conflict
 - The existence of an agreement does not necessarily imply effective cooperation
- Asymmetric power relations influence control over and allocation of shared water resources

III. Promoting Effective Cooperation

- “Hydro-sovereignty” still dominates national water policies and regional dynamics
- The need to strive towards equitable and reasonable allocation and use (UN Convention of 1997 on International Watercourses)

KEY DRIVERS FOR EFFECTIVE WATER COOPERATION

- Benefit-sharing can be sought on a case-by-case basis, but it cannot replace water-sharing settlements
- Cooperation can also be ensured by basin hegemons

The Euphrates and Tigris Rivers



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The Jordan Basin



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