



A global Challenge and local realities – Governing Water in the 21st Century

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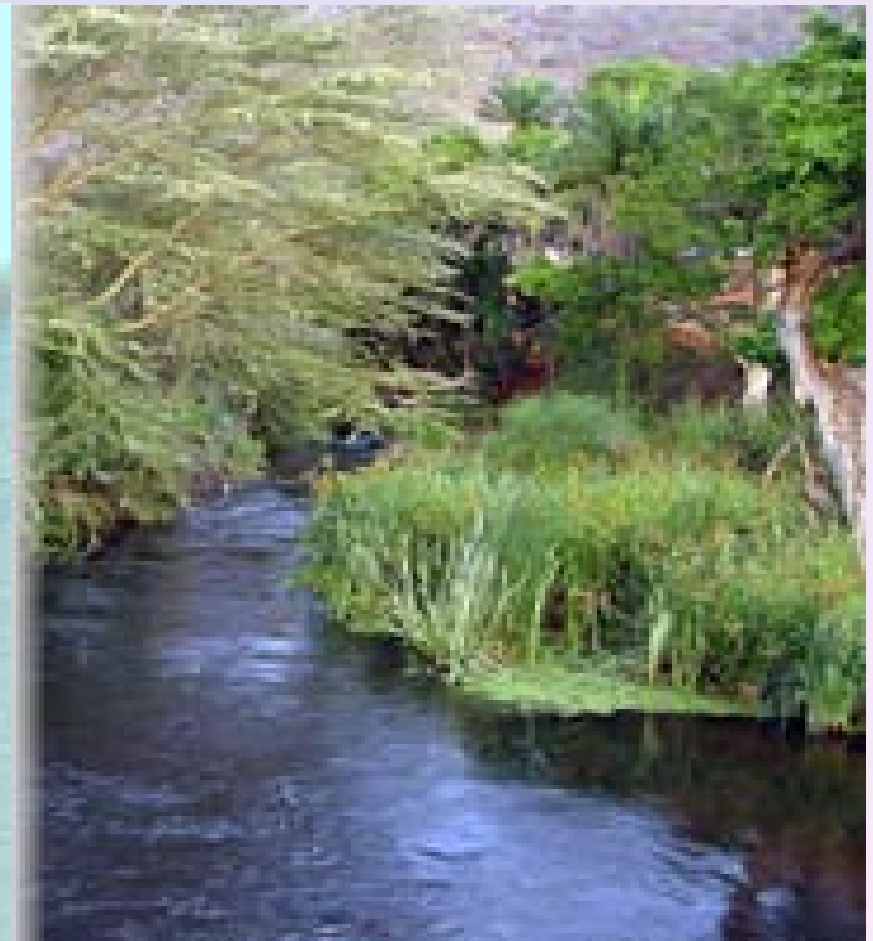
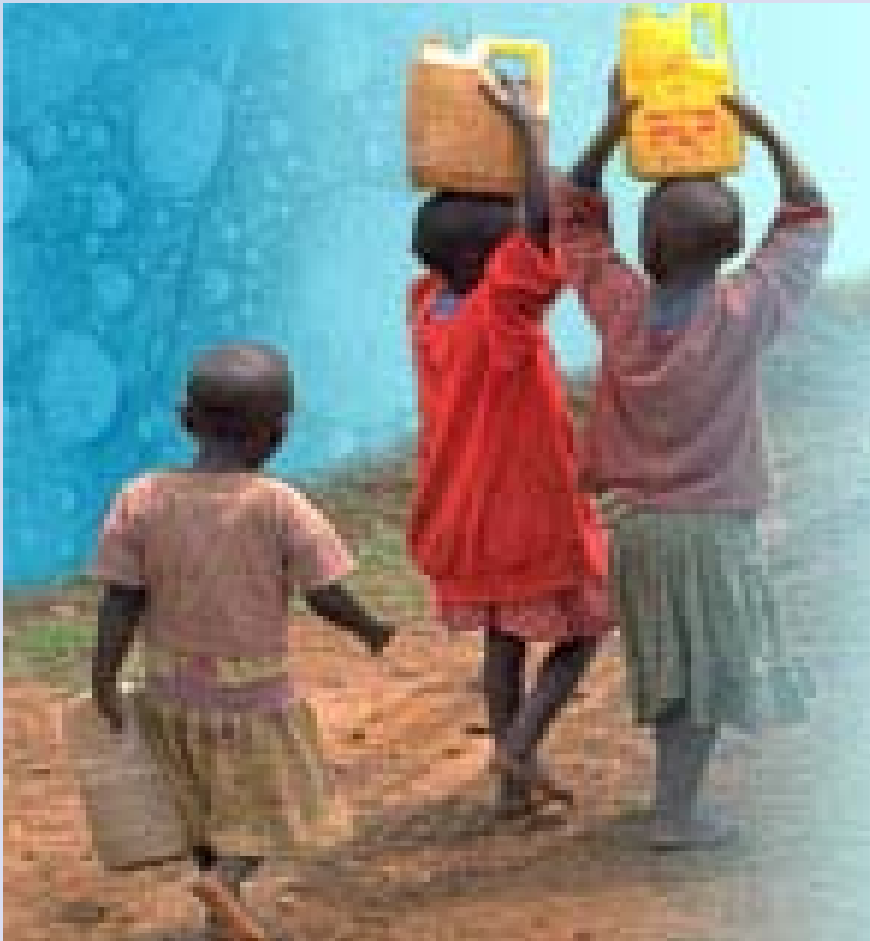
1. Earth, Energy and Environment (Professor Carlo Rubbia)
2. Climate Change, Impacts, Mitigation & Adaptation (Professor Mark Lawrence)
3. Global Contract for Sustainability (Professor **Klaus Töpfer**)
 - Transitions
 - Soils (Global Soil Forum)
 - Culture

Outline of the talk



- The challenge
- Some background to follow the ,eagle eye view‘
- Global Water Governance exists!
- Needs to be better informed by GEC science (natural and social sciences as well as the humanities)
- Future Research Needs

The Challenge



„Paradox‘ Situation



- One of the most productive policy fields, yet often not perceived as such
- It is one of the most innovative policy fields, but not well studied (as *global water governance*)
- Many water conferences – but action?
- The (emerging) global water crisis is for sure a great challenge, but there is not yet a need for cynicism or fatalism

My main recommendation!



My own research focus (so far)



An **institutional analysis** of the emergence of a global water regime, i.e. global water governance as

- a coordinated policy field
- problem oriented and issue-specific
- embedded at multiple levels.

Hence: there is no need to neglect other levels!

Why global (or multi-level)?



- Because of climate change and other systemic feedback loops
- Water as a geopolitical resource
- Local water problems (e.g. pollution) driven by the (global) economy; in general: drivers often outside the water domain
- Virtual water and fairness of water ,footprints‘
- **Or simply:** *global support for local action!* (or minimizing negative global interference with local action)

Empirically: Milestones of global water governance



- 1977 Mar del Plata
- 1992 Dublin and Rio
- 1997 Rio+5 and UNCSD
- 2000 MDG und World Water Vision Process
- 2002 WSSD (Johannesburg)
- 2005 ‚peak‘
- 2010 Human Right to water and Sanitation

Forms of Governance



- Governance with Government (1980s)
- Governance without Government (1990-1997)
- Governance with and without Government (since 1997)

About a Resource and its service(s) - or the two principles of global water governance



- ‚Access for All‘ (basic needs)
- Sustainable Water Resource Management

‚Differentiated simultaneousness‘ of both principles!

Norms and Rules



Norms:

- Mar del Plata Action Plan
- IWRM Principles of Dublin
- Recommendations of World Summits or UNCSD

Rules:

- MDG-10 and now the Human Right to Water and Sanitation
- World Water Vision Process and Action Plan
- WSSD request to formulate IWRM Plans by 2005
- ‚Hybridisation‘ of transboundary water governance

Procedures and Programs



Procedures:

- GA and World Summits
- UNCSD
- ‚hybrid‘ Forum such as WWW und WWF
- International conferences (e.g. Dublin, Bonn)

Programs:

- Decades and International Years
- GEF:IW, EUWI
- WWAP
- UN-Water, inclusive ‚Sanitation for All: The Drive to 2015‘

Which *functions* are performed currently?

- Generativ (e.g. freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, or ,Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential‘)
- Programmatic!
- Soft law/regulation plus sophisticated monitoring and reporting (at least for WSS)
- Procedural (hybrid)

(special issue forthcoming with GWSP, addressing both ,missing links‘ and ,governance forms‘)

Status Quo

- ✓ The Water Crisis is a Governance Crisis! (Gordon Young at RIHN, 2006!)
- ✓ Institutionalization of social and ecological dimensions
- ✓ Multi-level governance (focus on the basin)
- ✓ Multi-actor governance
- ✓ Multi-sectoral governance emerging (the water ,nexus' – or ,*outside the water box*')

- Political will? Sometimes.

Future Challenges



- ‚Safe operating space‘ is shrinking
- Under the conditions of the ‚anthropocene‘, esp. in Asia
 - Closed basins – a ‚game change‘
 - (Seasonal) runoff management
 - Increasing demands
 - Transboundary issues
 - Additional drivers such as climate change or urbanization
- Defining the ‚Nexus‘: conflictive or cooperative?

Future Research Needs



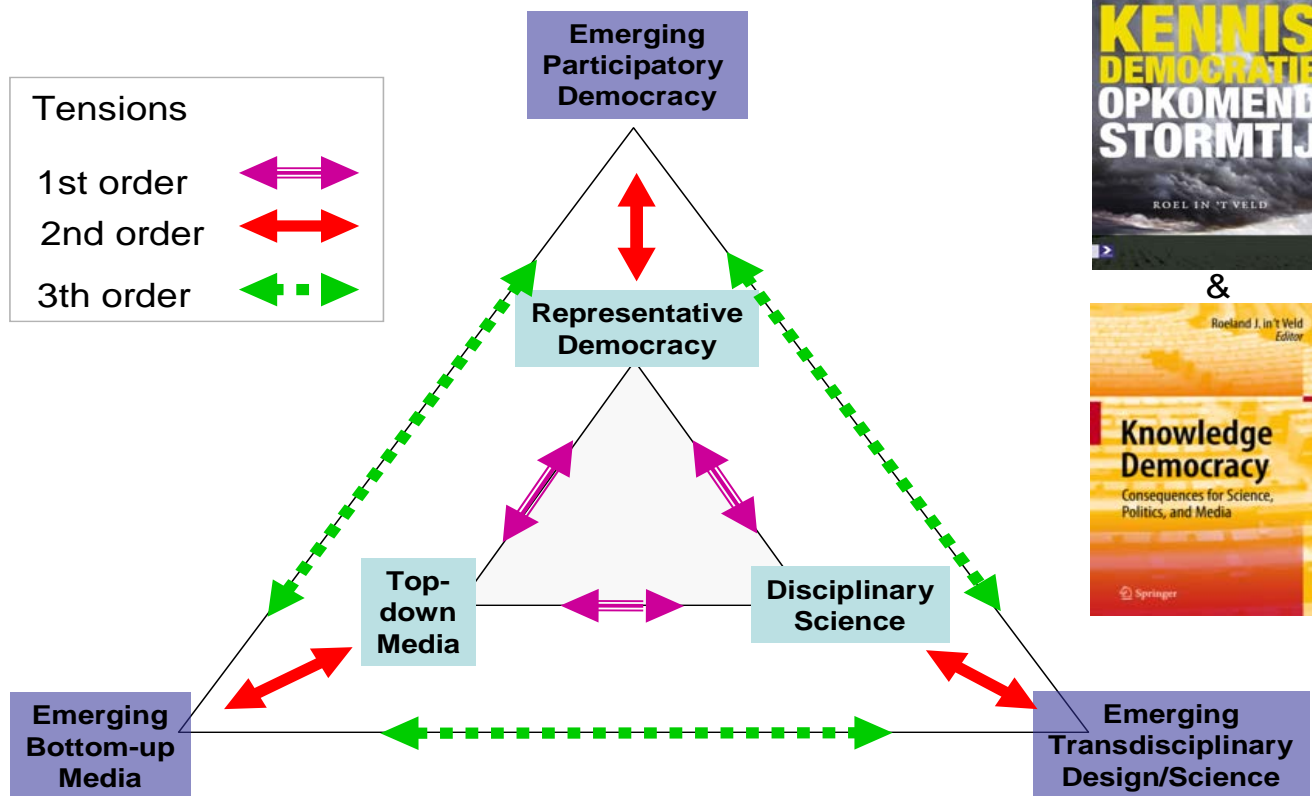
- Water governance at multiple levels (polycentric and/or cosmopolitical)
- Water governance by multiple actors and forms (the ‚both end‘ of the ‚second modernity‘, U. Beck)
- Cross-sectoral cooperation (e.g. via ‚institutional interplay‘, or ‚architecture‘)
- Effectiveness of (global) water governance
- Policy diffusion (e.g. IWRM or transboundary waters)

Future Research Needs (cont'd)

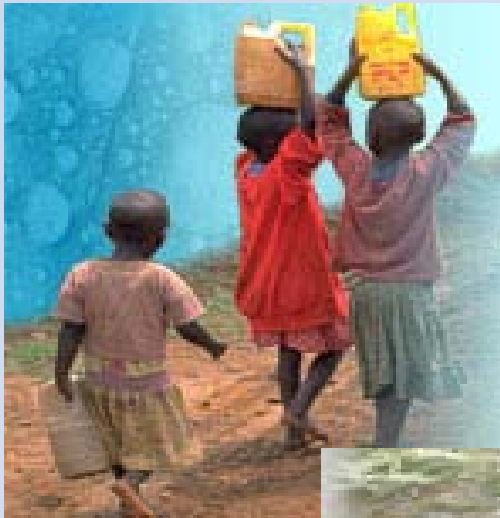


- Get prepared for 2015 (making use of 2012); using international goals and targets as well as the human right (policy mix)
- Give a ,knowledge and learning twist' for a largely ,generative regime'; don't forget the other functions, e.g. where is regulation necessary?
- We are just beginning to understand the ,nexus'; from data availability to institutional conflicts – *is practice ahead of science?!*
- About **transdisciplinarity** or to become a ,hybrid', create ,multiple engagements' (TransGov)

Future Research Needs (cont'd)



The full Challenge



Thank you!



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