

***SS19 Levelling players and context: Re-examining policy for transboundary water allocation and governance***

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**Chair: Naho Mirumachi, KCL**

***Scene-setting:***

**Key questions on levelling the playing field and actors: Mark Zeitoun**

***Roundtable responses to key questions and Q&A***

**Speaker 1: Steph Hawkins, University of Strathclyde**

**Speaker 2: Melvin Woodhouse, independent consultant**

**Speaker 3: Juan Carlos Sanchez Ramirez, University of Dundee**

**Speaker 4: Larry Swatuk, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo**

- The starting point of the session is that ‘water cooperation’ does not ensure sharing, much less equity in contexts of power asymmetry. Recently, with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses coming into force, it is worthwhile considering discussions about legal agreements and frameworks, and the discrepancies between their role and the actual practice (or misuse) of them.
- In addition to reflections on legal arrangements, what kinds of policy, projects and (hydro)diplomacy is needed to ensure equitable arrangements? What kinds of governance mechanisms matter and work?

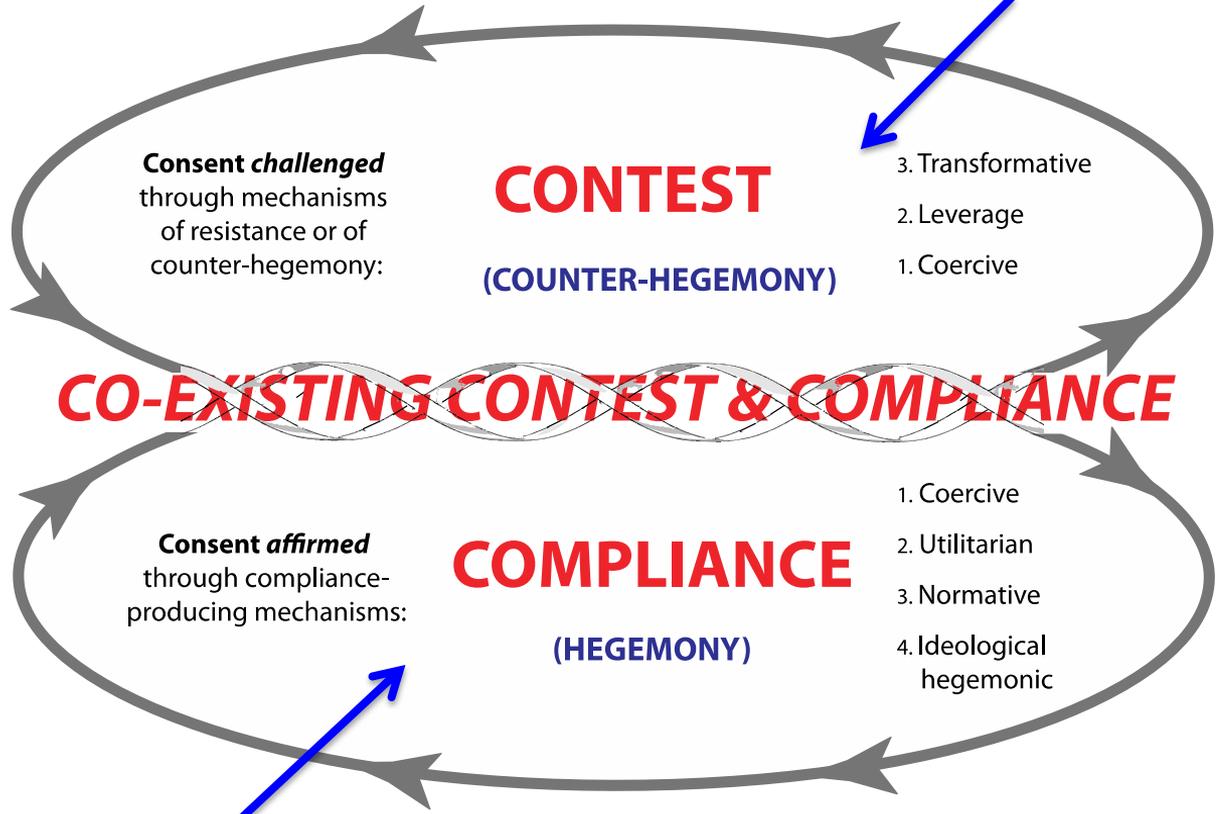
# Questions to answer

1. Are there *other* ways that power asymmetry be challenged? Are these backed up by mechanisms and institutions ? Who has access to them?
2. Can international water law or international law more generally serve to level the playing field?
3. Under what conditions is it more effective to level the players or level the playing field?
4. To what extent does tbw 'cooperation' enable/dis-enable equity and issues of equitable allocation of water?
5. Are equitable transboundary water arrangements possible without confronting power asymmetry? Any examples?

# Complying with and contesting established tbw arrangements

Contest

can transform an arrangement



Compliance

maintains or tweaks an arrangement

# Addressing power asymmetries

## Compliance

### A. Influence the powerful

A1. Match interests

A2. Encourage reform

- Positive-sum outcomes
- Benefit-sharing
- Appeals to leadership
- Diplomacy / dialogue

## Contest

### B. Challenge the powerful

B1. Level the playing field

B2. Level the players

- International Water Law ?
- Fair water-sharing principles
- Effective regulation?
- Capacity building?
- others?

