Water Justice: Elusive Concept or Useful Tool?
A water security perspective on justice.

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Key Concepts

**Water Security**

“The availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks to people, environments and economies.”

Schlosberg’s theory of environmental justice…

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Schlosberg’s Framework

Limitations:

Does not allow for simultaneous consideration of people, livelihoods & economies

Fails to consider case-specific factors

Insufficient consideration of relationships & multi-scalar processes

In many situations, there may be more than one justifiable outcome
The Panoramic Framework of Water Justice

“Who gets how much water, how and why?”

There are two key concepts missing from Schlosberg’s framework of environmental justice:

- Power
- Scales/levels

Lukes’ three dimensions of power was added to the framework, along with the ability to select a scale to use which was relevant for the context.

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Applying the Framework

The Framework was applied to competing water uses around Kenya’s Lake Naivasha to test for robustness and investigate the notions of justice and water security within the context of Naivasha.

The scale used was jurisdictional: local (sub-catchment), national (catchment) and international.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Equity in Distribution</th>
<th>Recognition of Diversity of Communities</th>
<th>Participation in Decision Making Process</th>
<th>Power Dynamics (First, Second &amp; Third Dimension)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Farmers, fishermen, herdsmen &amp; domestic users sometimes struggle to gain access to the Lake</td>
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<td>Multiple competing narratives exist around water use in Naivasha. The dominance of these narratives can influence the outcome of decision-making processes.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Inequitable distribution</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Second dimension of power</td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Water used to generate foreign income &amp; electricity as well as drinking water supply</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Lake Naivasha WRUA is well developed &amp; organised around multiple existing groups &amp; associations. As a result, it can dominate discussions around water use at the Lake.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More equitable distribution</td>
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<td>Second dimension of power</td>
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<tr>
<td>Int’l</td>
<td>Agribusiness dominates water use.</td>
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<td>International agribusinesses use hard power as they threaten to relocate to other countries if water prices increase.</td>
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<td>Inequitable distribution</td>
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<td>First &amp; third dimensions of power</td>
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Closing Thoughts: What does this tell us about justice & water security?

• Scale and power play a vital role
  - An injustice at one scale or level can become a justice at another
  - Power begins to explain some of the processes behind this transition

• Greater focus on processes which create just & unjust situations

• Justice is less of an outcome than it is often assumed to be

• Justices and injustices can co-exist and evolve

• Justice highlights opportunities for improving decision-making processes & opportunities to strengthen water security

• Water justice provides the ‘how’ and the ‘why’ to water security
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