Unintended Water Allocation

Gaining share from the ungoverned spaces of land and water transformations

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Changing Water Shares

Institutional Mechanisms

Politics and Power

Unintended Allocation
Institutional Mechanisms

- Decision-making process
- Institutional Mechanisms
  - Markets
  - Administrative
  - Demand Management
- See OECD, 2015; Dinar et al., 1997; Speed et al., 2013;
Power and Politics

- Intent
- Hydro-social cycle (Swyngedouw, 2004)
- Stealth (Molle and Berkoff, 2006, 2009)
- Appropriation (Celio et al., 2010)

Source: Ercan Baysal, 2010
Unintended Allocation

- Water shares affected by changes in non-water sectors
- Implicit (Rosegrant and Ringler, 2008)
- Unintended consequences
Examples

Example 1: Irrigation Efficiency
● Montana versus Wyoming
● Downstream Montana complained against Wyoming for introducing more efficient irrigation that reduced drainage on which it relied

Example 2: Consequences of Urbanisation
● Urbanisation affects water shares in agriculture through
  ● Bulk surface water transfers (allocation)
  ● Land-use change (Kendy et al. 2007)
  ● Informal, decentralised transfers where universal water services are absent (Srinivasan et al. 2013)
Drivers of Unintended Allocation

- Ungoverned Spaces (e.g. peri-urban land and water)
- Poor Water Literacy (e.g. water implications of agricultural productivity interventions)
- Data Availability/Interpretation
Implications

- Basin Planning
  - Control
  - Decentralised processes

- Awareness of wider context and change in non-water sectors –
  e.g.
  - agricultural modernisation
  - economic development
  - urbanisation
Questions

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