

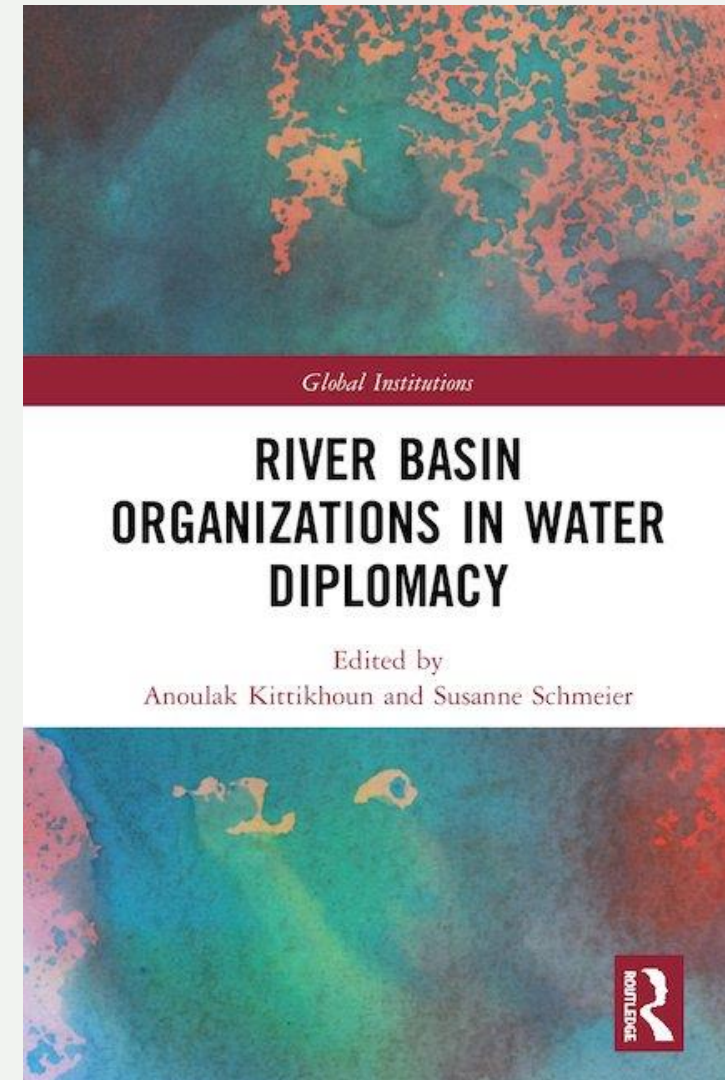


Water Diplomacy in the Jordan River Basin

Ms. Natasha Westheimer

Outline

- Lower Jordan River Basin Context
- Water Diplomacy:
 - *Legal,*
 - *Institutional,*
 - *Technical, and*
 - *Strategic Planning*
- Conclusion



Based on findings in Co-Authored Chapter
by Samer Talози and Natasha Westheimer

Background on the Lower Jordan River Basin



- Riparians: Jordan, Palestine, and Israel (Syria and Lebanon)
- 98% of the river's flow is diverted, high salinity & pollution
- Devastation to the Dead Sea
- Water access varies drastically across the region
 - *Jordanians - 125 l/c/d*
 - *Palestinians in the West Bank - 81.3 l/c/d*
 - *Palestinians in Gaza - 21.4 l/c/d*
 - *Israelis - 289 l/c/d*
- No formal mechanism for management of shared water

Legal Framework

- No multi-lateral legal arrangement
- 1994 Treaty of Peace: Water Annex II
- 1995 Oslo Accords: Article 40
- Legal resistance to secure water rights: petitions and civil disobedience





Muna Dajani

Institutional Arrangements

- Unilateral institutions in Jordan, Israel, and Palestine are insufficient
- Israeli-Jordanian Joint Water Committee
- Israeli-Palestinian Jordanian Water Committee



Technical Arrangements

- **Political level:** US Geological Survey (USGS)-facilitated *Regional Water Data Bank*
- **Academia:** "Globaler Wandel des Wasserkreislaufs (GLOWA)" Jordan River Initiative
- **Civil Society:** Arava Institute for Environmental Studies & EcoPeace Middle East

Strategic Planning

- **National level strategies:** supporting economic development and national water security
- **Regional level:** Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance project
- **Civil Society:** Regional NGO Masterplan for the Lower Jordan River



Conclusion

- Without a regional institution to manage shared water, such as a river basin organization, water diplomacy occurs on alternative platforms
- Territorial disputes, security concerns, and limited institutional arrangements to implement legal agreements minimize the effectiveness of these mechanisms
- Without an institutional structure that has broad political-level support, such as an RBO, water diplomacy in Israel, Palestine, and Jordan is insufficient to achieve improved transboundary water governance.

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/water-diplomacy-absence-river-basin-organization-samer-talozi-natasha-westheimer/e/10.4324/9780429266270-10>



Thank you

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