
Presented by:

The Northwestern Center for Water Research

Israel Innovation Project

MEF University (Istanbul, Turkey)



Seventh Annual Symposium
on Water in Israel
and the Middle East:
**Transboundary Disputes
and Collaborative Solutions**

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 11, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Ford Design Center
ITW Auditorium (1350)
2133 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60201

Northwestern



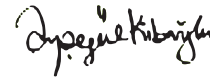
Welcome

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you to the Seventh Annual Symposium on Water in Israel and the Middle East: Transboundary Disputes and Collaborative Solutions, which this year is co-organized by Northwestern and MEF University (Istanbul, Türkiye).

One of the most pressing issues of the 21st century is the management and allocation of limited freshwater resources in the world. Since an important number of those water resources are transboundary, which crosses the political boundaries of more than one nation, the complexity of the problem has increased. This year's water symposium seeks to academically explore the elaborate question of transboundary water issues in the Middle East. The presentations will highlight why water plays such an important role in the international relations of the riparian countries in the Nile, Jordan, and the Euphrates-Tigris river basins. The origins and evolution of water disputes in these river basins, and collaborative advances and innovative initiatives for cooperation will be presented by leading scholars in the field.


Thanks to the close partnership between the Northwestern Center for Water Research and the Israel Innovation Project, symposia for the examination of multidimensional water issues in the Middle East have been organized annually at Northwestern since 2016. This year the event is jointly organized with MEF University, Istanbul. MEF University has played a leading role, since 2014, in convening international conferences on water-related issues. These events have become platforms for experts to thoroughly discuss regional and global water challenges. Hence, we are proud to present this year's symposium as a joint venture of our two distinguished academic institutions.

It is our hope that the Seventh Annual Symposium on Water in Israel and the Middle East will lead to fruitful conversations building toward effective solutions for transboundary water issues in the Middle East and beyond.



[Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Kibaroğlu](#)

Chair, Department of Political Science and International Relations
Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences
MEF University





Opening Remarks



Julio M. Ottino is the dean of the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Northwestern University where he holds the titles of Distinguished Robert R. McCormick Institute Professor and Walter P. Murphy Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering. He is also Professor (by courtesy) of Mechanical Engineering.

Co-chairs



Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Kibaroğlu is the chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at MEF University, Istanbul. She was a Visiting Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs in 2016. Previously, she was a Faculty Member and Vice Chair of the Department of International Relations at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara (2003-2011). She is the author and editor of several volumes including *Building a Regime for the Waters of the Euphrates-Tigris River Basin* (Brill, 2002) and *Sustainability of Engineered Rivers in Arid Lands* (Cambridge, 2021).



Aaron Packman is a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of the Northwestern Center for Water Research. His research focuses on water systems dynamics and the transmission of nutrients, contaminants, and waterborne diseases in natural and engineered water systems.



Elie Rekhess is the Crown Visiting Professor in Israel Studies, Director of the Israel Innovation Project, and Israel Liaison of the Office of the Vice President for International Relations, Northwestern University. IIP is a newly established unit, with the aim of developing collaborations between Northwestern and Israeli universities.

Schedule

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

4:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Reception
4:15 - 4:30 p.m.	Greetings Chair: Aaron Packman, Northwestern University Opening Remarks Dean Julio Ottino, Northwestern University
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Keynote Address David Katz, University of Haifa, Israel “Transboundary water management in the age of desalination” Discussion

Thursday, May 11, 2023

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Introduction Chair: Elie Rekhess, Northwestern University
9:10 - 10:55 a.m.	Session I: Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians Julie Trottier, Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, France “Achieving water security through joint management of water as a flow” Neda Zawahri, Cleveland State University “History and outlook: the politics of water between Israel and Jordan” George Wells, Northwestern University “Towards a sustainable and circular water economy: collaborative advances at the water-energy nexus between the US and Israel”

10:55 - 11:10 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:10 a.m.	Introduction Chair: Aaron Packman
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Session II: Middle East Transboundary River Basins Kevin Wheeler, University of Oxford, England “Critical risks and elusive opportunities on the Nile with the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam” Ayşegül Kibaroglu, MEF University, Turkey “The role of diplomacy mechanisms in mitigating water dispute in Euphrates-Tigris river basin” Jonathan Chenoweth, University of Surrey, England “Assessing the limits of desalination in the Red Sea basin”
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks Aaron Packman Elie Rekhess

Keynote Address



Professor David Katz is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Haifa. His research covers environmental policy and economics, with a specialization in transboundary resource management, the relationship between economic growth and natural resource use, and incentives for conservation. He has worked extensively on international water issues, especially in the Arab-Israeli context. He is currently an Israel Institute visiting scholar at the Nicholas School for Environment at Duke University.



Professor George Wells is an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northwestern University, where he directs the Environmental Biotechnology and Microbial Ecology Laboratory. The goal of his research is to deepen knowledge of the microbial world to inspire innovative microbial community management strategies to clean water, generate energy, and recover resources from societal waste streams. George has authored >60 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Speakers



Professor Jonathan Chenoweth is a senior lecturer and the Director of Teaching and Learning in the Centre for Environment and Sustainability, University of Surrey. His research interests are in the environmental science–policy interface, with a particular interest in water resources management, sanitation and water service provision, and the water-energy-food nexus. His research uses mixed methods and interdisciplinary approaches.



Professor Kevin Wheeler is the senior research fellow at the Environment Change Institute of the University of Oxford and Utah State's Future of the Colorado River Project. His research focuses on shared management of transboundary watercourses, emphasizing multi-stakeholder negotiations and cooperative planning to manage environmental risks through multi-objective infrastructure.



Professor Julie Trottier is the director of research at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France. She teaches Critical Political Ecology of Water at Sciences Po Paris/Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA). She has worked on Palestinian/Israeli water for 28 years through successive positions at the University of Louvain, Belgium, McGill University, Canada, the University of Oxford, UK, and Newcastle University, UK, before joining the CNRS in 2009. She is co-author, with David Brooks and Giulia Giordano of *Transboundary Water Issues in Israel, Palestine, and the Jordan River Basin: an Overview* (Springer, 2019).



Professor Neda Zawahri is professor in the Department of Political Science at Cleveland State University. For more than two decades, Professor Zawahri has focused on water politics and security, managing transboundary rivers, and adapting to climate change in the Middle East and South Asia. She has carried out extensive field research throughout these regions. Her work appears in international relations and environmental politics journals, including *International Studies Quarter*, *Journal of Peace Research*, and *Global Environmental Politics*. Bringing together experts in the field, she has co-edited several special issues and a book on the management of transboundary water resources.



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