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OPEN RIVERS :
RETHINKING WATER, PLACE & COMMUNITY

GRASPING WATER



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An interdisciplinary online journal rethinking the Mississippi
from multiple perspectives within and beyond the academy.

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The cover image is of Delta of the Yellow River, China (top) and Delta of the Zambezi River, Mozambique (bottom). Landsat imagery courtesy of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and U.S. Geological Survey.

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TEACHING AND PRACTICE

GRASPING WATER SUMMER INSTITUTE READING LIST

By Ruth Mostern, Ann Waltner, and Kan Li

The following bibliography of book chapters and articles is the reading list that circulated to participants in the 2016 Grasping Water Summer Institute. Each participant read as many of these items as possible before the Institute. This helped to ensure that our diverse group

had some common vocabulary and a few shared points of reference. We had these works to refer to together as we embarked on a collective investigation of art, culture, society, science, and policy along the rivers of three continents over a scale of centuries.



This highly detailed true-color image shows the stark eastern edge of the Zambezi floodplain. To the left of the edge, water covers everything. Deep blue channels wind among green, shallowly flooded plains. To the right of the edge, the land is dry. The city of Kasane is perched confidently along the edge of the flood plain. Image courtesy of NASA Earth Observatory, 2010.

Creating this reading list was one of the most thrilling, instructive, and challenging tasks we faced as Institute organizers. Each applicant for participation in the Institute submitted suggestions for books, articles, websites or films, resulting in a list of 125 books and articles, 28 websites, and 15 films and videos. We spent weeks reading excerpts, discussing frameworks, and regretfully cutting extraordinary works as we developed this (still lengthy!) collection of materials. We sought to balance case studies and theoretical frameworks, to introduce all the regions, eras, and disciplines that would be represented at the Institute, to share both classics and new works, and to include some writing oriented to policy and action, some journalism, and some thoughtful interrogation of culture and history.

We are grateful to all 74 Institute applicants who shared their advice and expertise with us. We also thank Li Kan, the Institute program assistant, who organized and categorized all the recommendations, created accurate and consistently formatted bibliographic entries for each one, prepared the final list, and assembled a collection of PDF documents for all Institute participants.

We are sharing this bibliography in this issue of Open Rivers as a starting point for readers who wish to learn more about rivers and human systems in Africa, China, and North America.

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China:

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Lovell, Sharron, and Tom Wang. "Watch: Who Will China's Huge Water Transfer Project Leave Behind?" *Foreign Policy*, January 5, 2016. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/01/05/watch-who-will-chinas-huge-water-transfer-project-leave-behind/>.

North America and China:

Worster, Donald. "The Flow of Empire: Comparing Water Control in China and the United States." *Rachel Carson Center Perspectives* 5 (2011).
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Banister, Jeffrey M. "The Debut of 'Modern Water' in Early 20th Century Mexico City: The Xochimilco Potable Waterworks." *Journal of Historical Geography* 46 (2014): 36-52.
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About the Authors

Ruth Mostern is Associate Professor of History and Director of the World History Center at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of *Dividing the Realm in Order to Govern: The Spatial Organization of the Song State (960-1276 CE)* (Harvard 2011) and the co-editor of *Placing Names: Enriching and Integrating Gazetteers* (Indiana 2016). Her current book project is entitled *Following*

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the Tracks of Yu: The Environmental and Imperial Worlds of the Yellow River. She has co-organized several workshops and meetings on global river history including Grasping Water at the University of Minnesota.

Ann Waltner is a professor in the Department of History at the University of Minnesota. She writes on Chinese history and comparative gender history. Recent works include *The Family: A World History* (with Mary Jo Maynes) and a comprehensive website on the eighteenth-century Chinese novel *Dream of the Red Chamber*, which can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/redchamber>.

Kan Li is a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is writing her dissertation about the creation of a modern transportation system in Tianjin in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is interested in reinstalling historical contingency and agencies of individuals and the environment into the narrative of China's modernization.