

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 13)

[Episode 13: Resources, Populations, and the Global Environment: a Case Study in in Water](#)

Overview: Recorded on World Water Day, in this episode, we speak with Dr. Farhana Sultana, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University to discuss all things water. Our conversation touches on the human right to water and sanitation, the ways in which water is a cross-cutting, multisectoral entity, and how governance of water, and further, privatization, is complicated, and can often be detrimental, to ensuring our rights to water.

Key Takeaways

- Water is a critical resource for sustaining life on the planet, creating a need for good governance and universal access to fresh water. At the same time, “water affects different groups of people in different ways, in different locations” (Dr. Sultana, 4:57-5:18), meaning power relations matter to the global and local governance of water.
- “When we think about water insecurity, it is related to issues around social inequities and not necessarily [just the] availability of... technology” (Dr. Sultana, 00:00-00:37).
- The climate crisis has placed additional pressures on access to clean water for many communities.
- The governance of water is often shaped by men from the Global North, leaving Black, Indigenous, People of Color, women and gender-diverse, and voices from the Global South excluded from important policy and governance discussions.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think are the key challenges for water governance in your own community/ies today? Does everyone have access to clean water in your community? Is it freely accessible?
2. Is water something you think about often? How does your own eco-worldview influence the way you think about and use water in your daily life?
3. What do you think is the relationship between democracy and water justice? To what extent do citizens shape water governance in your community?

Learn more about our Guest

Dr. Farhana Sultana

- <https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/faculty/sultana.aspx>
- <https://www.farhanasultana.com/>

Select articles, books and videos

- **Sultana, Farhana.** “Climate Change, COVID-19, and the Co-Production of Injustices: a Feminist Reading of Overlapping Crises.” *Social & Cultural Geography*. 22, no. 4 (2021): 447–460.
- **Sultana, Farhana** 2021. “Gendering the Human Right to Water in the Context of Sustainable Development” in the *Oxford Handbook on Comparative Environmental Politics*. Eds. Jeannie Sowers, Stacy Vandever, and Erika Weinthal. Oxford University Press: Oxford, UK.
- Loftus, Alex., and **Farhana. Sultana.** *The Right to Water: Politics, Governance and Social Struggles*. 1st ed. Abingdon, Oxon: Earthscan, 2012.

Resources and scholars mentioned in this episode:

- Learn more about World Water Day <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>
- Government of Canada. ‘Drinking Water Advisories.’ n.d. <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1538160229321/1538160276874>
- United Nations. “Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.” <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/human-rights/>
- Learn more about Right to Water EU <https://www.right2water.eu/>

Learn more about Water Governance and Power

- Awume, Obadiah, Robert Patrick, and Warrick Baijous. “Indigenous Perspectives on Water Security in Saskatchewan, Canada.” *Water (Basel)*. 12, no. 3 (2020): 810–.
- Bennett, Vivienne, Sonia Dávila-Poblete, and Maria Niev Rico. *Opposing Currents: the Politics of Water and Gender in Latin America*. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005.
- GreenUP. “Gichitwaa Nibi - Sacred Waters Water Teaching with Elder Dorothy Taylor.” Youtube. April 15 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrR5cLTboSU>
- Neal, Marian J, A Lukaszewicz, and G. J Syme. “Why Justice Matters in Water Governance: Some Ideas for a ‘Water Justice Framework.’” *Water Policy*. 16, no. S2 (2014): 1–18.
- Waldron, Ingrid. *There’s Something in the Water: Environmental Racism in Indigenous and Black Communities*. Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing, 2018.