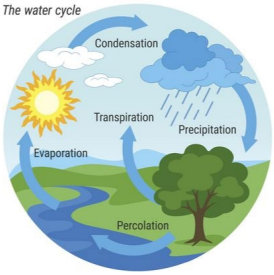
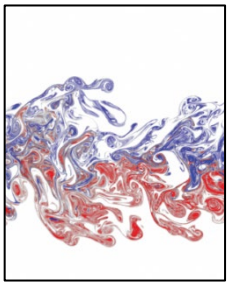
Boase Seminar Series in Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering

Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering





Risks, perceptions, and propaganda on the Nile

Dr. Kevin Wheeler

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Environmental Change Institute

University of Oxford, UK

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Zoom: https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/95668504496

(passcode: water)

Abstract:

The ongoing construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in the Nile Basin presents a variety of challenges for the riparian countries of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. Some risks are grounded in reality and can be evaluated using modelling techniques, while other risks emerge from perceptions formed by deeply held beliefs shaped by history, public opinion and politics. The need for accurate and neutral information becomes especially critical in an era of disinformation. This seminar will share the background of this challenging conflict, explain the risks the countries are facing, and seek to differentiate facts from popularized narratives.

Speaker Bios: Kevin Wheeler PhD, P.E. is a Senior Research Fellow at the Environmental Change Institute and Oxford Martin School of the University of Oxford and Principal of Water Balance Consulting. His research and experience focus on the shared management of transboundary watercourses, emphasizing multi-stakeholder negotiations and cooperative planning to manage environmental risks through multi-objective infrastructure. His methods involve collaborative risk-based modelling, particularly when facing deep uncertainties of future climate changes and growing pressures on natural resources. Since 2000, Dr. Wheeler has worked on multiple issues surrounding the Colorado River for a variety of governmental, non-governmental and private stakeholders. Most notably he contributed substantively to Interim Surplus and Shortage agreements between the seven Basin States and to the successful negotiations between the USA and Mexico in 2012 on jointly managing droughts and shortages. Since 2012, Dr. Wheeler has extended this approach to the Nile River Basin by exploring cooperative development pathways among the co-riparian countries of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. Alongside regional academic and governmental partners, he examines alternative cooperative management strategies for new and existing infrastructure to secure water supplies, meet growing energy demands, and support environmental needs. Dr. Wheeler is an associate editor for the journal *Water International*, an advisor for the Future of the Colorado River Project, and a former Research Fellow in Sustainability Science at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.