

From Wyoming to the Andes and Back: The Future of Water in a Time of Scarcity



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Themes: Biodiversity and Earth Systems Change

Quality of Democracy and Equality

Three-part Initiative:

- a) Sharing Wyoming/Colorado River Basin equitable use principles with the parties in *Chile v. Bolivia*, the International Court of Justice case that will clarify the state of international law governing transboundary surface and ground water resources. Chile's Foreign Ministry has requested UW faculty expertise to evaluate legal claims to the Silala river based on former UW College of Law Dean Frank Trelease's water law treatise and Anaconda mining records stored at the AHC;
- b) Applying *Chile v. Bolivia* to the controversy surrounding Egypt's objection to Ethiopia's Renaissance Dam project of the Blue Nile;

c) Bringing international developments home – understanding the implications of *Chile v. Bolivia* for Wyoming and applying the lessons of other unique ecospheres to a future that is likely to be marked by growing population pressures (including climate refugees), state, federal, and indigenous community water demands, contested development visions, increased aridity, and competing sustainability plans

Seeking planning grant funding to support: 1) travel to Chile and Bolivia to review geological and documentary evidence used in the case, 2) travel to the Hague with observer status and to support discussions with Egyptian and Ethiopian delegations, and 3) a virtual international symposium to gather stakeholders involved in crossborder allocation rules, institutional adaptation, indigenous land and water use, desertification, hydrological change, and hydropolitical dynamics

Invited collaborators: Haub School, American Heritage Center, Native American and Indigenous Studies-affiliated faculty

