TRANSFORMATIONS TO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

DECOLONIZATION and THE CALIFORNIA DREAM

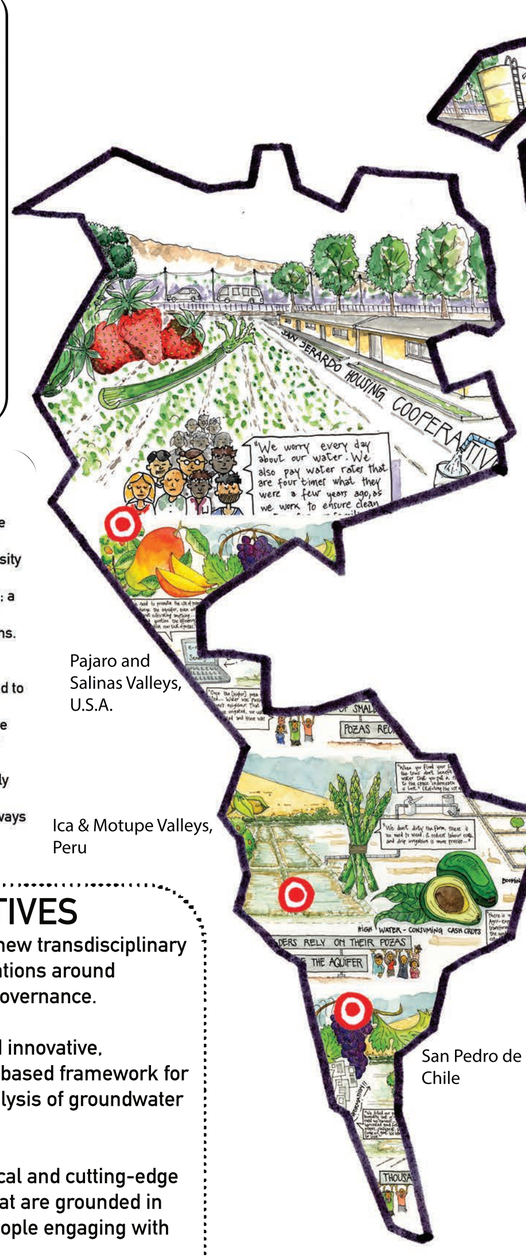
Drawing on the interrelated histories of water in California, Palestine, and Perú the California team has explored how the arrival and embedding of modern water across these sites illuminates the development and persistence of varying modes of (settler-)coloniality until this day.

Outputs:
-Undergraduate research methods courses: "Groundwater Governance and Justice" and "Apprenticeship in community-engaged research"
-Cross-site learning through exchange visits with the Morocco/Algeria team and the hosting of a colleague from the Tanzania team for one year at UCSC.
- Scientific publications

WATER RECHARGE and POZAS

The rehabilitation and re-valuation of ancestral poza practices and knowledge comes at a crucial time as agro-export companies, belatedly, realize the necessity of aquifer recharge. This also raises questions, though, about water sharing; a guaranteed groundwater table and soil humidity amidst unequal power relations.

Outputs:
- Supervision of master students related to caring for the environment
- Developing theoretical insights into the study of groundwater and groundwater multiplicity
- The pozas case study has been broadly used as a resource for education and bridging different (local and scientific) ways of knowing groundwater.



Pajaro and Salinas Valleys, U.S.A.

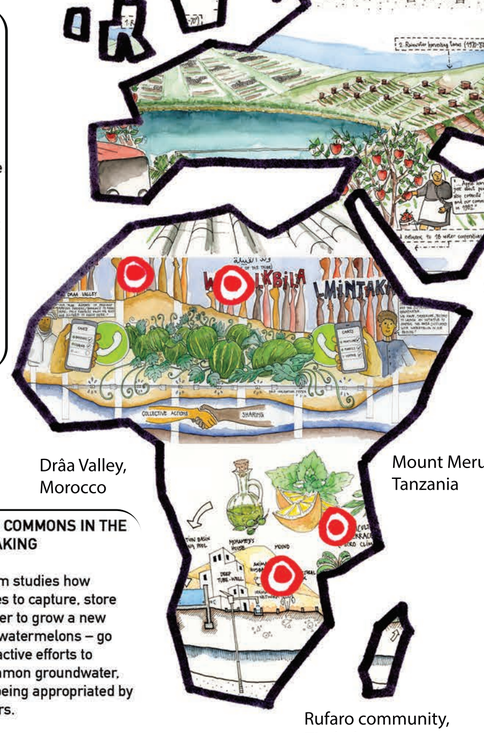
Ica & Motupe Valleys, Peru

San Pedro de Atacama, Chile

THE CIRCULARITY OF WATER: THE KEY FOR LIVING IN THE DESERT

The Algerian team analyses how traditional principles of capturing, storing, recharging and sharing water survive pressure to intensify and commercialize in the oasis of the M'Zab Valley, and explores how the circularity of these indigenous knowledges can inspire present-day pathways towards sustainability.

Outputs
- Scientific, blogs and media articles
- Podcasts about practices of circularity and recharge
- Undergraduate supervision



M'Zab valley, Algeria

Drâa Valley, Morocco

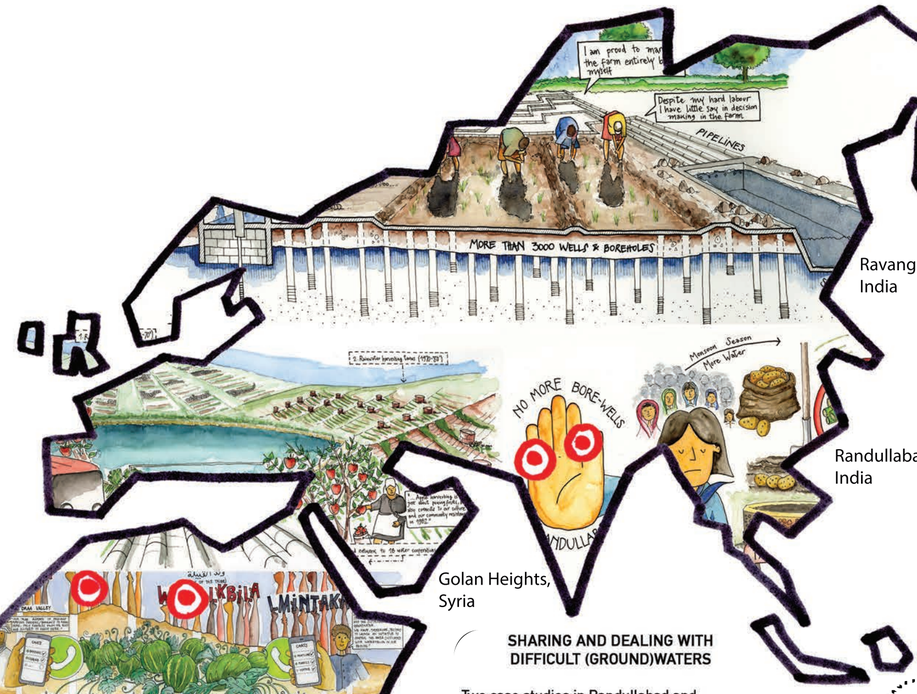
Mount Meru, Tanzania

Rufaro community, Zimbabwe

GROUNDWATER COMMONS IN THE MAKING

In Morocco, the team studies how community practices to capture, store and use groundwater to grow a new commercial crop - watermelons – go accompanied with active efforts to recover and re-common groundwater, preventing it from being appropriated by large-scale investors.

Outputs
-Scientific publications including articles, blogs and media articles
-Short videos about stories of change
-Online seminars for undergraduate students
-Practical field work with students, teaching them about ethnographic methods to do groundwater research.



Ravangaon, India

Randullabad, India

Golan Heights, Syria

SHARING AND DEALING WITH DIFFICULT (GROUND)WATERS

Two case studies in Randullabad and Ravangeon (Maharastra) bring out respectively the challenges of participatory groundwater management and the complexities of managing the conjunctive use of groundwater with canal water.

Outputs
-Scientific articles and blogs
-Several community workshops
- Action-research to identify and support participatory pathways to groundwater sustainability.
- Short films in Marathi and English for communicating the learnings for larger audiences.
- Podcasts on interdisciplinary research

WELL DIGGERS and WATER DIVINERS

A collaborative analysis of studies in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and India about different groundwater knowledge practices and the embodiment of knowledge

Outputs
-Supervision of undergraduate students
- Photo narratives and short videos
-The Tanzanian team's results were included in national water policy

OBJECTIVES

Develop and consolidate new transdisciplinary and international collaborations around sustainable groundwater governance.

Consolidate an exciting and innovative, multi-faceted and practice-based framework for the documentation and analysis of groundwater governance.

Undertake in-depth analytical and cutting-edge action-research projects that are grounded in everyday experiences of people engaging with groundwater.

Use research findings to generate new inspirations for thinking about, imagining and dealing with interconnections and interdependencies between humans and groundwater.

OUTCOMES

Advancement of an approach that nurtures different ways of knowing, challenging mainstream groundwater expertise and questioning univocal definitions of transformation.

Interdisciplinary exchanges and joint learning across social and natural sciences (and other differences) and development of methodologies for joint learning through podcasts, online workshops, peer visits and collaborative research.

Directly working with groundwater using communities – where our point of departure is that these communities know what they are doing– to jointly identify and develop pathways to groundwater sustainability.

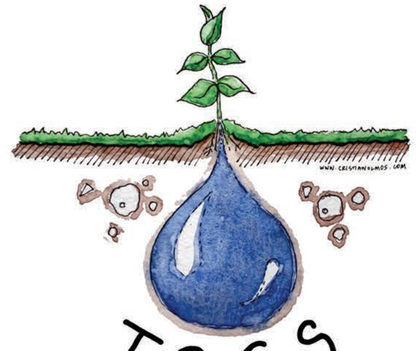
TRANSFORMATION as bricolage, obliqueness and overflows

A collaborative effort of team members in India, Algeria, Peru, Zimbabwe, the UK, France and the Netherlands to reflect on how to 'loosen' structuralist understandings of transformation to facilitate the identification of practical entry points for and pathways of change.

Outputs
- A series of publications reflecting in what transformation to sustainability is and how to do it.

WHAT NOW?

Transform the T2GS website into an Open Educational Resource (OER) Platform making available the case studies and the different frameworks and critical analytical and theoretical tools mobilized and developed during the project to teachers and educators, to be used in education about how to understand groundwater and identify paths to sustainability and social justice.



T2GS

T2GS soundcloud

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