

ISSUE FOUR : FALL 2016
OPEN RIVERS : RETHINKING THE MISSISSIPPI



INTERVENTIONS

<http://openrivers.umn.edu>

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

ISSN 2471-190X

The cover image is of St. Anthony Falls Lock, closed in June 2015. Image courtesy River Life, University of Minnesota.

Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/). This means each author holds the copyright to her or his work, and grants all users the rights to: share (copy and/or redistribute the material in any medium or format) or adapt (remix, transform, and/or build upon the material) the article, as long as the original author and source is cited, and the use is for noncommercial purposes.

Open Rivers: Rethinking the Mississippi is produced by the [University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing](https://www.lib.umn.edu/) and the [University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study](https://www.umn.edu/advanced-study/).

Editors

Editor:
Patrick Nunnally, Institute for Advanced Study,
University of Minnesota

Administrative Editor:
Phyllis Mauch Messenger, Institute for Advanced
Study, University of Minnesota

Assistant Editor:
Laurie Moberg, Doctoral Candidate,
Anthropology, University of Minnesota

Production Manager:
Joanne Richardson, Institute for Advanced Study,
University of Minnesota

Contact Us

Open Rivers
Institute for Advanced Study
University of Minnesota
Northrop
84 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Telephone: (612) 626-5054
Fax: (612) 625-8583
E-mail: openrvrs@umn.edu
Web Site: <http://openrivers.umn.edu>

ISSN 2471-190X

Editorial Board

Jay Bell, Soil, Water, and Climate, University of
Minnesota

Tom Fisher, Metropolitan Design Center,
University of Minnesota

Lewis E. Gilbert, Institute on the Environment,
University of Minnesota

Mark Gorman, Policy Analyst, Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Gunn, History of Medicine, University of
Minnesota

Katherine Hayes, Anthropology, University of
Minnesota

Nenette Luarca-Shoaf, Art Institute of Chicago

Charlotte Melin, German, Scandinavian, and
Dutch, University of Minnesota

David Pellow, Environmental Studies, University
of California, Santa Barbara

Laura Salvesson, Mill City Museum, Minnesota
Historical Society

Mona Smith, Dakota transmedia artist; Allies:
media/art, Healing Place Collaborative

CONTENTS

Introductions

Introduction to Issue Four
By Patrick Nunnally, Editor 4

Features

What do you see when you look at a river?
By Jessica Kozarek 6

The Once and Future River: A Present Snapshot
By Jane E. Mazack 17

Why so much sand in the Lower Minnesota River?
By Carrie E. Jennings 27

Princeville and the Environmental Landscape of Race
By Richard M. Mizelle Jr. 34

Perspectives

Owámniyomni, a Dakota Name for “St. Anthony Falls”
By Mona M. Smith 48

In Review

Troubled Waters: Rivers in Latin American Imagination
By Tim Frye 50

Learning with the flow:
My journey as a student working in the “real world” of research and communication
By Maxyne Friesen 55

Primary Sources

Minneapolis’ Upper Harbor Terminal: A Geostory of Collaborative Creation
By Laurie Moberg 59

Geographies

Perspectives on River Interventions
By Patrick Nunnally 66

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO ISSUE FOUR

By Patrick Nunnally, Editor

For as long as people have been living with rivers, we have been changing them. Put up a levee to keep water away from where we don't want it. Build a canal to move water to where we do want it. Put up a dam to stop floods or generate

water power. Over millennia, the possibilities have been endless.

More recently, though, we have started something new: intervening in rivers to undo some of



St. Anthony Falls Lock, closed in June 2015. Image courtesy River Life, University of Minnesota.

the changes we have previously made. My review of a couple of programs across the country gives a broad context for what has become a growing pattern of dam removal and alteration.

Close to home, the Upper St. Anthony Lock was closed in June 2015. That decision led to a study that asked: just what do we know about how the river's biological and physical systems are behaving at this point, now that the dam has closed? Now that the lock is closed, can we establish some scientific baseline data so that we can begin to monitor how the river behaves?

Some answers to these questions are detailed in Jane Mazack's feature article "The Once and Future River." Fellow scientists Jessica Kozarek and Carrie Jennings also contribute perspectives on the sorts of insights that come from detailed studies of particular river reaches.

Unfortunately, often rivers make the news through their destructive capacity. Last month's Hurricane Matthew unleashed torrents of rain, storm surge, and other watery mayhem on the low-lying areas in eastern North Carolina. In our Issue Two, published last spring, Richard M. Mizelle Jr. wrote about the racial dimensions of

flooding in this landscape; we reprint his article here with a head note connecting to coverage of the recent floods.

Every issue of *Open Rivers* contains shorter pieces covering particular aspects of the study and understanding of rivers, and this one of course is no exception. Laurie Moberg explores what we can learn from successive historic photographs of the site that now contains Minneapolis' Upper Harbor Terminal, a landscape sure to change now that barge traffic has ceased. Maxyne Friesen writes about how it felt to be an undergraduate student researcher on the bigger river study that Mazack led. Tim Frye reviews recent scholarship on rivers in Latin America. Mona Smith reminds us that St. Anthony Falls contains much more than our scientific studies can ever understand.

All of which is to serve as a reminder for one of our basic principles: scientific study is necessary, but not sufficient, in generating the knowledge and perspectives that we need in order to plan for sustainable, inclusive futures for our relationships with rivers.

Happy reading!

Recommended Citation

Nunnally, Patrick. 2016. "Introduction to Issue Four" *Open Rivers: Rethinking The Mississippi*, no. 4. <http://editions.lib.umn.edu/openrivers/article/introduction-to-issue-four/>.

About the Author

Patrick Nunnally coordinates the River Life Program in the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota. He serves as editor for *Open Rivers* and was one of the lead scholars for the University's John E. Sawyer Seminar, "Making the Mississippi: Formulating New Water Narratives for the 21st Century and Beyond," funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.