

An aerial photograph showing a bridge crossing a wide river. The bridge has multiple lanes and a central section with a different texture. Below the bridge, a road interchange with curved ramps is visible. The surrounding landscape is green with some patches of red soil or earth. The text is overlaid on a dark semi-transparent band across the top of the image.

ISSUE SIXTEEN : WINTER 2020
OPEN RIVERS :
RETHINKING WATER, PLACE & COMMUNITY

ABUNDANCE & SCARCITY

<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 courtesy of Sergio Souza.

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 Water, Place & Community is produced by the [University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing](https://www.libraries.umn.edu/) and the [University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study](https://www.umn.edu/ia/).

Editors

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

Managing Editor:
Laurie Moberg, Institute for Advanced Study,
University of Minnesota

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

Media and 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, Minnesota Design Center, University
of Minnesota

Lewis E. Gilbert, futurist

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

Jennifer Gunn, History of Medicine, University of
Minnesota

Katherine Hayes, Anthropology, University of
Minnesota

Nenette Luarca-Shoaf, Lucas Museum of
Narrative Art

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

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

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

CONTENTS

Introductions

Introduction to Issue Sixteen
By Patrick Nunnally, Editor4

Feature (Peer Review)

Eroding Memories and Erecting Risk on the Amite River
By Craig E. Colten6

Features

Flood Narratives of the Lower Subarnarekha River Corridor, India
By Debika Banerji24

The Gift of Water
By Leslie A. Johnson38

Geographies

Invisible Infrastructure: Documenting the Hidden Flood Control Infrastructure in Las Vegas
By Jessica Rossi-Mastracci54

In Review

Time in the Canyon
By David Morrison64

Perspectives

The Urban Mississippi: Valuing Connections in a Changing Climate
By Emily Green, Bree Duever, and Amit Pradhananga72

Primary Sources

The Power of Place: Finding Enduring Value(s) in the Landscapes that Surround Us
By Patrick Nunnally82

Teaching And Practice

Science 101: Teaching Scientific Anthropology in the Age of “Alternative” Facts
By Olivia Navarro-Farr88

Editorial

Thank You
By *Open Rivers* Editorial Staff97

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO ISSUE SIXTEEN

By Patrick Nunnally, Editor

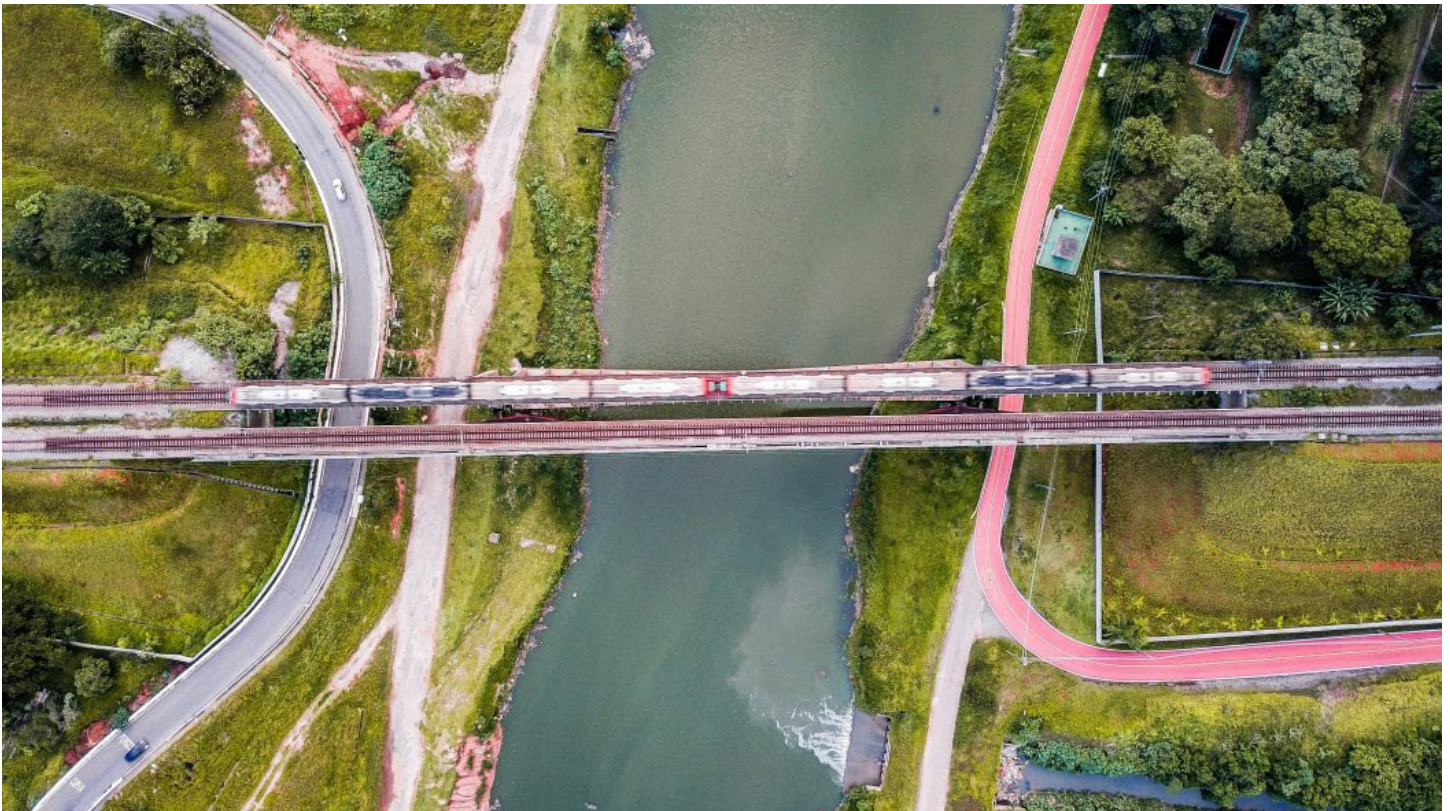
There's a saying among water professionals that the public only cares about water when there is too much or too little, when there is a flood or a drought. Most of the pieces in this issue of *Open Rivers* speak to these conditions: flood or, if not drought, at least water scarcity. Debika Banerji and Craig Colten write of differing responses to floods happening in contexts that are half a world apart—Banerji in India and Colten in south Louisiana. Leslie Johnson writes about traditional water management in India as an important response to conditions of scarcity.

Water scarcity is a fact of life in much of the American West, and David Morrison and Jessica

Rossi-Mastracci both explore iconic landscapes of that region. The west is changing, of course, with climate being one of the drivers of that change. Olivia Navarro-Farr and writers from the Center for Changing Landscapes both speak directly to matters of climate change and water.

Finally, my discussion of Dolores Hayden's book *The Power of Place* points out how the ordinary landscape around us is part of our sense of who we are. This is surely true for the water components of those landscapes as well.

The connection among all of these pieces is that they all point toward being more intentionally



Intersections of roads, railroads, drainage, and river. Image courtesy of Sergio Souza.

aware of how we live with water. Even in water-rich Minnesota, there is not enough to do whatever we want, whenever we want, for as long as we want. A changing climate adds uncertainty.

All these pieces, in disparate ways, point toward important aspects of our water futures.

Happy reading!

Recommended Citation

Nunnally, Patrick. 2020. "Introduction to Issue Sixteen." *Open Rivers: Rethinking Water, Place & Community*, no. 16. <https://editions.lib.umn.edu/openrivers/article/introduction-to-issue-sixteen/>.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24926/2471190X.7204>

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 which focused on the Mississippi River and was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.