

Foreword for Collection

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Our most important natural resource, fresh water in rivers, is often the object of international conflict due to misuse and confusion. At the heart of this conflict is the territorial border. Borders divide jurisdictions between self-governing peoples. They also divide ownership rights. In spite of their importance, philosophical investigations of territorial rights over rivers are thin. No theory asks if it is justified for a state to claim territorial rights over a trans-boundary river, if states should jointly share rights over trans-boundary rivers, or if rivers, as a unique object, might require a distinct understanding of territorial rights.

In 2014/2015, The Irish Research Council funded a project hosted by University College Cork to lay the groundwork for constructive research on this area of inquiry. The results are collected here, including a detailed, succinct annotated bibliography of inter-disciplinary research; 10 papers from international experts, and relevant work by the director, Dr. Nine. Within the next few months we will add a drafted 'scoping article'. Gathered from international and interdisciplinary experts, the documents in the collection both set out existing knowledge and raise underexplored questions for further research.