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Seth Blum

Washington University in St. Louis

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NATURALIZING SCALES OF INJUSTICE IN JORDANIAN WATER

Seth Blum

Mentor: Jeremy Caddel

Several hydropolitics scholars have noted that the literature on Israeli-Jordanian hydropolitical relations suffers from a curious disengagement from social justice questions and methodologies. While much has been written on the procedural and substantive fairness of the 1994 treaty, as well as the process of its negotiation, the uneasy naturalization of a fixed ratio of water allocation and the adherence to a data-based system borne out of procedural fairness had escaped investigation. Furthermore, there is a lack of mixed methods or digital humanities approaches to the study of discourses and practices of water scarcity in Jordan. Academics, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, and donor organizations have used GIS to improve the efficiency of water distribution, but there has been no effort in the critical literature to spatially document changing scales and their relationship to discourse.

My summer research grounded an interest in distributional justice and inequality in access a more concrete project with a robust methodological framework. Over the summer, my interest shifted from interest in indicators determining access to green space to a different set of quantitative indicators determining quality of life—water allocations and international water treaties. The preparatory work required to site, understand, and propose such a project consumed much of my research time over the summer.