

Lilin Kerschbaumer

Water Ethics, Governance and Sustainability

Theory and Case Study
on Northwest China

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Acknowledgements

Growing up in South China, I developed a fondness towards water and waterscapes at an early age. As a child, I spent most of my playtime along Fenjiang, the mother river of our city. Later as the economy soared, Fenjiang became black and smelt increasingly unpleasant. It was disgusted and forgotten as people went on with their normal lives. Fenjiang's destiny is shared by other dozens of rivers and lakes in China. Although the Chinese people and the government are quite aware of the role water plays, the progress to achieve water sustainability appears stagnant. My hope is that this book will provide people practicing in this field with crucial insights and inspiration, especially from an ethical perspective.

The undergoing work represents a critical transition in my academic development. The four-year research would never have been possible without the guidance and support of many people. I first became interested in environmental ethics during my internship at UNESCO Bangkok in 2009. In 2010, I finally got the chance to start my Ph.D. studies under the supervision of a renowned scholar, Konrad Ott. Konrad guided me into the new field of environmental ethics. He is a patient and accommodating supervisor, who always took time to explain to and discuss with me whenever I had any question. His precise and critical way of thinking has shaped my work style till today, this book included. During the time as I worked at the SuWaRest Project, Konrad provided me with an excellent research atmosphere. His caring and patience helped me through moments of difficulties in my work as well as my life in a foreign land.

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