



Key Themes and Issues: Trans-Boundary Environmental Governance

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1909 and Beyond

- Enter the IJC near the end of the TR and Laurier Eras
- Institutional proliferation/diversification
 - Continental
 - Bi-National
 - Sub-National

What we know—and what we don't

- Considerable thick description of individual institutions and policies
- Considerable “internal self-assessment,” much of it self-congratulatory
- Relatively few comprehensive assessments that draw from the policy sciences and are published in highly-visible outlets
- Goal: A careful look at cross-border governance “one century later” and with an eye to the future

Key Themes

- 1) Issue Framing: Purpose of Governance
 - Environmental Protection
 - Economic Development
 - Ecosystem Management
 - Environmental Health
 - Resource Access
 - Reactive or Anticipatory?

Key Themes

- 2) Form & Process of Governance
 - Hard: Binding Treaties and Regulatory Bodies
 - Soft: Non-Binding Agreements and Epistemic Communities
 - Role of Elected Officials and Political Appointees
 - Role of Policy Professionals

Key Theme

- 3) Geographic Scope of Governance
 - Nation-to-Nation
 - Substantial Decentralization
 - Cross-border regions
 - Compacts, MOU, Handshakes
 - Lake/river-specific boards
 - Established networks
 - Ad hoc coalitions
 - Unilateral

Key Themes

- 4) Asymmetries in Governance
 - American Hegemony?
 - Canadian Shirking?
 - Source of innovation and new ideas?
 - Policy diffusion?

Key Themes

■ 5) Impact of Governance

- Outputs (Wilson)
- Outcomes
- Does all of this governance “make a whopping bit of difference” on environmental quality?

Key Themes

- 6) Collective Impact and Preparedness for Next Century?
 - Business as usual?
 - Incremental tinkering?
 - New governance for a new century?