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Is it one Nile? Civic engagement and hydropolitics in the Eastern Nile Basin: the case of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia

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Propositions

- 1- The centrality of the Nile in the culture(s) and livelihood(s) of the riparian communities restrains the evolution of one riverine culture and one vision of Basin governance.
- 2- Relational thinking, unlike some of the classical theories of international relations, is apt to explain states' behaviours in view of environmental challenges because interests and norms are changeable and not seen as predefined factors.
- 3- Actors' capabilities and influence rely on their activities to create, deconstruct or maintain their relationships. Therefore, their power consists in creating networks, regulating interactions inside the networks, or in establishing connections across regional and global networks.
- 4- The normative purpose of civil society engagement in global environmental governance to endorse cooperation, as seen from the liberal perspective, is not necessarily attainable, because dealing with natural resources can be perceived by civil society actors in contrasting ways.
- 5- The global discourse on water governance has, in most cases, endorsed transnational civil society activities.
- 6- The development angle of water governance has devalued the political role of civil society to negotiate, decide, or oppose state-designed transnational water policies and projects.
- 7- Civil society actors that have not aligned their visions with development perspectives and neoliberal activities and practices (e.g., anti-dam movements) are likely to be largely ignored in transnational efforts of water governance.
- 8- The hydraulic focus – availability and scarcity of water - has more influence on the position of civil society actors regarding contested Nile issues than does the commitment to global discourses on environmental cooperation.
- 9- Financial support is crucial to build and sustain any kind of transnational civic engagement.
- 10- Revolutions and uprisings can empower civic engagement in transnational water contestation.