

Undercurrents: Non-water flows along a transboundary river
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On August 17, 1947, the same stroke of Sir Cyril Radcliffe's pen that established Pakistan and India as independent states also transformed the Ganges River into an international watercourse. Fed by tributaries originating in Nepal, flowing 2240km across India, and culminating its overland journey in Bangladesh, the river carries vital water resources across two national borders and has been the focus of protracted and on-going transboundary disputes for decades. While water conflicts over the Ganges have been well-documented, an unconventional analysis of the articulation of the river with the Indo-Bangladeshi border exposes surprising dynamics of non-water flows. This paper traces the peculiarities and consequences of the 1947 boundary designation, from India's disinclination to recognize the river as an international watercourse to the militarization and securitization of the river's banks, to argue that attention to non-water flows along the Ganges is critical to understanding how the river-border complex mediates the differential concentration and distribution of wealth and risk exposure across the international divide.