

Cynthia Barnett

Water Ethics in Practice and Deed

International Symposium on Water Sustainability 2022

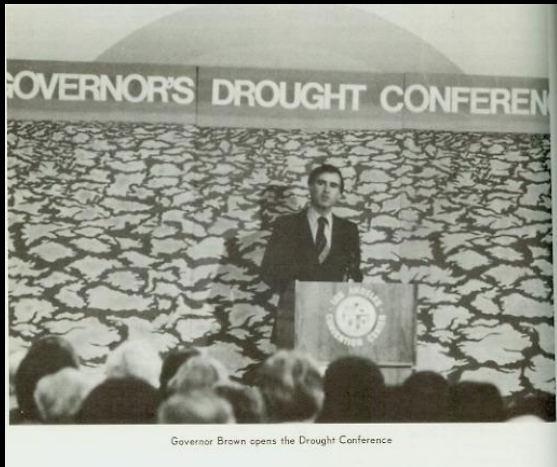
Hong Kong University

July 30th 2022

The New York Times

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1977

Brown Warns of Drought Disaster; Says 'Hard Choices' Face California



Hydrologist Luna Leopold (1915-2006)

**“To test whether the system is operating satisfactorily by economic and legal criteria alone will not guarantee its continued health.
What is needed is some deeper feeling.”**

**– Luna B. Leopold,
A Reverence for Rivers, keynote to the Governor’s
Conference on the California Drought, Los Angeles, 1977**

Current water ethos



Government agencies: View responsibility to find & provide more water for future population & economic growth.



Large water users: View water & water systems primarily as capital assets.



Citizens: Take water for granted; it's always there and at least there's one thing we don't have to worry about it!

**Our great water achievement
has become an entitlement.
The collective ethos is not sustainable.**

Foundations of a water ethic



The river hydrologist **Luna Leopold** (son of the famous American ecologist Aldo Leopold) articulated the idea of an ethic for water as a **set of guiding beliefs for government, large water users and citizens.**

Foundations of a water ethic



The freshwater scholar and author **Sandra Postel** defines the ethic as making “protection of water ecosystems a central goal in all that we do ...

“a historic philosophical shift away from the strictly utilitarian, divide-and-conquer approach to water management and toward a **holistic approach that views people and water as related parts of a greater whole.**”

wa • ter eth • ic *n 1* : Making sure the way we live with water today doesn't jeopardize fresh, clean water for our children, ecosystems, & businesses tomorrow.





San Antonio River Walk





Swan River Wetlands Restoration Perth, Australia





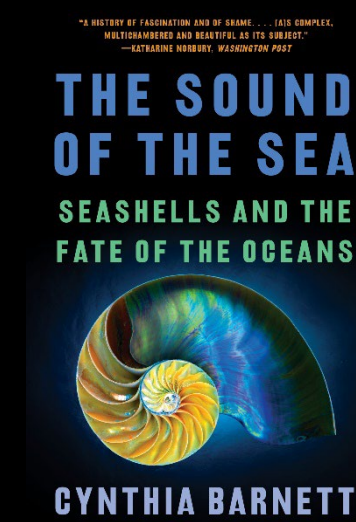
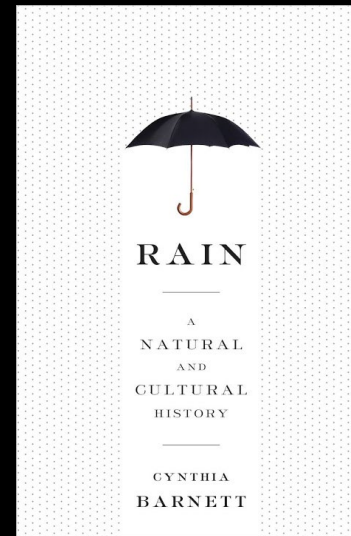
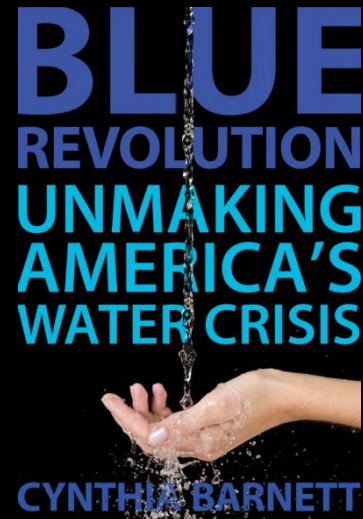
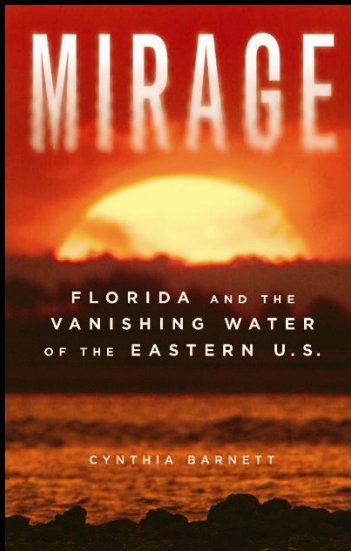




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