

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	11
LIST OF TABLES	14
LIST OF MAPS	14
GLOSSARY	15
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	16
SUMMARY.....	19
ZUSAMMENFASSUNG	21
PREFACE.....	23
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	25
I INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH CONTEXT	27
1 Introduction	27
1.1 Delhi: a tale of two cities, but only one river	29
1.2 Change of perspective: from the riverfront to riverscapes	31
1.3 Discourse and urban environmental policy-making.....	35
1.4 Governance and urban political ecology	36
1.5 Research agenda and questions.....	37
1.6 Outline of the book.....	40
2 India's megacities: challenging urban ecologies.....	41
2.1 Challenges of urbanization in India	42
2.2 Post-liberalization urban India	43
2.3 Making India's cities 'world-class'	46
2.4 India's urban environmental awakening?	47
2.5 Reclaiming India's urban rivers	51
II THEORETICAL REFLECTIONS.....	55
3 Governing riverscapes: theoretical and conceptual reflections	55
3.1 Governance research	55

3.1.1	Good governance – the normative perspective	57
3.1.2	A (critical) descriptive perspective on governance	58
3.1.3	‘Unpacking’ governance processes – the analytical perspective	60
3.1.4	Urban governance	61
3.1.5	Environmental governance.....	62
3.1.6	Urban environmental governance – an analytical approach	63
3.1.7	Participation in urban environmental governance.....	66
3.2	Urban Political Ecology	67
3.2.1	Introducing UPE.....	67
3.2.2	Deconstructing social constructions.....	72
3.2.3	The production of urban environments	75
3.2.4	The urban environment as a hybrid.....	77
3.2.5	From land- and waterscapes to hybrid riverscapes	81
3.2.6	Riverscapes in neighboring disciplines	84
3.3	Riverscapes as hybrids – a framework for research.....	86
3.3.1	Hybridity of riverscapes and the interplay of materiality and discourse	87
3.3.2	A UPE-governance approach to study riverscapes	90
3.3.3	Redefining the research questions.....	91
III	METHODOLOGY AND METHODS.....	93
4	Methodology	93
4.1	Research philosophy	93
4.2	The chosen discourse analytical approach	94
4.3	The argumentative approach to discourse.....	96
4.3.1	Story-lines and discourse-coalitions	96
4.3.2	Discourse structuration and discourse institutionalization	97
4.4	The application of the argumentative approach in this study	98
5	Methods and fieldwork.....	100
5.1	Data collection and fieldwork	100
5.1.1	Triangulation of data and analysis	101
5.1.2	Primary data: multi-temporal mapping and observation.....	101
5.1.3	Primary data: interviews	102
5.1.4	Primary data: Yamuna Future Workshop	107
5.1.5	Secondary data: the text corpora	108

5.2	From data processing to analysis	111
5.3	Reflections on the research process	112
IV SITUATING THE CASE STUDY		115
6	The megacity of Delhi.....	115
6.1	The physical features of Delhi	115
6.2	The growth of the city.....	117
6.3	The socio-spatial mosaic of Delhi.....	120
6.4	The ‘world-class’ agenda – Delhi as a global city	122
7	Introducing Delhi’s riverscapes.....	123
7.1	The river Yamuna.....	123
7.2	The river Yamuna in Delhi.....	125
7.3	Water abstraction and flow	126
7.4	Pollution and environmental degradation	129
7.5	The risk of monsoonal flooding	133
7.6	Interim conclusion: major challenges	135
8	Urban environmental governance: introducing actors and policy debates	137
8.1	Political and administrative organization in India.....	137
8.2	Delhi’s administrative history and current set-up	138
8.3	Urban governance framework: the state actors.....	139
	8.3.1 Agencies on the national level	141
	8.3.2 Agencies on the regional level	143
	8.3.3 Agencies on the state level.....	144
8.4	Environmental governance framework: the state actors	144
	8.4.1 Agencies on the national and interstate level	146
	8.4.2 Agencies on the state level	149
8.5	Overview of the state agencies involved in governing Delhi’s riverscapes.....	149
8.6	India’s urban rivers: legal provisions and debates	151
8.7	The courts and the river: overview of selected orders	155
8.8	Environmental NGOs working on the Yamuna	157
8.9	Interim conclusion: a complex urban environmental governance set-up.....	160
V HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL INSIGHTS INTO THE MATERIAL AND DISCURSIVE REMAKING OF DELHI’S RIVERSCAPES.....		163
9	The early remaking of Delhi’s riverscapes.....	163
9.1	From the Mughal period to colonial times.....	163
9.2	A new riverfront for the imperial capital	170

9.3	The riverfront ideas of the early post-colonial period: the ‘recreation plan’	171
9.4	Taming the river for the development of the city.....	173
9.5	Delhi’s riverscapes under the first Master Plan	175
9.6	Interim conclusion.....	176
10	Channelization and riverfront development – a persistent idea	179
10.1	The emergence of the channelization idea	179
10.2	Learning from the floods of 1978	180
10.3	DDA’s plans of the 1980s and 1990s.....	182
10.4	Channelization in the second Master Plan (MPD-2001).....	186
10.5	Land acquisition for channelization	189
10.6	Interim conclusion.....	192
11	Drafting the Zonal Development Plan.....	194
11.1	Change of land use for pocket III: the starting point for channelization.....	194
11.2	Seeking approval for channelization – the draft ZDP of 1998.....	195
11.3	Negotiating scientific ‘facts’ and recommendations.....	199
11.4	The ZDP draft of 2006: proposing ‘partial’ channelization.....	201
11.5	‘Wasted land’ and the ‘fear of encroachment’ versus ‘ecosystem services’	205
11.6	Floodplain zoning: institutionalization or co-optation?	208
11.7	The ZDP draft of 2008: Seeking post-facto approval for developments	210
11.8	Interim conclusion.....	213
VI THE RECLAMATION OF DELHI’S RIVERSCAPES FOR A WORLD-CLASS CITY IN THE MAKING.....		215
12	Multi-temporal analysis of land-use change (2001–2014).....	215
12.1	Selection of research area for land-use change analysis	215
12.2	Land-use changes 2001–2014	216
12.3	Opening up the River Zone: the urban-mega projects	220
13	‘Cleansing’ and ‘reclaiming’ Delhi’s riverscapes	223
13.1	Agriculture in Delhi’s riverscapes.....	223
13.1.1	The governance of farming Delhi’s riverscapes	224
13.1.2	Reclaiming the land for urban development	226
13.2	Cleansing Delhi’s riverscapes from the slums	230
13.2.1	The slum demolitions (2004–2006)	231
13.2.2	‘Green’ evictions: discursive reasoning and the role of the courts	232
13.2.3	Fuzzy boundaries, legal categories: 300 meters for the river.....	236

13.2.4	Demolitions, religious structures and the channelization scheme	239
13.2.5	Background rationalities: plans for a riverfront promenade	240
13.3	Remaining residential spaces in Delhi's riverscapes	241
13.4	The effects of simplification: permitting construction beyond 300 meters	244
13.5	Interim conclusion.....	245
14	The political ecology of embankments and urban mega-projects.....	247
14.1	The Akshardham Temple Complex	247
14.1.1	An offspring of the channelization scheme.....	248
14.1.2	The construction of the Akshardham Bund	250
14.1.3	Religious and political prestige – a powerful coalition.....	250
14.1.4	Objection against the Akshardham Temple	251
14.2	The Commonwealth Games Village	253
14.2.1	The secret 'approval' of the site.....	253
14.2.2	Remaking environmental clearances.....	256
14.2.3	Formation of environmental protest: Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan	258
14.2.4	The Games Village in the courts.....	262
14.2.5	A new boundary of the river? Multiple readings of the Akshardham Bund.....	263
14.2.6	The river in between science, politics and time constraints	266
14.2.7	Agency of the river? Drainage problem versus floods.....	268
14.2.8	Economic (ir)rationalities: the bailout package and corruption	270
14.2.9	Ground realities compared to planning schemes.....	271
14.3	'Development must take place' and 'leave the river to the experts'	272
14.4	Interim conclusion.....	274
VII	AFTER THE URBAN MEGA-PROJECTS: PURIFYING DELHI'S RIVERSCAPES FOR RESTORATION, CONSERVATION AND BEAUTIFICATION	277
15	'Managing dissent': signs of change.....	277
15.1	A new authority and a moratorium for the river?.....	278
15.2	A plan for the river.....	284
15.3	Interim conclusion.....	287
16	Redefining the river's boundaries	289

16.1	The model: the Yamuna Biodiversity Park	289
16.2	Scaling up: from the Biodiversity Park to the Biodiversity Zone	290
16.3	Actions on the ground: the Golden Jubilee Park	293
16.4	Evicting the ‘green keepers’? An attempt to develop a counter-story line	298
16.5	Remaking the plan: the influence of the NGOs and the courts	301
16.5.1	The evolution of the Debris Case at the NGT	301
16.5.2	Rezoning the river – DDA’s move to redefine the boundaries of the river	307
16.5.3	The action plan for ‘Restoration and Conservation’	310
16.5.4	The orders of the NGT: ‘Maily se Nirmal Yamuna’	311
16.6	Interim conclusions	315
VIII GOVERNING DELHI’S RIVERSCAPES: A SYNTHESIS		317
17	Reflection and discussion	317
17.1	Revisiting the main planning discourses and story-lines	317
17.1.1	The main discourses and story-lines	318
17.1.2	The persistent story-lines	321
17.1.3	‘Planned’ versus ‘unplanned’ encroachment	322
17.1.4	DDA’s reluctant planning for the River Zone	324
17.2	The hybridization and purification of Delhi’s riverscapes	326
17.3	Urban environmental governance: prevailing insights	330
18	Conclusion	335
18.1	Riverscapes: (mega-)urban challenges and the question of governance	337
18.2	Evaluation of the conceptual approach: do riverscapes make sense?	339
REFERENCES		341
APPENDIX		377
MAPS		385
COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS		392

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: River Zone (Zone O) and research area	30
Figure 2: Ghats along the Yamuna in Delhi (Yamuna Bazaar)	52
Figure 3: Ghats along the Ganga in Benares (Varanasi), Uttar Pradesh.....	52
Figure 4: Demolished slums, Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad, Gujarat	52
Figure 5: Riverfront slums along the Yamuna in Delhi.....	52
Figure 6: Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.....	53
Figure 7: Advertisement for the Sabarmati riverfront project, Ahmedabad.....	53
Figure 8: Rivers and the spheres of governance	64
Figure 9: The practices of ‘hybridization’ and ‘purification’	79
Figure 10: Hybridity of riverscapes	87
Figure 11: The material and discursive production of hybrid riverscapes	88
Figure 12: The embeddedness of urban environmental governance	90
Figure 13: Overview of the physical features of Delhi.....	116
Figure 14: The growth of Delhi	119
Figure 15: Schematic map of the Yamuna up to Delhi.....	128
Figure 16: Discharge of polluted water at Okhla Barrage, South Delhi.....	131
Figure 17: Polluted water for irrigation, Agra Canal headworks, South Delhi ..	131
Figure 18: Annual maximum water level at the Old Railway Bridge	133
Figure 19: Government structure of the NCT of Delhi	139
Figure 20: Urban governance framework.....	140
Figure 21: Environmental governance framework	145
Figure 22: Governance framework for Delhi’s riverscapes.....	161
Figure 23: Delhi’s riverscapes ca. 1807.....	164
Figure 24: Guide bund, Geeta Colony Bridge	188
Figure 25: ITO Barrage.....	188
Figure 26: DTTDC’s plan for channelization and riverfront development (2006).....	204
Figure 27: Floodplain Zoning (O-Zone) prepared by DDA	209
Figure 28: Land-use change in the research area by main categories (2001–2014)	219

Figure 29: Metro depot (DMRC) at Shastri Park, East Delhi	221
Figure 30: Information and Technology Park (DMRC) at Shastri Park, East Delhi.....	221
Figure 31: Planning schemes for ‘pocket III’	249
Figure 32: Cross section Akshardham Bund	250
Figure 33: Protest camp ‘Yamuna Satyagraha’	259
Figure 34: Tents along the Noida Link Road during flood.....	269
Figure 35: Flooded construction worker camps next to CWGs-Village	269
Figure 36: Standing water behind the Akshardham Bund.....	269
Figure 37: Standing water in front of the Akshardham Bund.....	269
Figure 38: Signage erected during the construction period of the CWGs-Village	272
Figure 39: Construction of Ring Road By-Pass Road near Old Railway Bridge	295
Figure 40: Ring Road By-Pass Road at Geeta Colony Bridge intersection.....	295
Figure 41: Debris along the Yamuna Pushta Embankment near Geeta Colony ..	302
Figure 42: Debris dumping along guide bund near Yamuna Bank Metro.....	302
Figure 43: Solid waste recycling near ISBT Bridge, Shastri Park, East Delhi	302
Figure 44: Slums on debris material in front of Shastri Park Metro Depot.....	302
Figure 45: Public notice boards posted along the embankments	304
Figure 46: Rezoning proposal for River Zone (Zone O) by DDA.....	307
Figure 47: DTC Millennium Bus Depot	309
Figure 48: ‘Land bank’ protected by Ring Road By-Pass Road.....	309
Figure 49: Main discourses and story-lines of Delhi’s riverscapes	317
Figure 50: Pollution of the river Yamuna, eastern bank, near CWGs-Village	392
Figure 51: Pollution river Yamuna near ghats, Yamuna Bazar area	392
Figure 52: Riverfront promenade along the river Musi in Hyderabad, Telangana	392
Figure 53: Golden Jubilee Park along the Yamuna	392
Figure 54: Agriculture and temporary settlements of farmers along the Yamuna	393
Figure 55: Plant nursery, Yamuna Bank area	393
Figure 56: Fencing off the river, Kalindi Kunj, South Delhi.....	393
Figure 57: Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Kalindi Kunj, South Delhi.....	393
Figure 58: Unauthorized Colony, Jogabai Extension, Kalindi Kunj area	393

Figure 59: Unauthorized Colony, Majnu-Ka-Tila (New Aruna Nagar)	394
Figure 60: Akshardham Temple	394
Figure 61: CWGs-Village Entry Gate	394
Figure 62: Construction work on the Akshardham Bund towards the river	394
Figure 63: Akshardham Bund and CWGs-Village	394
Figure 64: Farming Bela Estate near Golden Jubilee Park	395
Figure 65: Former construction workers camp near CWGs-Village	395
Figure 66: Yamuna Biodiversity Park Phase I	395
Figure 67: Yamuna Biodiversity Park Phase II	395
Figure 68: Yamuna Biodiversity Park Phase I Amphitheatre	395
Figure 69: Yamuna Biodiversity Park Phase I Butterfly Park	395
Figure 70: Golden Jubilee Park during flood of 2010	396
Figure 71: Golden Jubilee Park	396
Figure 72: Model for the development of Golden Jubilee Park (phase I)	396

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Terminology used for discourse analysis	99
Table 2: Overview and types of conducted in-depth interviews	106
Table 3: Population growth NCT of Delhi 1951–2011	118
Table 4: Area and population of the river basin	124
Table 5: Flood discharge and maximum water level during major flood events.....	135
Table 6: Agencies involved in governing Delhi’s riverscapes	150
Table 7: Environmental NGOs working on the Yamuna in Delhi	158
Table 8: Land use in the different stretches of the Yamuna in Delhi	217
Table 9: Land-use change in the research area 2001–2014.....	218
Table 10: Existing and proposed land use for River Zone (Zone O).....	285

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1: Delhi and the river Yamuna	385
Map 2: Land-use change in the research area (north) 2001–2014.....	386
Map 3: Land-use change in the research area (south) 2001–2014	387
Map 4: Time series (research area).....	388
Map 5: The development of the interrelated mega-projects (focus area I).....	390
Map 6: Changing land uses: slums and the Golden Jubilee Park (focus area II).....	391