

Tributary Voices

Literary and Rhetorical Explorations of the Colorado River

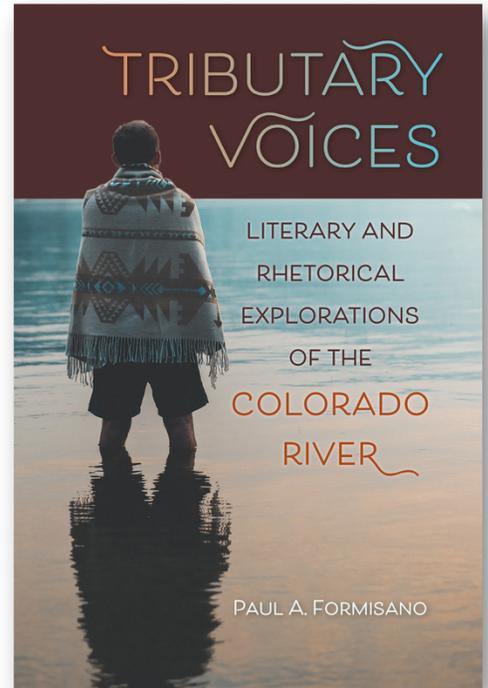
Paul A. Formisano

"*Tributary Voices* is a very impressive project that asserts the importance of recognizing the diverse discourse communities of the Colorado River basin and their frequently unrecognized contributions to water policy in the region. This is a valuable and readable contribution to both Western American literary scholarship and ecocriticism. Paul Formisano is clearly an authority on the subject of this book."

—**Scott Slovic**, University Distinguished Professor of Environmental Humanities, University of Idaho

The Colorado River is in crisis. Persistent drought, climate change, and growing demands from ongoing urbanization threaten this life-source that provides water to more than forty million people in the U.S. and Mexico. Coupled with these challenges are our nation's deeply rooted beliefs about the region as a frontier, garden, and wilderness that have created competing agendas about the river as something to both exploit and preserve. Over the last century and a half, citizens and experts looked to law, public policy, and science to solve worsening water problems. Yet today's circumstances demand additional perspectives to foster a more sustainable relationship with the river.

Through literary, rhetorical, and historical analysis of some of the Colorado River's lesser-known stakeholders, *Tributary Voices* considers a more comprehensive approach to river management on the eve of the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Colorado River Compact, which governs the allocation of water rights to the seven states in the region.



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