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Dr. Scott is Professor of Water Resources Policy and Geography & Development at the University of Arizona. He is an interdisciplinary scholar with 200 publications and 10 co-edited books on water resources and policy, the water-energy-food nexus, transboundary water and climate adaptation, water reuse, and global change. His applied research emphasizes the importance of science-policy dialogues with particular attention to ecosystem services, groundwater depletion, and transboundary adaptive management, with particular emphasis on the arid Americas, and Andean and Himalayan water towers. He currently leads several collaborative research projects supported by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, U.S. National Science Foundation, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, Mexico's Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología. He contributes to other projects supported by the Lloyd's Register Foundation, U.S. Agency for International Development, and U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, among others. The countries where he has ongoing collaboration include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Perú, Mexico, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Outside the academy, Dr. Scott has worked fifteen years for NGOs, government agencies, and applied-research institutes, contributing to water policy formulation and implementation. He is founding co-director of the AQUASEC Center of Excellence for Water Security, a virtual center and network of researchers and decision-makers, which he established in 2011. From 2001-05 he served as the Regional Director of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). From 1997-2000 he conducted postdoctoral research in Mexico and headed the IWMI-Mexico program in 2000.