

Contents

Figures	11
Foreword	
<i>Oliver D. Liebig, Editor of Environmental Anthropology</i>	13
Preface	15
1. Introduction	
Research objectives	21
The Kemi River	22
The meaning of water	23
Towards a concept of flow	25
A genealogy of “thinking like a river”	29
Methods	31
Overview	34
2. River dwellers: Living along the “stream of life”	
Introduction	37
Ethnic labels and cultural mixing along the river	38
River dwellers	43
Alienation, idealisation, transfiguration – and continuation	56
Conclusion	64
3. A fluvial topology: The river as space-maker	
Introduction	65
Naming a river	66
Up and down, north and south, as suggested by the river’s flow	71
The river as separator or integrator	80
Conclusion	82
4. Shaping and reshaping the river: Towards an environmental history	
	83

Introduction	83
The progressive genesis of a river	84
The dominance of salmon weir fishing.....	88
The establishment of timber floating	91
The river as a means of timber transportation.....	93
The spread of hydroelectricity and the displacement of floating.....	96
Hegemonic hydroelectricity	100
Conservation, tourism, and present struggles for hegemony.....	104
The continuing genesis of a river.....	109
Conclusion	109
5. Fishing the Kemi River: Engagement and empathy with a flow	113
Introduction	113
Fishing for fish and good times	114
Fishing techniques: Inversions of the fish's life story	116
Fish as river indicators.....	123
Seasonalities of fishing	131
Fishing as attention to the river	133
Conclusion	136
6. Boating along the Kemi River:	
Claiming and understanding water through navigation	137
Introduction	137
Boaters, boats and a flowing river	138
Boating as relating with the river	144
Moving along the river.....	148
Boating in a world of roads.....	152
Conclusion	154
7. Timber floating down the river:	
Managing flow and friction of people, wood and water	155
Introduction	155
River dwellers as rafters	156
Practicalities of timber floating	158
Dangers and skills	164
Managing the rhythms of timber transport.....	167
From livelihood to folklore.....	170
Conclusion	171
8. Roads across the catchment:	
Acceleration, transformation and the seasonal world.....	173
Introduction	173
Modes of movement	174
Permanent roads and their predecessors	176
Roads and river courses	185

Driving across the river: seasonal and permanent bridges	187
Roads and rhythms	189
Keli – movement in the world.....	191
Conclusion.....	193
9. The power of water:	
Hydroelectricity, river management and displacement	195
Introduction	195
In the hydropower hub	196
Producing, selling and supplying electricity	199
River dwellers and river-robbers.....	207
Managing hydropower and social relations	211
Observing the river.....	215
Hydropower developments as displacement	218
Conclusion	224
10. Rhythms, regularities and regulation: The temporality of the river 225	
Seasons and seasonality	226
Seasons as rhythms.....	235
Regularities and regulation on the river.....	240
Conclusion: Rhythms of transformation	253
11. Conclusion 257	
Dwelling along a river: Rhythmic flows and mutual construction	257
What is a river?	263
Thinking like a river	268
References	271