

What value matter? A discussion about the water values in public choices

Summary

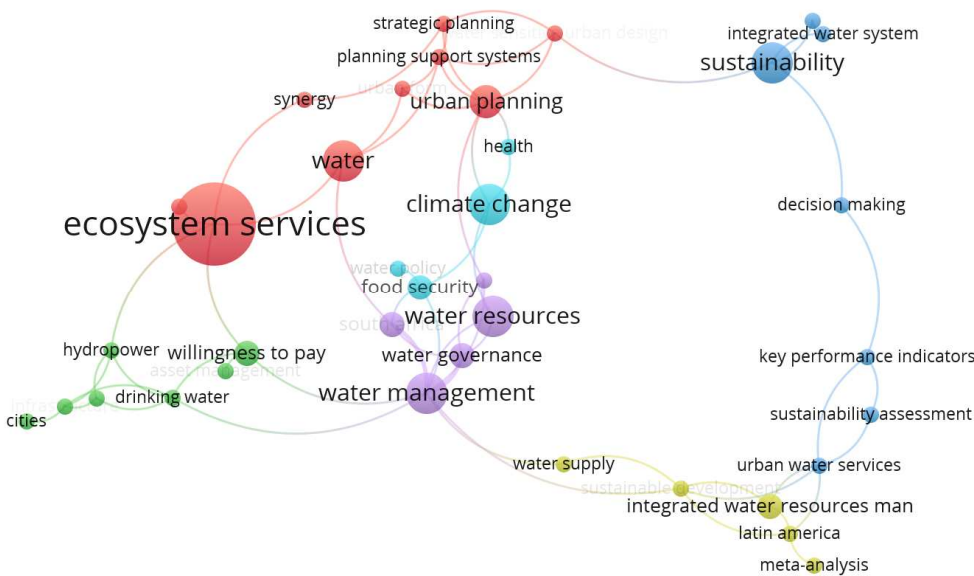
Extreme water incidents point out a value conflict surrounding the resource. While drought and floods echo the inadequate land and resource uses, the increase in social inequalities exposes the practical, physiological, and social consequences. The multiple value action throughout the water cycle also narrowed disputes to those that neglect its vital importance, and the constraints imposed to the services, such as low tariffs, and lack of local engagement, make sustainable water systems more difficult.

The main literature highlights the various faces assumed about the water value, now advocating for the predominance of economic, or by social and/or environmental values. This discussion is more complex in decision-making processes or according to the reality of individuals – in both cases distancing themselves from basics and common values achieved for the human being. An example of this is the growing effort in the sector to justify investments due to the generation of employment it provides, or the act against overbilling and corruption in addition to stimulating a better public budget usage, but it delays external benefits and diffuse impacts for society.

This thesis aims to develop a discussion on the values around water to qualify decision-making processes around its main benefits. It seeks to circumscribe common objectives and causalities currently recognized, suggesting the formulation of a framework to synthesize these relationships and elucidate contexts capable of fostering investments and offering greater sustainability of the resource.

Keywords

Water values, system approach, integrated water approach.



Keyword network of the water value systematic literatur review. (de Paula & Marques, 2022).



PhD student

Jean Marlo Pepino de Paula

PhD program

Territorial Engineering (IST, University of Lisbon)

Supervisor

Rui Cunha Marques (CERIS, IST, University of Lisbon)

Co-supervisor

-

Period

2020-2024

Funding

-