



Synthesis and summary of the Autumn School sessions

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Day 1 (morning) – Introduction to water governance and comparative analysis

- What Claudia explained:
 - Failures, definitions, concepts, research domain
 - Trends, diagnostic approach, complex and adaptive systems
 - Governance modes, gaps (OECD study), polycentricity, path-dependence, etc.
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - When does governance fail?
 - Polycentricity, centralization, decentralization
 - Scientific ‘buzz words’ develop faster than practice adopts new ideas; plans without implementation
 - Inclusion of normative aspects?

Day 1 (afternoon) – Participant presentations

- Many qualitative studies, some comparing a larger number of cases
- Wide variety of research themes:
 - Irrigation, urban water management, international/transboundary cooperation/agreements, polycentricity, participation, justice, reforms, climate change adaptation, power, collective action, social networks, Water Framework Directive, governance assessment, infrastructure investment, learning, nexus

Day 2 (morning) – Frameworks (focus on SES framework)

- What Claudia (B) explained:
 - Variety of frameworks, each of them helping to answer diverse research questions
 - IAD framework and the SES framework
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - Follow-up research: how are frameworks applied in practice? (not included in Binder et al paper)
 - Where to place values?
 - How to improve the GoSES database

Day 2 (afternoon) – MTF framework

- What Claudia (PW) and Christian explained:
 - Background of the framework (adaptive and integrated water management)
 - Focus on action situations with possibility to visualize development over time or policy phases
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - Application of MTF to urban water management
 - How to define an action situation, how to weight them?
 - Where to include development of technology?
 - How to study ‘power’ using the framework?

Day 3 (morning) – Property rights

- What Insa explained:
 - Ownership \neq property (right to use a thing)
 - Water rights, bundles of rights, gaining rights, development and changes of property rights
 - Common pool resources (common property resource does not exist) and property rights regimes
 - Land and water grabbing
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - ...



Day 3 (afternoon) – Water management in Eifel-Rur region

- What Antje explained:
 - Rivers and reservoirs in the region
 - Organisation, laws and duties/responsibilities
 - Projects (river restoration, reservoir management) and stakeholders
 - Strengths and weaknesses of the governance structures
- What we have seen:
 - Results of river restoration
 - Open-cast mines

Day 4 (morning) – Philosophy of science, causality

- What Peter explained:
 - Philosophy of science, ontology, epistemology
 - Types of explanations, theories of causation
 - Continuum from positivist to post-positivist and interpretivist
 - Critical realism (Peter's position – meanings are causes, focus on events, mechanisms, structures)
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - Inter, multi, cross, trans disciplinarity
 - Ostrom – a positivist approach
 - Combining ontologies

Day 4 (afternoon) – Comparative research design

- What Peter explained:
 - Comparison in interpretivist, positivism and critical realism
 - Most similar and most different design (vary system), Mill's method of agreement and difference (vary outcomes)
 - Primary / secondary / tertiary cases (situations)
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - When do we commit to an ontology? – Articulate and explain
 - Where does ontology come from and how does it change?
 - What is a structure? What is a conceptual model?





Day 5 (morning) – QCA approach

- What Stefan, Joanne and Christian explained:
 - QCA as a case-oriented, set-theoretic approach, balance between number of aspects and number of cases, formalizes and systematizes comparison, iterative process.
 - Outcome of interest, necessary and sufficient conditions
 - Indicators, thresholds, aggregation, decisions...
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - Philosophical underpinnings of QCA
 - Contextualization, aggregation, number of cases versus conditions, variation of outcome and normative aspects, ...

Day 5 (afternoon) – QCA techniques

- What Stefan and Christian explained:
 - From data matrix to truth table
 - Contradictions, limited diversity, consistency and coverage, ‘solutions’ (patterns to an outcome), interpretation
 - Challenges – many choices, need for documentation!
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - Decisions to be made – a subjective process
 - Causality in QCA – a matter of interpretation
 - What is needed before getting started?



Operational definition of 'sustainable use'

- Ecological: environmental quality, natural resource protection & risk avoidance in as far as related to observed rivalries (cf. 'good status')
- Economical: economic consequences of ecological degradation or improvement and of measures taken
- Social: social consequences of ecology and measures taken

Day 6 (morning) – Governance assessment

- What Hans explained:
 - Extent and coherence, public policy, property and use rights
 - Boundary spanning, integration of sectors
 - Governance Assessment Tool
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - IAD framework – focus on spontaneous governance and interest of public administration researchers in government
 - Relations/interactions between qualities
 - Translation of observation into recommendations and action
 - Inclusion of normative/ethical aspects (focus on supportiveness towards policy implementation, effectiveness)



Day 6 (afternoon) – Infrastructure, technology and institutions

- What Rolf explained:
 - SES framework (not model or theory) – focus on sustainability, policies, self governance, actor-centric
 - Importance of technological and socio-economic drivers
 - Economic perspectives, neo-classical, new and original inst.
 - Alignment of technology and institutions (related to levels)
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - How to include infrastructure in the SES framework?
 - What is a focal action situation? (Core coordination problem)
 - Applicability of critical transactions framework

Day 7 (morning) – Transdisciplinary research and communication

- What Joanne and Sören explained
 - Inter- and transdisciplinary research
 - Message box and the ‘so what’ question
 - Power of visuals – emotional brain
- What we discussed/questioned:
 - Defining a common problem – mismatch between societal problem and expertise of the scientist
 - Incentives and motivations for inter/transdisc. Research
 - Interest of the journalist and the researcher – what happens to your message when it is ‘out there’?