

Call for papers (session)

Micro-level resilience to water scarcity and overabundance in urban neighborhoods (since the early modern period)

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<http://planninghistory.org/conferences/delft-2016/>

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Answers and overall solutions found by municipalities and local governments for managing water scarcity or, inversely, overabundance (e.g. during floods or land drainage projects) have been the subject of numerous academic studies for large metropolises worldwide, for many historical periods. Therefore, most of the studies dealing with these “water tensions” in cities cover a large spatial scale, commonly related to the development and implementation of large water supply pipe networks, peri-urban wetland drainage projects or canalization of urban rivers for flood prevention and sanitary purposes.

In contrast, very few analyses exist about answers and resilience of urban communities at a micro-level such as a peri-urban settlement/village, a neighborhood or a household (with bottom-up approaches). For example, are there differences in responses to drought periods or flood events between people from neighborhoods hosting specific water-related guilds (tanners or dyers) or even between urban areas with water-centered life-support systems like irrigated farming and those that do not? Why do some cope with this kind of challenges more easily and better than others? How do households and neighborhoods adapt their practices and built surroundings to fluctuations in water availability? What are the consequences in terms of both risk control strategies and sustainable water resource management but also impacts on urban planning and the use of public space? Do neighborhoods in regions such as the Mediterranean basin, experiencing recurring droughts, exhibit a greater resilience? Is the adaptation of their communities easier than those from less drought stressed areas as in northern countries, or do they have as much trouble to cope with water shortages? And, if not, why?

This panel aims to explore the resilience and adaptation of both urban and peri-urban communities to local water scarcity and overabundance at a micro-level in connection with urban planning processes, from a historical perspective (early modern and modern period). Proposed papers can address the social and economic dimensions in people’s and communities’ answers to varying water availability (e.g. the shift from one local economic/farming system to another in order to counteract drought effects, new innovative and interactive/collaborative approaches to water use, integrated water and river policy, etc.) as well as adopted original technical solutions such as new potable water distribution systems. In this context, the role of spatial mapping (mapping of local available water resources) together with urban cartography as means of environmental knowledge and strategies of adaptation by contemporaries could also be investigated.

Even though proposals focusing on single-case studies will be considered, submissions addressing comparative approaches that can help shed new light on these issues are especially welcome, without geographical limitation.

An additional aim of this panel is to lay the production for a co-authored article about this topic.

If you are interested in contributing to this proposed panel (3-5 speakers), please contact promptly **Nicolas MAUGHAN** (Aix-Marseille University, France) and **Ellen JANSSENS** (University of Antwerp, Belgium) before next **December 31, 2015**.

Final abstracts (abstracts of about 500 words) are due **January 5, 2016**.

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