



# International Conference on Inland Waterscapes: Nature, Society and Culture in Hydrography

Udine, 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The conference aims to discuss the crucial importance of inland waterscapes as visible and intangible infrastructural networks within various national, regional and local contexts. We will tackle these questions from multidisciplinary perspectives and imagine new functions, roles and positions of and for water. Historic waterways contain elements such as bridges, lock systems, hydraulic factories, warehouses, and river port facilities that are increasingly recognized as industrial heritage assets. It is also important to consider the socio-cultural value of rivers, canals, lakes, lagoons, estuaries and other bodies of water. Inland waters, including city watersides, play pivotal roles in our everyday practices, experiences, biographies, and memories. The intangible heritages of inland waters (re)created by a continual interplay between various individual and collective memories and histories result in hybrid watery spaces and places. Therefore, we need to pay attention to both the politics and grand narratives about waterscapes as well as personal memories, reflections, local traditions and vernacular practices.

The conference aims to highlight the crucial importance of inland waters that are simultaneously linear and networked watery places. Waterscapes are socio-natural hybrids, results of environmental processes and a variety of human and non-human agencies and, as such, they merit our attention. We suggest understanding hybridity in terms of cultural ecosystems, socio-cultural adaptability and becoming. With this conference we would like to encourage scholars to move beyond the strictly figurative use of liquidity, while retaining its central notions of uncertainty, flux and constant motion.

A more sophisticated dialogue with inland waterscapes should be better grounded on the consciousness that we are dealing with the increasing alteration of the natural dynamics normally associated with the hydrological cycle. Year after year, most of the rivers in our planet are sending us specific seasonal signals either about the reduction of flows and sediments to nourish floodplains and coastal regions or the increasing flow of glacial melt-waters than can cause floods downstream. Furthermore, many inland waterscapes are running dry for increasingly longer periods, causing changes in our watery senses of place.

The conference will therefore track the transformations of inland waterscapes and discuss them not only as meaningful sites for transport, dwelling, work, (urban) regeneration, tourism, and leisure, but also as a repository of personal stories, increasingly being affected by the perception that major transitions are underway. In order to understand them better, we propose a flat ontology of watery materialities, infrastructures, policies, narratives and everyday experiences. The aim is to bring together not only academics but also other stakeholders such as policymakers, volunteers and practitioners who deal with water in order to encourage fruitful dialogue.

The conference is organized by the University of Udine (Italy), Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), the River Cities Network (Netherlands) and Shima Journal (Australia), in collaboration with the Global Network of Water Museums – WAMU-NET and with the support of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, University of Udine and River Cities Network.

#### Scientific Advisory Board

Philip Hayward –Western Sydney University, Australia

Maarja Kaaristo – Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Satya Maia Patchineelam – River Cities Network and IHS of Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL

Francesco Vallerani – Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Francesco Visentin – University of Udine, Italy

#### Keynote speakers

Ana De Francesco – Independent Researcher, Brasil

Veronica Strang – Oxford University, UK

Francesco Vallerani - Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

#### Chairs and discussants

Ben Bowles – SOAS - University of London, UK

Philip Hayward –Western Sydney University, Australia

Maarja Kaaristo – Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Davide Papotti – University of Parma, Italy

Satya Maia Patchineelam – River Cities Network and IHS of Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL

Paul Rabé – IIAS, Leiden University and IHS, Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL

Francesco Visentin – University of Udine, Italy

#### Organization Committee

Anna Brusarosco - University of Udine, Italy

Federico Venturini - University of Udine, Italy

Lisa Zecchin - University of Padua, Italy



# Program

## Day 1

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

Palazzo Garzolini - Di Toppo Wassermann  
Via Gemona 92 – Udine, Pasolini Room

14.30-16.45 **Registration**

16.45-17.40 **Welcome and institutional greetings**

Roberto Pinton – Rector of the University of Udine

Fabio Cella – Director of the Soil Protection Service, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

Fabiana Fusco – Director of the Department of languages and literatures, communication, education and society, University of Udine

Paul Rabé – Coordinator River Cities Network

**Introduction to the Conference**

Francesco Visentin

17.45-18.45 **Plenary Session: Keynote**

Veronica Strang

*“A City Built With Water: elemental co-creativity in the Venetian lagoon”*

chaired by Maarja Kaaristo

18.45-20.30 **Welcome Aperitif**

## Day 2

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024

Palazzo Antonini - Cernazai  
Via T. Petrarco 8 - Udine

8.30-11.15 **Registration**

9.00-11.15 **Parallel Sessions 1a-2a**

11.15-11.45 **Coffee break**

11.45-12.45 **Plenary Session: Keynote**

Francesco Vallerani

*“Water mobility heritage and fluvial adventures: The enchantment of waterscapes as environmental apprenticeship”*

chaired by Paul Rabé

12.45-14.00 **Lunch time**

14.00-16.15 **Parallel Sessions 1b-2b**

16.15-16.30 **Coffee break**

16.30-18.45 **Parallel Sessions 3a-4a**



## Day 3

Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

Palazzo Antonini - Cernazai

Via T. Petrarco 8 – Udine

- 9.00-11.15 **Parallel Sessions 3b-4b**
- 11.15-11.45 **Coffee break**
- 11.45-12.45 **Plenary Session: Keynote**  
Ana De Francesco  
*“From ancestral pathways to climate emergency: the centrality of rivers in an Amazonian perspective”*  
chaired by Philip Hayward
- 12.45-14.15 **Lunch time**
- 14.15-15.30 **Plenary Session: New research perspectives from sessions**  
Ben Bowles, Maarja Kaaristo, Satya Patchineelam, Davide Papotti, moderated by Philip Hayward
- 15.30-16.00 **Coffee break**
- 16.00-17.30 **Plenary Session: Final Round Table, conclusions and remarks**  
Ana De Francesco, Veronica Strang, Francesco Vallerani, moderated by Paul Rabé
- 20.00 **Gala Dinner (optional)**

## Day 4

Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

- 9.00-18.00 **Field Trip (optional)**  
River Stella and Marano Lagoon  
– including lunch in a *Casone*  
(traditional fisher house)



# Conference program

All the oral presentations should be done in English. A maximum of 17-18 minutes will be reserved per presentation.

## Sessions 1a-1b Entangled waters: memories, stories, heritage and landscape

Ch. Maarja Kaaristo - Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 – 9.00-11.15

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 3)

1. *Felipa FERNANDES*  
Waterscapes, memory, and tourism: poetics, materiality, and place-making around the levadas of Madeira Island
2. *Peter GOGGIN*  
Tempe Town Lake and the Salt River: The Rhetorical Complexities of a Desert Waterway Symbiosis
3. *William BAINBRIDGE*  
Literary Landscapes: The Lake District's Journey from Romantic Reverie to Global Heritage Site
4. *Massimo CAPULLI*  
The cultural landscape of Stella River: the results of the underwater archaeological research
5. *Veronica DELLA DORA*  
Adrift along the River of Time: Waterscapes as Metaphors

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 – 14.00-16.15

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 3)

6. *Megan BUCKNUM, Jennifer KITSON*  
Cultivating hydrophilic belonging through all-ages storytelling
7. *Morgan SLEEPER, Emi BOONIN*  
Il pianeta dell'acqua: "Aria"'s Neo-Venezia as a utopian aquapelago
8. *Dan HIKUROA, Anne SALMOND, Billie LYTHBERG, Gary BRIERLEY*  
Let the River Speak (Part I)
9. *Dan HIKUROA, Anne SALMOND, Billie LYTHBERG, Gary BRIERLEY*  
Let the River Speak (Part II)
10. *Omar RODRIGUEZ*  
From Tenochtitlan watershed to the urban Valley of Mexico. Historical visions and projects and future alternatives
11. *Tracie L. WILSON*  
"Sing the Delta": Mississippi River Stories and Materialities



# Sessions 2a-2b Living with water: practices, identities, communities, placemaking

Ch. Ben Bowles – SOAS, University of London, UK

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 – 9.00-11.15

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 2)

1. *Amitangshu ACHARYA*  
Memories of water: ponds and placemaking in the Bengal Delta
2. *Cornelia DLABAJA*  
Venice: waterways and infrastructures in the rhythm of the city
3. *Anna SCAINI, Chiara SCAINI*  
Uncovering river values: exploring the invisible bond between people and their local river
4. *Agata HANDLEY, David ALLEN*  
Kali River Rapids: From the Sublime to the Eco-Sublime
5. *Isabelle DONETCH*  
Imagining the Mapocho: Power and Resistance Along the River

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 – 14.00-16.15

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 2)

6. *Senija CAUSEVIC*  
Being 'free' from it all: living off-grid on the inland waterways
7. *Julia FALLON*  
A tale of two marinas: living aboard in Alvechurch
8. *Helen UNDERHILL*  
Eco-Mooring Zone Anxieties: Atmospheres of exclusion and mistrust on London's canals
9. *Chiara SPADARO*  
Visible flow. New riverine concept in Vicenza: Retrone (Italy)
10. *Jarno VALKONEN, Mikko ÄIJALA, Sanna VALKONEN*  
Homesick at home: the effects of the river Teno salmon fishing ban on the local community
11. *Yu WEIYING*  
Uncharted Rivers and Islanding Infrastructure: Ecological Space, Culture, and the Aesthetics of Chongming Island's Waterways

# Sessions 3a-3b Hydropolitics and water management: practices and policies in the climate crisis

Ch. Davide Papotti – University of Parma, Italy

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 – 16.30-18.45

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 3)

1. *Matteo D'AMBROS*  
A natural richness at risk of man- made waterscapes in the North-East of Italy. The case of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region's Lowlands
2. *Michael EVANS*  
Property, Ecology, and the Dynamics of Flood Mitigation along the Okanagan Waterway
3. *Gabrielle FENTON*  
Tractors, Pumps and Wetness in the Scheldt's Grasslands
4. *Emanuele FANTINI*  
Back to the Hydropolis: plurality, agency and storytelling in media narratives on the Nile and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam
5. *Giacomo PETTENATI, C. FERRARIO*  
Waterscapes in transition. Reflections on the future of the risaie landscape in Eastern Piedmont
6. *Daniel FLORENTIN*  
Maintaining water networks in climate-stressed era: a transformed relationship with natural resources?

Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 – 9.00-11.15

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 3)

7. *Ilan KELMAN*  
Floodscapes for Inland Waterscapes: Risk Does Not Mean Disaster
8. *Chiara SCAINI, Anna SCAINI, Sandro FABBRO*  
Unraveling the link between river conservation and disaster risk reduction: towards ecosystem-based land use planning for the Tagliamento river, Italy
9. *Mauro IOB, Marta VILLA*  
Water and Collective Land Ownerships: conflicts over territories of life, heritage of future generations. Analysis of case studies of untitled occupations on water bodies or for their exploitation of water with the view of jurisprudence and anthropology applied in the light of Law 168/2017
10. *Anna BRUSAROSCO*  
River Contract in between: analyzing a water governance tool through the lens of Rooted Water Collectives framework
11. *Justine MASSEAU*  
Coexistence of customary water rights and irrigation liberalization (Santo Antão, Cape Verde)



# Sessions 4a-4b Waterfront regeneration, redevelopment, planning and governance

Ch. Satya Maia Patchineelam - River Cities Network and IHS of Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 – 16.30-18.45

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 2)

1. *Constantin CANAVAS*  
Waterscapes as shaped by traditional technologies: Comparing concepts of preserving and exhibiting underground water channels (qanāt/kārīz) in Iran and China
2. *Maria Gemma GRILLOTTI Di GIACOMO, Pierluigi DE FELICE, Marilena LABIANCA*  
Water landscapes in the heart of the Italian peninsula: a development project between instances of valorisation and participatory management
3. *Tomasz FISIĄK, Philip HAYWARD, Christian FLEURY*  
Residual riverine identity and metropolitan heritage symbolism in 20th and 21st century Łódź (Poland)
4. *Chaozhong TAN, Yucheng SU, Alan FRITSCH, Pao CANU, Yixin CAO, Karl Matthias WANTZEN, Alvin Manuel VAZHAYIL*  
Personal factors affect the hump-shaped relationship between public preference and wildness of urban lake areas in France and China
5. *Alberto BARAUSSE, Elena BENETELLO, Marco Giovanni CARRER, Alex FACCIN, Dario SMANIA, Luca PALMERI*  
Environmental management and conservation as chances to promote the sustainable regeneration of inland surface waters: lessons from Venice and Padova, Italy

Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 – 9.00-11.15

Palazzo Antonini – Cernazai, Via T. Petracco 8 – Udine (Room 2)

6. *Federico VENTURINI, Fausto DI QUARTO*  
Navigating River Contracts: a process for Empowering Local Communities or a tool for the Depoliticization of Nature?
7. *Marie BELLAND*  
What's in a pond? Dispossession and becoming with brackish water in periurban Semarang
8. *Sraman SIRCAR*  
Where The Sacred Flows: Remaking the Inland Waterscapes of the Ganga in the Bengal Delta in India
9. *Agata STANISZ*  
Local "don't look up" - when expert knowledge becomes bottom-up. The anthropology of the Wełna river that is no longer a thing
10. *Rita VIANELLO*  
Technocentric Visions of the Environment. The Case Study of the Venetian Lagoon and the Safeguard Project MOSE
11. *Lisa ZECCHIN*  
Old waterways in Padova: the history of a broken bond and the issues to reconnect the local community to its canals