

Water governance in times of climate change:

Towards a new balance of resistance and resilience?

Call for papers

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Water management is under increasing pressure to adapt to the expected and possible impacts of climate change. The possible consequences are well-known: sea-level rise, higher river discharges, more intense rainfall and periods of drought, and more salt water intrusion. Their local impact is highly different, but especially delta areas face the same challenges.

In essence this pressure can have two possible effects: it can urge governments to increase societal resistance against water floods, water nuisance or water shortage by doing investments in stronger dikes, more sewage capacity and water storage. But it can also form a trigger for governments to think about ways to make society more resilient by more adaptive measures based upon the idea that the consequences of climate change cannot be completely excluded or taken away.

From a governance perspective altering the existing balance between resistance and resilience is a complex challenge because this balance is deeply rooted, not only in cultural beliefs and in the practices of water authorities, but also in policies, laws and regulations, financial arrangements or insurance schemes and planning methods.

In this special issue we will explore questions like how governments try to achieve a balance between a resistance and a resilience approach in water management or alter the existing balance, which opportunities and barriers they are confronted with when trying to do so and what kind of institutional arrangements they develop and implement. In this special issue we aim to approach these questions and issues from both a theoretical and an international comparative perspective. We thus invite papers that address:

- Normative governance principles and policy concepts reconciling resilience and resistance
- Planning instruments contributing to a (new) balance between resistance and resilience
- Process, project and program management approaches used to change the balance between resistance and resilience
- Public and private roles in organizing resilience and resistance
- Implementation challenges attended with changing the balance between resilience and resistance
- Financial arrangements that fit both resilience and resistance
- Leadership styles to deal with tensions between resilience and resistance

We will try to select a broad selection of papers representing as much country cases as possible. Within each paper we strive for a combination of theoretical notions and empirical analysis.

Abstracts have to be submitted before February 15, 2012 to: Arwin van Buuren, associate professor of Public Administration and co-editor of the International Journal of Water Governance, Erasmus University Rotterdam, e-mail: vanbuuren@fsw.eur.nl. Selection of abstracts will be done before 15 March, 2012. Full papers have to be submitted before 15 June, 2012. All papers will be previewed by the guest editors with regard to their fit in the special issue. Then an independent double-blind peer review is organized. Approximately 10 papers will be included in the special issue (planned for the end of 2012).