



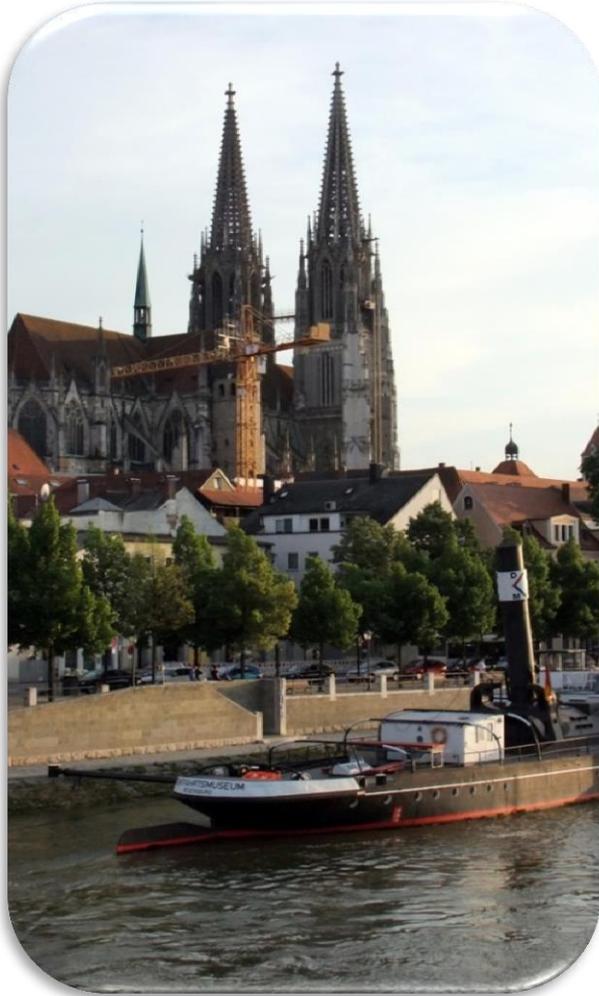
Riverscape London

Managing urban riverscapes: towards a cultural perspective of land and water governance



Riverscape Hamburg

The variety of urban riverscapes



Managing urban Riverscapes: towards a cultural perspective of land and water governance

1. Just a question of governance – an actor-centred view
2. The role of culture in an actor-centred approach
3. Cultural perspective of land and water governance

1. Just a question of governance – an actor-centred view

Urban riverscapes and its horizontal frontiers ...

... housing, local recreation, sports



... heritage, tourism, nature conservation



... flood protection, shipping, infrastructure



2. The role of culture in an actor-centred approach

Culture is ambiguous, but relevant

„Culture is the world conception and the values, moral norms and actual behaviour – as well as material and immaterial results thereof – which people take over from a past generation; and which make them different in various ways from people belonging to other cultures.“

Gullestrup 2009

The cultural perspective is about a society's cultural imprint, meaning the cultural behaviour of all involved actors, different cultural techniques, cultural attitudes and their interaction with each other.

Planning culture as analytical framework

- Is not about good or bad culture
- But focusses on an aspect less regarded in the literature yet.
- Can be analysed by a society's culture in general and three main analytical levels:
 - visible artefacts,
 - The planning context and
 - organizational cultures.

Levin-Keitel/ Sondermann 2014

2. The role of culture in an actor-centred approach

Visible artefacts



→ Cultural witnesses in stone and starting point today

Organizational cultures



→ Constellations and Interactions amongst and between groups of actors

- traditions and orientations
- concepts of democracy and justice
- effectiveness of their outputs
- self-conception and ability to innovate

Planning context

	Actor	Rationality
PUBLIC SECTOR	Water management agencies	Water supply, water quality, environmental renaturation Implementing sectoral planning
	Local planning authority	Urban planning and development, integrated issues community planning sovereignty
	Environmental authority	Environmental renaturation, biodiversity, ecosystem approach (flora and fauna) Implementing sectoral planning
	Transport planning authorities	Infrastructure and mobility, riverscapes as linear connections in the dense city centre and as obstacles to overcome Implementing sectoral planning
	City council	Political decisions and strategies oriented in legislative terms; policy positioning
	Historic conservation authorities	Protection of historical, natural and cultural monuments Sectoral planning
PRIVATE SECTOR	Tourism	Touristic economy and industries Profit-oriented optimisation
	Real estate industry	Waterfront development, rediscovery of urban waters for economic uses, regional identity
	Port industry	rediscovery of urban waters for economic uses
	Citizens and interest groups	Various rationalities, e.g. local residents, associations or initiatives for fishing, historic conservation, accessibility of river banks, etc.

→ Planning conditions and the institutional system

3. Cultural perspective of land and water governance

Exemplary outline of self-perceptions (water management agency and urban planning authorities)



Water management agencies

- sectoral planning agencies with **high self-confidence**, further strengthened by numerous developments and versatile competence on all levels.
- The reorganisation of the water management agencies led to a **very modern, open-minded and innovation-friendly authority**, on the one hand acting in area-based teams on all levels and scales and on the other hand in thematic expert teams transferring new knowledge and experiences directly in all levels.
- interview partners were able to draw a **greater vision of the rivers' development** and the urban water development (invisible underlying core assumptions).



Urban planning authorities

- organisation with **multiple organisational cultures** and targets
- influenced by **political** statements, positioning and strategies and inter-administrative collaboration
- But, planning is normative; planning implies the handling of societal values and norms about how the urban society wants to live in the future and often urban planning authorities are seen as **advocates for the common good and public welfare**.
- Their self-confidence depends very much on the **organisational leadership**, the functions and tasks they occupy as well as their **freedom of decision-making** and their willingness to be involved.

3. Cultural perspective of land and water governance

About the added value of a cultural perspective on land and water governance

- **Culture matters**
land and water governance based on the same legislation, with similar actors differ because of the cultural dimension
- **deeper understanding of integrated planning**
the cultural embeddedness of planning processes enriches the theoretical debate as well as the planning practice (black box of integration)
- **to identify obstacles and weaknesses**
understanding the norms and values, the language or the self-perception of the involved actors helps to overcome misunderstandings

Thank you.

Meike Levin-Keitel
levin@umwelt.uni-hannover.de