



Annual Report 2024

IAH SOCIO-HYDROGEOLOGY NETWORK (IAH-SHG)

1. INTRODUCTION

IAH-SHG was officially launched as a new network of the International Association of Hydrogeologists at the International IAH congress held in Malaga (Spain) in September 2019. The goal of it is to promote the integration of social sciences into hydrogeology and to include local perspectives into hydrogeological assessment by developing concepts how inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation and research can be carried out. Furthermore, IAH-SHG aims to highlight the importance of science communication and to serve as a platform for hydrogeologists who already work at the interface between society and groundwater.

2. IAH-SHG STRUCTURE AND STEERING COMMITTEE

The Network is currently chaired by Viviana Re (Italy) and co-chaired by Theresa Frommen (Germany) and Shrikant Limaye (India), who form the IAH-SHG Steering Committee.

A group of task team members have been added to provide specific contribution to the Network functioning:

Bárbara Zambelli, Task Team Leader for Gender and Groundwater, Brazil & Germany;

Luka Vucinic, Task Team Leader for EDI

3. 2024 ACTIVITIES

Below, a detailed list of all the IAH-SHG initiatives undertaken in 2024 is reported.

- **SPECIAL SESSION** at the **IAH2024 in Davos** (September 9th, 2024)
Topic : 3.04. **People and Groundwater in the Anthropocene - Socio-hydrogeology for addressing human-groundwater relationships in a changing world.**
Chair(s): Prof. Dr. Viviana Re (Pisa University), Dr. Xander Huggins (University of Victoria)



- **LAUNCH OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE** “Advances in Socio-Hydrogeology” on Hydrogeology Journal.

The Special Issue will demonstrate the progress of socio-hydrogeological research to date, and we aim to include a balanced coverage across a global geography. We invited papers that cover a range of themes in socio-hydrogeology and encourage alternative epistemologies and ontologies. Themes will include, but are not restricted to:

- Groundwater, inclusion and justice
- Gender and groundwater
- Cultural values, knowledge and understandings of groundwater
- Participatory approaches to groundwater science and collaboration
- Communication of groundwater knowledge (including to different demographics)
- Conceptualising groundwater through a socio-cultural lens
- Groundwater management and governance
- Socio-economic understandings of groundwater

In total, the 30 authors have been invited to contribute to the Special Issue articles.

The Editorial Team for this Special Issue of Hydrogeology Journal is listed below (in alphabetic order):

Sarah Bourke	University of Western Australia, Australia
Theresa Frommen	Hessian Agency for Nature Conservation, Environment and Geology, Germany
Adrian Healy	Cardiff University, UK
Ana Maciel de Carvalho	Federal University of Jequitinhonha and Mucuri Valleys, Brazil
Gettie Mulokoshi-Shiinda	Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia
Viviana Re	Pisa University, Italy
David W. Walker	Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), Netherlands

- **FREE SPONSORSHIP** of the event organized by IAH-Italy “**Blue communities: verso la pace e la giustizia idrica**” held in Florence on December 10th, 2024:
<https://www.iahitaly.it/news/eventi/incontro-tematico-blue-communities-pace-giustizia-idrica>
- **INTEGRATION OF A SECTION** “Groundwater and Art” on the IAH-SHG website and publication of the poem “**People and Groundwater: A Dialectic Poem**” by Sarang Kulkarni.



This new section would allow IAH-SHG to promote further the integration of multiple ways of knowledge and outreach in hydrogeology.

- **LAISON with Human Right to Water**

IAH-SHG continue serving as IAH contact point with Human Right to Water.

- **CONTRIBUTION TO THE WOLRD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2025:** The Network Chair of IAH-SHG, Viviana Re, was delegated by the Council to coordinate the IAH contribution to the UN-WWDR2025 (Water and Gender)

February 2025

Viviana Re