



water

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The New Normal: Water Use Conflicts in the 21st Century

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Message from the Guest Editor

Climate change is here now. WMO warns that heatwaves and floods, which used to be “once in a century” events, are becoming more regular occurrences. More erratic rainfall patterns are the new normal.

At the same time, landowners and farmers all over the world compensate for decreased water availability by increasing groundwater use. Excessive water use fulfills unnecessary and conspicuous lifestyle needs of a narrow high-income population group. Climate projections show that even if the global temperature increase is limited to below 2 degrees, freshwater availability will decrease globally by about 20%. If we miss this climate policy target, freshwater availability might decrease globally by 50% by the end of the century.

For this Special Issue, I invite contributions highlighting water use conflicts, inequalities, and social justice issues focusing not only on underprivileged social groups, but also exploring water use patterns among the wealthy and privileged, presenting possible solutions and best practices from around the world. We can adapt, but we also need very rapid lifestyle, behavioral, and social norm changes to open up to new solutions.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

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