

Special Issue

Modernization and Sustainability of Urban Water Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

The water sector entails a fixed and extensive infrastructure to deliver services. However, the current infrastructure systems are under pressure and in dire need of maintenance, investment, rethinking and reform. While liberalization and new public management have generally been pivotal in shaping ongoing reforms, we find a wide diversity of institutional arrangements—with many failed examples. This Special Issue aims at exploring the interlinkages between infrastructure and institutional systems in the water sector. Important topics include the change of respective institutional arrangements over time and the consequences in terms of accountability and legitimacy, the link between big trends in water infrastructure reforms and (conflicts in) the policy process, or the questioning of centralized infrastructure in terms of efficient service delivery and types of institutional arrangements. Empirical and theoretical contributions are welcome.

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