

REVIEW OF THE BRIGHT AND BLIND SPOTS OF WATER RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

By Daniel Prieto Garra¹

Very valuable and excellent work!!!. It added both very valuable innovative methodology for meta-analysis works and a great information from LAC research works on water resources.

Of course, I have nothing to add to your excellent innovative methodology. I am just adding some comments from my point of views that can help the discussion of your findings and that I hope could be useful for the participatory review of your article (a review process that I celebrate and congratulate you).

Introduction

I agree with most of your statements in this section **since** they are close of an objective characterization of the water resources and its problems in LAC

Line 20 and the following. Just as simple information, I would like to highlight than Argentina, like Brazil and Chile, is another clear example of the uneven distribution of the Water Resources in the continent. Water rich areas, are only 24% of the country territory, own 82% of the surface water resources ...Arid and semi-arid regions, the complement 76 % of the country area has only has 18% of the surface water resource and 80% of them are in the Patagonia. In Argentinean case, 72% of its population live in rich water areas where the population density reach 21 inhabitants/km², while in the semi-arid and arid region it is only 5.9 inhabitants/km².

The above does not mean that Argentina has water resources problems only in the semi and arid region. Rich water areas suffer periodic floods that affect mainly more poor people that live in vulnerable areas of the big cities and also suffers of frequent dry short period during the summer that affect mainly the agricultural production the principal base of Argentinean economy. Water availability and water quality are of course the main water related problem in the Arid and Semi-arid regions. Natural derived water resources problems are amplified in both area by a lack of a professional water management due financial constraints and institutional and human resources weakness.

Line 33. "Water management is a relatively young field of study and suffers from a lack or interdisciplinary and integrative perspective....." Crucial statement from my point of view.

Line 59. How do you explain the low number of response to your invitation to corresponding authors?

Subsection 4.2.2

Line 320 to 325. In my opinion this lines pointed out one of the main problems of the LAC's researchers. The unequal distribution of funds within the country (always large research group of the rich areas of the country access to fund, even those competitive ones) and the lack of

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continuity of the political and economic context that affect research support policies in our countries. Due these points, LAC researcher strategies focus on look for collaboration with researchers from USA and especially from Europe, (more funds can be find in this area). I would add that there is a lack of incentive from our governments to support and strength LAC's research network. I limited positive example that I know, was the strategy for foment regional research network of the PROCISUR (a cooperative program of the agricultural research institute from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) during the first decade of 2000's. However as soon the institutes had financial problem related with neo-liberal policies implement by the government of the region it was discontinued.

Lines 357 to 359. I agree with your finding about water research in social sciences based on the meta review of peer-reviewed literature. Nevertheless I consider that your focus on peer-reviewed literature bias your findings. From my personal experience, I have the qualitative idea that research on socio-technical problems on water management in LA has increased sharply during the last decade. Findings of this research (mainly study cases and/or participative research with local actors) are seldom submitted to peer-reviewed journals. They are mainly reported in books (see Boelens et al, 1998, 2002, 2005), regional congress, or directly translated to diffusion publications.

From the above I would recommended you to explore this type of publication in a future update of your brilliant, useful and great works.