

IAH Worldwide Groundwater Congress 2023 South Africa

Main Topic: The connectedness of groundwater and planetary sciences

Special Session IAH-SHG

The connectedness of groundwater and human systems

Traditional hydrogeological approaches generally tackle the complexity of the human-groundwater interactions by focusing on the pressures people exert on groundwater quality and quantity. Conversely, socio-hydrogeology proposes to integrate these observations with an assessment on how scarce and polluted groundwater shapes human livelihood and wellbeing.

This session aims at discussing approaches, techniques and case studies focused on inter- and transdisciplinary assessments on the connections between humans and groundwater at different scales:

- time scale, i.e., how to bridge temporal gaps (being aware that the current state of groundwater resources is a direct consequence of past actions) and raise awareness (knowing that present actions are shaping the future and sustainability of groundwater)
- spatial scale, i.e., how to integrate the complexity of aquifer dynamics and global groundwater sustainability with practical solutions at local scale.
- social scale, e.g., how different forms of social organization are shaped by and shape given groundwater resources

Contributions on innovative communication and outreach approaches rooted in local cultural background, and on tools to increase the visibility of hidden groundwater resources are also encouraged.

Session conveners: Viviana Re, Theresa Frommen and Mohammed Hammie