



Annual Report 2025

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.

Subsequently, two new Steering Committee members joined :

- 1) Bárbara Zambelli, as Task Team Leader for Gender and Groundwater;
- 2) Luca Vucinic

3. 2025 ACTIVITIES

Below, a detailed list of all the IAH-SHG initiatives undertaken in 2025 is reported.

- **MANAGEMENT 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



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- 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, and IAH SC members are involved in managing and/or reviewing submitted contributions.

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

- **SPECIAL SESSION** at 52nd IAH congress in Melbourne, Australia, 15-19 September 2025: Socio-hydrogeology: Bridging Technical Expertise with Practical Societal Needs, Chaired by Barbara Zambelli.
- **Submission of SPECIAL SESSION proposal for the 53rd IAH CONGRESS:**
Advancing Socio-Hydrogeology: Bridging Groundwater Science, Social Systems, and Decision-Making
Proposed chairs:
 - Viviana Re, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Pisa
Email: viviana.re@unipi.it
 - Xander Huggins, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia
Email: xander.huggins@ubc.ca
 - Adrian Healy, School of Geography and Planning, Water Research Institute, Cardiff University
Email: Healya2@cardiff.ac.uk
- **Liaison with IAH-LUNA:** Viviana Re become member of IAH-LUNA Network.