

Propositions

Belonging to the thesis 'Co-valuation of water: An institutional perspective on valuation in spatial water management', to be defended by Nienke van Schie on June 18th 2010, 13.30 hrs, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

1. Dutch water management and spatial development show an increasing overlap in their aims for participation and integral decision-making, resulting in a development towards a field of 'spatial water management'.
2. An interactive approach in decision-making concerns not only the stage of information gathering or scenario development; it also concerns evaluation, and informing decision-makers on the insights gathered.
3. Considering that, (1) according to the public, their values on water are plural, often incommensurate, and dependent on the setting in which they are expressed; and (2) interactive decision-making on Dutch spatial water management at regional level aims for societal support, Societal Cost Benefit Analysis (SCBA) is neither appropriate nor applicable as *the only valid* evaluation method in this context.
4. Stakeholder preferences in spatial water management, and the values underlying these preferences, are shaped and articulated in a collaborative process of learning, construction and adaptation.
5. Participatory action research enables the researcher to study actual (decision-making) behaviour, and influences on this behaviour that may escape researchers using methods of research that apply a more distanced and objective point of view.
6. In social sciences, assumptions on decision-making behaviour should reflect actual behaviour; it is not only the predictive power of assumptions and models on decision-making that counts (opposing, for example, Friedman 1953, 2007 [1962]; Dietz, Heiman and Kroese 1996).
7. One of the biggest unsolved problems of society is a taboo: human waste management. Another, equally pressing problem is more media friendly: clean drinking water for all. Ironically, addressing the first may solve the second for the greater part. (Based on George, R. (2008). *The big necessity. Adventures in the world of human waste.* Portobello Books.)

8. To do or not to do something 'in principle' (but not right now), implies that it is not a matter of principle.
9. The use of QALY's (Quality Adjusted Life Years) to decide on investments in medical treatments results in discrimination in health care at the expense of retired, ill or handicapped people.
10. Individuals apply a number of rationalities, which may result in different valuations for the same object at the same time. Their choice dilemma comprises the question which rationality, which weighing of preferences they prefer. (Based on: Drenth, M. (2000). *Een pruik van paardenhaar & Over het lezen van een boek. Amartya Sen en de onmogelijkheid van de Paretiaanse liberaal. Katholieke Universiteit Brabant.*)
11. Once you know what you don't know, you almost know it.