



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia



Inland hydrography, blue corridors, riverscapes and small waterfronts

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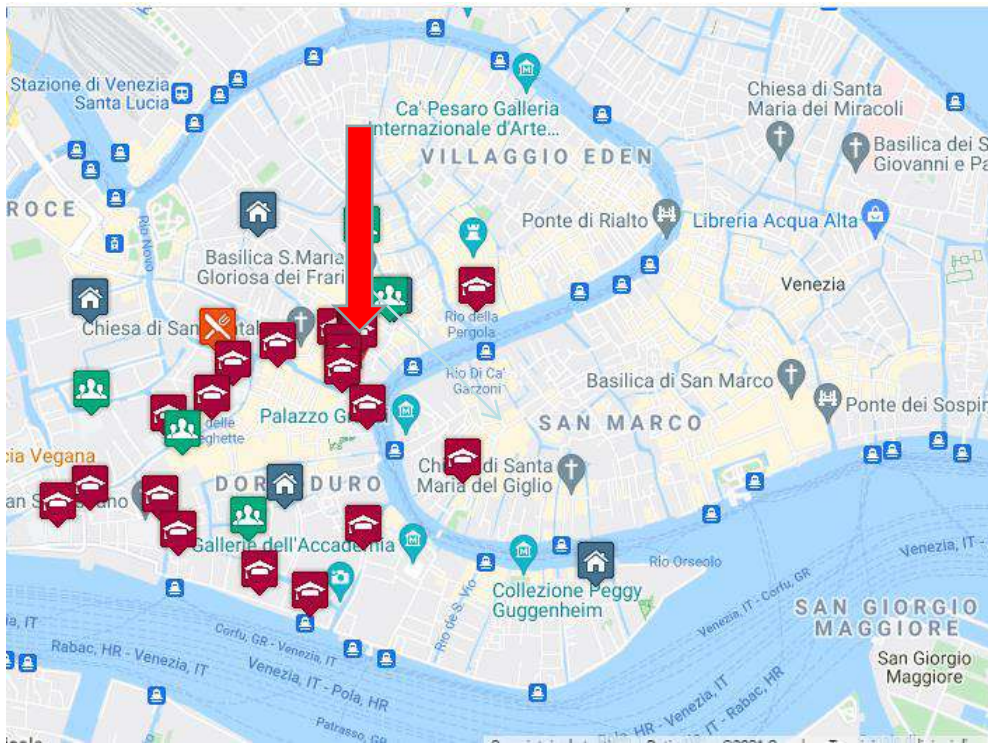
UNESCO Chair | Water, Heritage and Sustainable Development

**BEYOND
MUSEUMS**

Tools for Promoting the Natural
and Cultural Water Heritage

Date

Unesco Chair hosted in Ca' Bottacin



Summary

- 1) **Introducing watery heritage**
- 2) **The idea of ‘hydrophilia’**
- 3) **The recovery of waterscapes as ‘blue spaces’**

1) Introducing water heritage



Surface hydrography as water heritage

(Antonio Vestri, 1709, watercolor map)



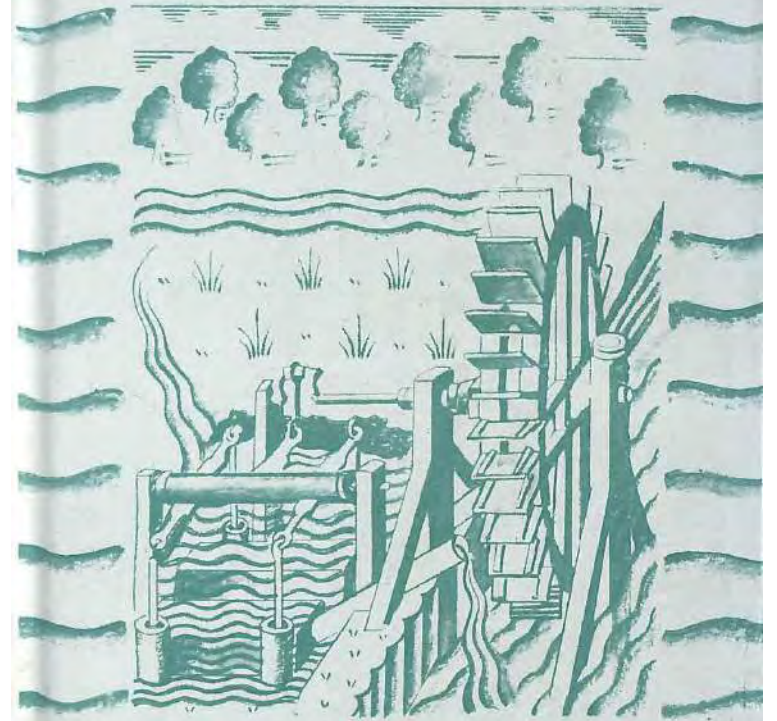
**SOCIAL FORMATION AND
SYMBOLIC LANDSCAPE**

With a new introduction



Denis E. Cosgrove

**WATER, ENGINEERING
AND LANDSCAPE**



EDITED BY
DENIS COSGROVE & GEOFF PETTS



A Story of Six Rivers

History, Culture and Ecology

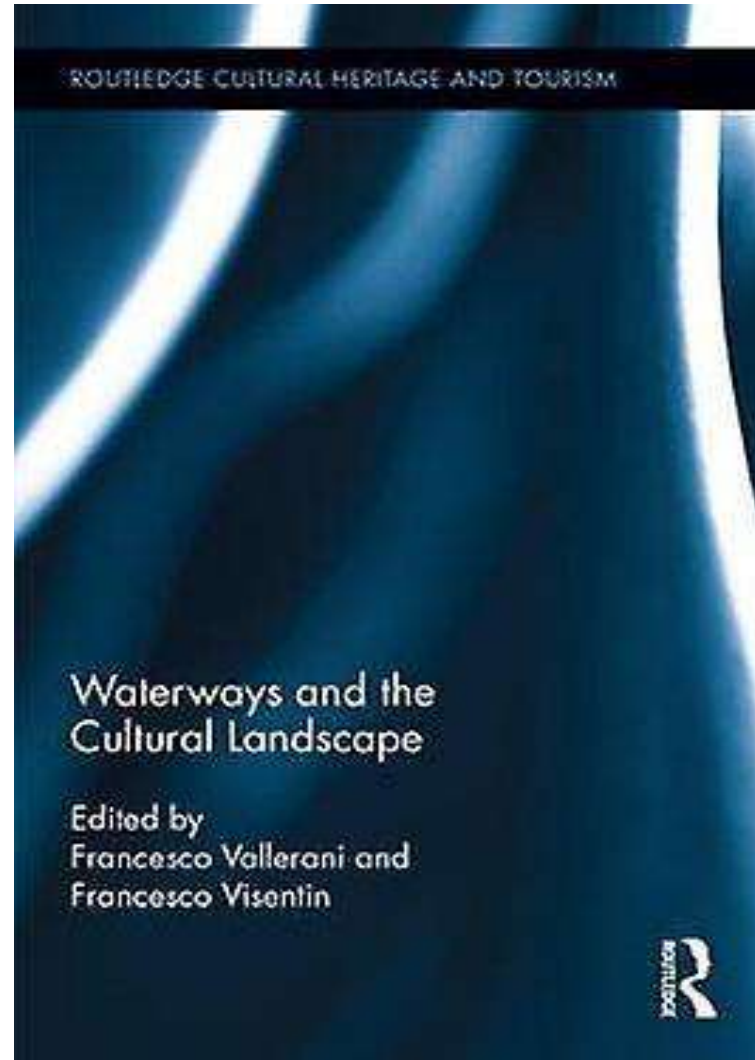
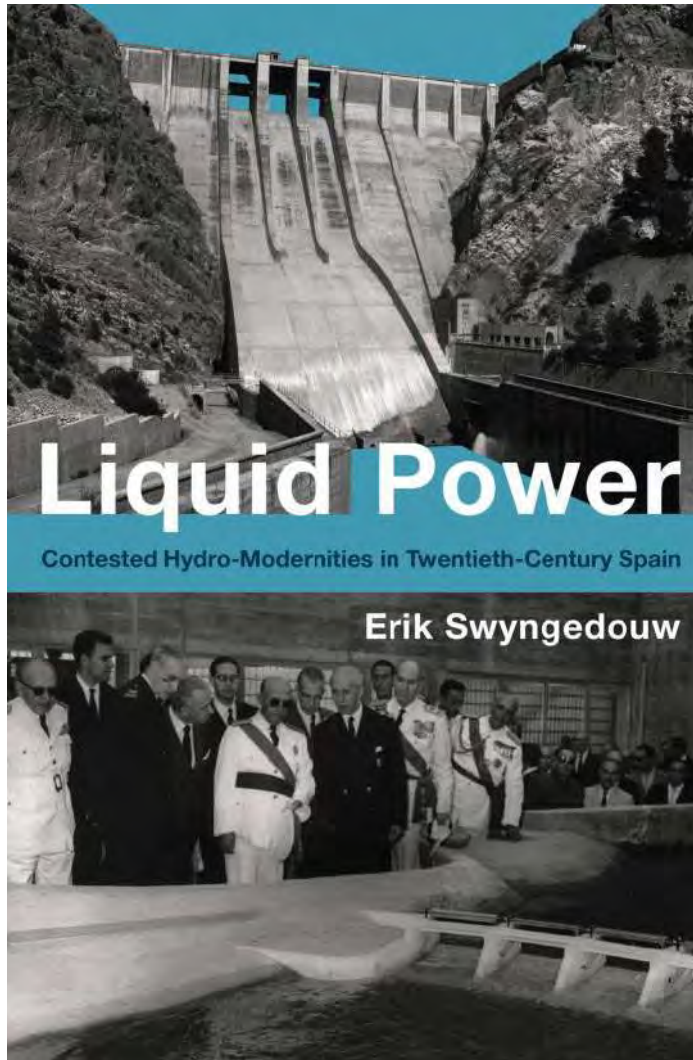
PETER COATES



THE FABRIC
OF SPACE

WATER, MODERNITY, AND THE
URBAN IMAGINATION

MATTHEW GANDY



Fluvial morphologies in North East Italy



Rivers with different seasonal runoff



Tagliamento river with its braided feature



Dense network of small streams originating from the line of springs



From natural springs



.... to historical rural landscapes



Spread of agricultural interests and Palladian villas



Water mills as pre-industrial factories



Collecting stories from old people



Iconographies as repository of water memories

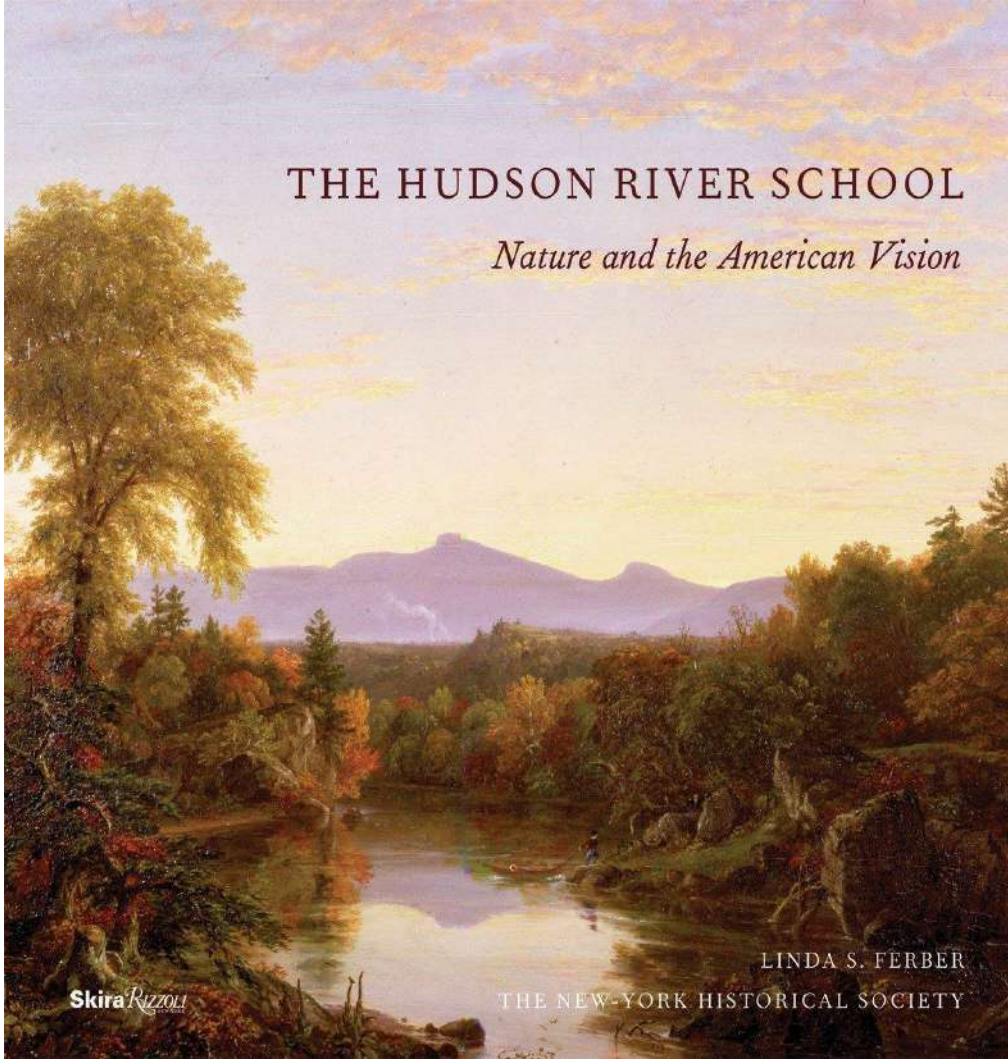


Water engineering and painting: Cornelius Meijer (1629-1701) e Gaspar van Wittel (1653-1736)



Van Wittel and Tiber river vernacular landscapes





THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL

Nature and the American Vision

LINDA S. FERBER

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Skira RIZZOLI



THE
HAGUE
SCHOOL
BOOK



ON THE
RIVER WYE,
AND SEVERAL PARTS OF
SOUTH WALES, &c.
RELATIVE CHIEFLY TO
PICTURESQUE BEAUTY;

M A D E

In the Summer of the Year 1770,

SECOND EDITION.

By WILLIAM GILPIN, M. A.
PREBENDARY OF SALISBURY; AND
VICAR OF BOLDRE IN NEW FOREST, NEAR LYMINGTON.

16
L O N D O N;
PRINTED FOR R. BLAMIRE, IN THE STRAND.
M.DCC.LXXXIX.

S. C. F.

2) The idea of "hydrophilia"



Emotional Waters



Water mobilities as the perfect interaction with hydrosphere





See all ›

165 Citations


See all ›

31 References

A Cognitive Analysis of Preference for Waterscapes

Article · September 1985 *with* 115 Reads

DOI: 10.1016/S0272-4944(85)80024-4

 [Cite this publication](#)



1st [Thomas R. Herzog](#)

Abstract

Preferences for waterscapes were studied as a function of content categories, viewing time and six predictor variables: spaciousness, texture, coherence, complexity, mystery, and identifiability. A non-metric factor analysis of the preference ratings for the longest viewing-time condition yielded four dimensions: (1) Mountain Waterscapes, (2) Swampy Areas, (3) Rivers, Lakes, and Ponds, and (4) Large Bodies of Water. Mountain Waterscapes was the most preferred category and Swampy Areas by far the least preferred. The Mountain Waterscapes category was characterized by rough surface textures, while within the category spaciousness, coherence, and mystery were positive predictors of preference. The Swampy Areas category was low in spaciousness; within the category, coherence was a positive predictor of preference. With longer viewing times, Mountain Waterscapes were liked better but Swampy Areas were liked less. The results indicate that type of waterscape, viewing time and the predictor variables all play a role in determining preference. Some broad implications of these findings for environmental planners were suggested.

Bike paths and angling



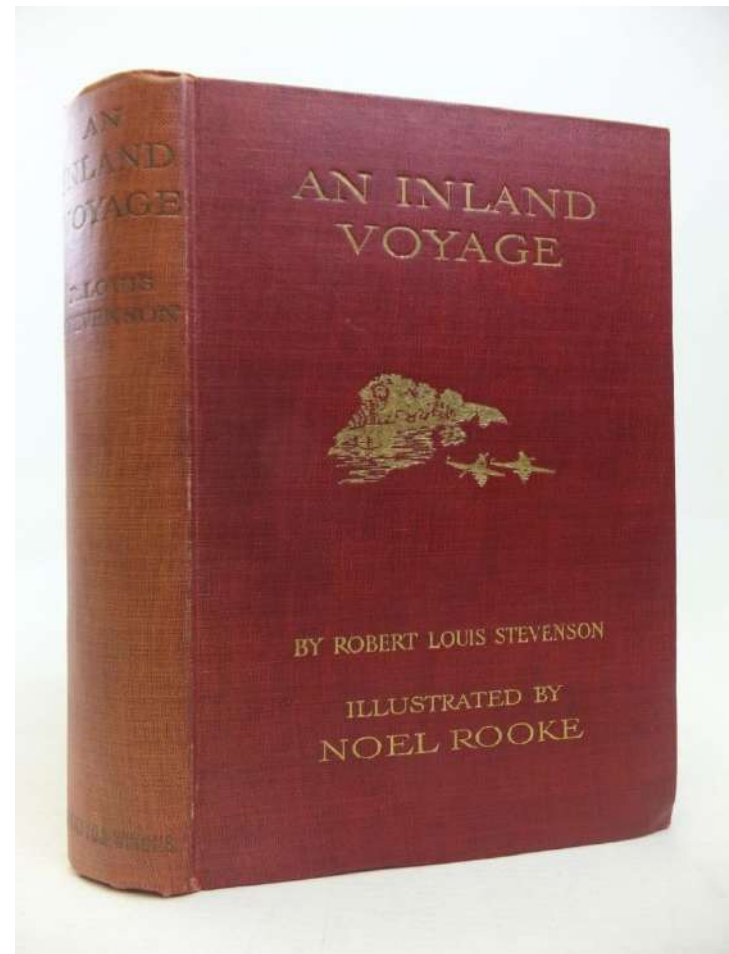
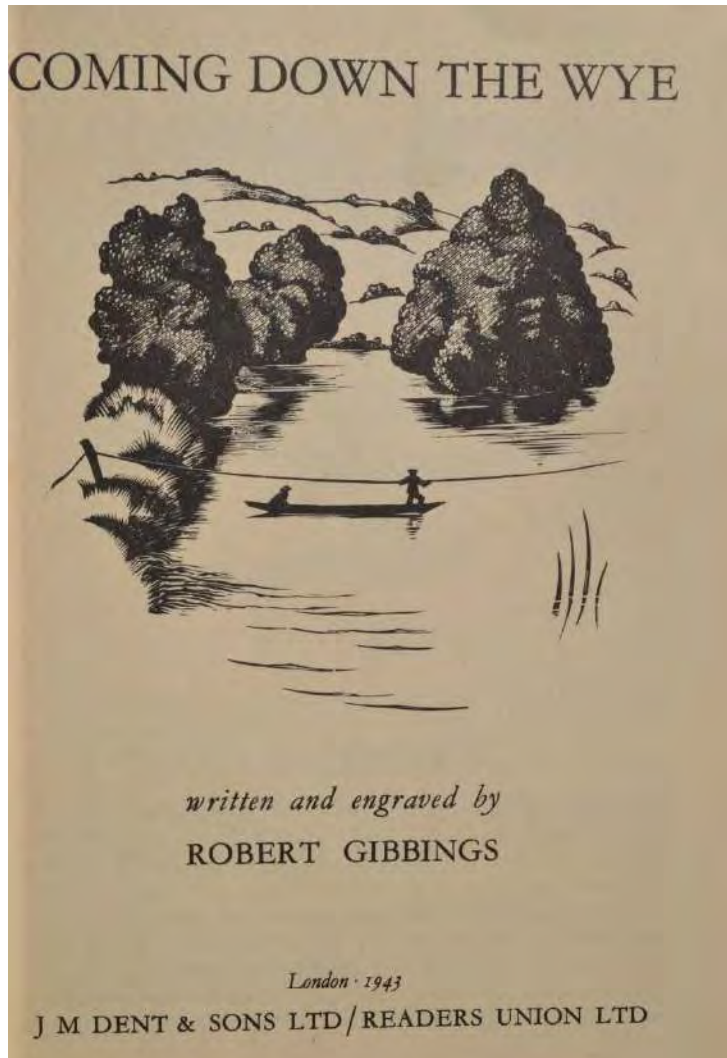
Swimming, plunging, throwing flat stones



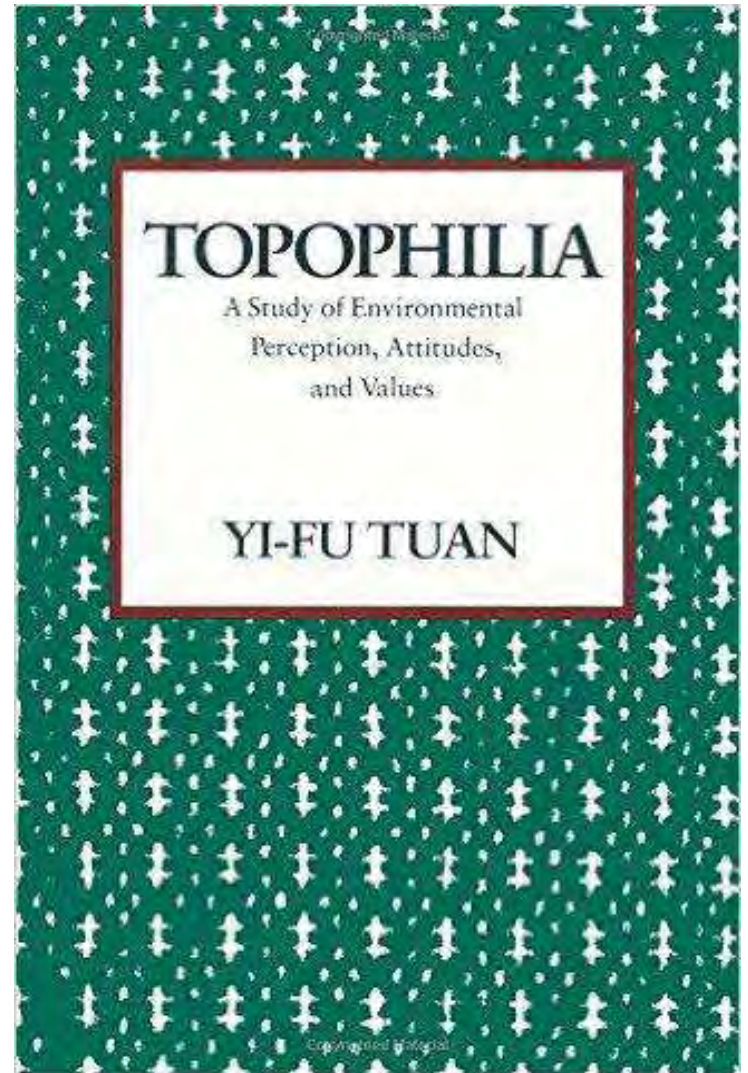
Plein-air painting



Writing and meditating



Yi-Fu Tuan: emotional relationships
between human being and places



Hydrophilia

- Ancestral perception concerning aesthetic experience
- Physical stimulation of senses
- Involvement of mood and emotions
- Essential connection with physiology and vital needs



From backwaters to the culmination of urban aesthetic



Inland waterfronts



Blue space: The importance of water for preference, affect, and restorativeness ratings of natural and built scenes

Mathew White ^a  , Amanda Smith ^a, Kelly Humphries ^a, Sabine Pahl ^a, Deborah Snelling ^b, Michael Depledge ^c

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2010.04.004>

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Abstract

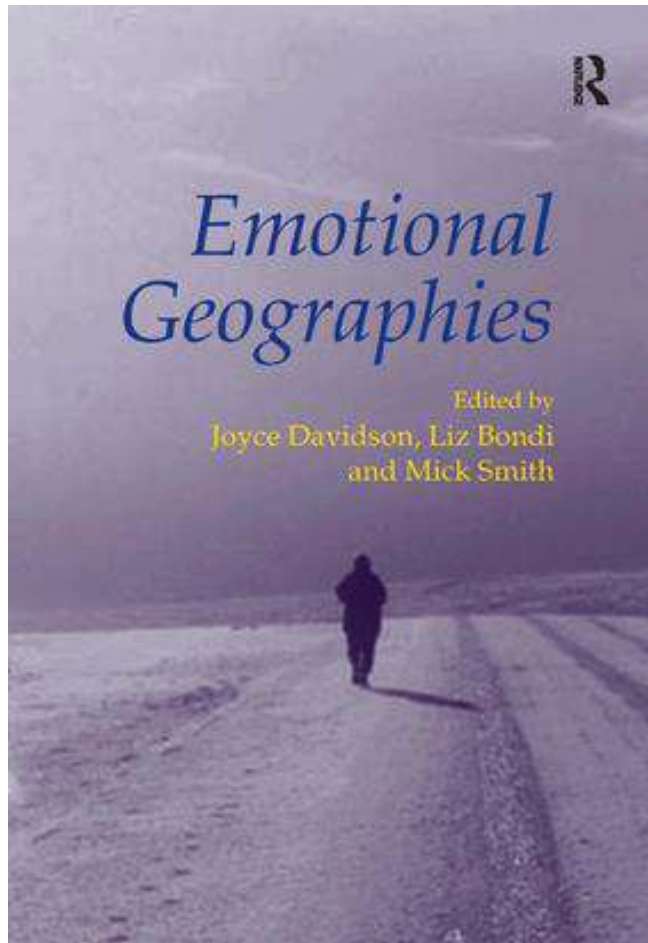
Although theorists have suggested that aquatic environments or “blue space” might have particular restorative potential, to date there is little systematic empirical research on this issue. Indeed the presence of water has, unintentionally, been a confounding factor in research comparing people’s reactions to built and natural environments. Whereas aquatic features (rivers, lakes, coasts) are frequently present in visual stimuli representing natural environments they are rarely incorporated in stimuli portraying built environments. As many towns are, for good reason, located near water this is a potentially significant oversight. The current research collated a set of 120 photographs of natural and built scenes, half of which contained “aquatic” elements. Proportions of “aquatic”/“green”/“built” environments in each scene (e.g. 1/3rd, 2/3rds) were also standardised. Two studies investigated preferences (attractiveness, willingness to visit and willingness to pay for a hotel room with the view), affect and perceived restorativeness ratings for these photographs. As predicted, both natural *and* built scenes containing water were associated with higher preferences, greater positive affect and higher perceived restorativeness than those without water. Effect sizes were consistently large. Intriguingly, images of “built” environments containing water were generally rated just as positively as natural “green” space. We propose a number of avenues for further research including exploration of the mechanisms underlying these effects.

Could we talk about a kind of “waterways turn”?

- Not only due to human physiology
- Consider increasing freshwater depletion
- Waterways: from “cultural corridors” to “blue spaces”
- Incorrect management of freshwaters
- Urgence to deal with world-wide decay of inland hydrography as cultural assets
- Role of new social attitudes

3) The recovery of waterscapes as 'blue spaces'





Emotional Geographies

Edited by
Joyce Davidson, Liz Bondi
and Mick Smith



Geographies of Health Series

BLUE SPACE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HYDROPHILIA UNBOUNDED

Edited by
Ronan Foley, Robyn Kearns, Thomas Kistemann
and Ben Whigley



In urban sprawl rivers are seen as obstacles to developments: the case of Passaic river in New Jersey



Rivers as Landscapes of Fear

Buriganga river (Dhacca)



Citarum river (Java)



Fluvial sense of place

- Long term coexistence among people and their watery environment
- Intangible heritage
- Emotional relationships with hydraulic features
- Evolution of water-based practicalities
- Wide range of cultural expressions

New environmental policies along historical waterways





Re-establishment of meanders

2003 and 2004





2008



Re-meandering a small river
(2007-2008)





Worldwide hydrographies as endless repository of water stories



Thanks for your attention!

