

# Regimes of value and waterscapes of uncertainty

Co-creating values in urban landscapes

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KATRINA WIBERG

PhD. Fellow, Architect

PhD. School/Urban Landscapes, Aarhus School of Architecture

Aarhus, Denmark

[katrina.wiberg@aarch.dk](mailto:katrina.wiberg@aarch.dk)

## Abstract

Discussions on climate change (CC) and climate change adaptation (CCA) are closely connected to the concepts of value and valuation. CC forecasts are based in numerical values, 'hard facts', through calculations, modelling and empirical datasets, seeking assessments of plausible future scenarios by qualifying uncertainties, e.g. changing rainfall patterns. The main purpose is to provide knowledge and legitimacy to decision makers to inform actions and priorities. However, such knowledge and legitimacy does not in and of itself give direction to action. Rather, CC forecasts have the status of carefully informed uncertainty about very complex issues. To address such complexity and uncertainty as qualified as possible, different modes of knowledge production, interdisciplinary collaboration and different aspects of values and valuation must be taken into consideration. This could be as crucial mediators, with transformative power, between quantified knowledge and directions for action. Questions of value and action in relation to CC/CCA could be: How do we envision our CCA landscapes on an average day, in a drought, if rainfalls patterns change? How do we engage with waterscapes of uncertainty AND potentials of value? This is the basic point of view of this paper. Values, however, are plural and relationally dependent. Different actors see them differently from their varying fields of interests, professions and time perspectives. Values thus also contain potentials of conflict. How can we, despite this, discuss, define, negotiate and come to some agreement about values? How can we bridge fields of value across disciplines, engagements and traditional boundaries in order to engage with concepts of value as a way to inform and qualify actions in a practice-oriented context?

This paper proposes the approach of Thévenot and Boltanski to engage with this issue. They present a way of identifying and justifying values with their *6 Regimes of Justification: the inspirational, the market, the industrial, the opinion, the domestic and the civic regimes*. These regimes can provide a methodological approach to clarify, decode and encode values, which ALSO can allow for mutual understanding, collaborative creation and help to reach for contextually based values by addressing both justification and context specific (peaceful) conflicts.

Some further principal argument for this approach is provided through three real-time cases in a Danish municipality which serve as a practice-oriented context to engage with interdisciplinary values in relation to CCA and handling of water (HOW) within urban landscapes. Water and HOW is considered fundamental to CC/CCA and it involves values at many levels: it challenges economies, questions governance, planning, settlement patterns, infrastructural strategies, use of materials and daily life practices. Furthermore, water does not acknowledge tradition, administrative or juridical boundaries and even challenges conceptual distinctions like nature-culture and urban-rural. Water itself, then, is

also a mediator, forcing diverse actors to act together. Thus CCA and HOW constitute an entry call for interdisciplinary collaboration: a way to form, inform and qualify knowledge production and thus actions/practices in urban landscapes, a way to discuss and envision actions of (future) values.

**Keywords:**

Values, justification, waterscapes, co-creation, urban landscapes, climate change

**Key references**

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