



Workshop 21 et 22 avril 2026

“Futures and imagineering (with) water infrastructures”

Places : Université Gustave Eiffel - Cité Descartes - Bibliothèque Georges Perec

Auditorium Cécile Poisson, Hall de la bibliothèque

Rue des Frères Lumière 77420 Champs-sur-Marne

Partners : Université Gustave Eiffel, Paris-Est, LISIS, LATTTS, CIRED, Lab’Urba

Rationale :

Water becomes a usable resource thanks to multiple processes and infrastructures operating at different geographical and political scales: pipes, treatment plants, reservoirs, dykes and embankments.

According to Susan Leigh Star, infrastructures can be considered as relational technical objects that integrate values, regulate access and use, and reshape the relationship between humans and the environment. When they function as intended, they often render invisible the labour required to build and maintain them, as well as the narratives that inspired their design. Yet they structure and control water flows, resources and information, raising questions of governance: who decides what should be controlled, how far that control should extend, and whether these systems should be preserved.

While infrastructure shapes the future, landscapes and water-related practices, it also reduces the range of conceivable alternatives by stabilising certain ways of life. What are the imagineering processes involved in the work of the engineers who design them? What alternatives are emerging? Researches in social sciences are emerging on the imaginaries linked to the materiality of water infrastructure. This workshop will be an opportunity to bring together authors of submitted contributions to a special issue to be published in the journal *Futures*.

Program :

April 21st, 2026

9am – 9:30am: Welcome coffee

9:30am – 10am: Introduction of the workshop

10am – 12:30pm: Political ecology with discussant **to be defined**

- Samuel Pinjon: “Transforming river imaginaries through practices: river regeneration, field professionals, beavers and analogues” (co-authors: Sabine Girard, anne Honegger)
- Venkatesh Dutta: “Imagineering urban waterscapes: The cultural and political spectacle of floodplain and riverfront development in Lucknow, India” (co-authors: Pranjal Deekshit, Venkatesh Dutta)
- Veronica Mitroi: “Taking Care of Water in the Semi-arid Northeast of Brazil. (Re)imagineering Hydrosolidarities Between Monitored and Non-monitored Reservoirs – Açudes” (co-authors: Laudemira Silva Rabelo, Lucas Oliveira do Amorim, Meiry Sayuri Sakamoto, Renan Rocha, Isabelle Tristch, Daniela Henriquez, Fajr Fradi)

12:30pm -2pm: Lunch time

2pm – 5pm: Infrastructures and maintenance with **Daniel Florentin**

- Mads Gjefsen: “Discourses of maintenance: Shortfall imagineering as crisis control in water and wastewater infrastructures” (co-authors: Stian Bruaset, Marianne Haraldsvik, Eikebrokk Bjørnar, Hanne Kvitsand, Asle Gautepllass, Lars-Erik Borge)
- Omeya Desmazes: “Contested imagineerings and futures of drinking water quality in the postcolonial world (Martinique)”
- Sophie Tabouret: “Imagineering with reservoirs. Investigations on (in)visible water consumption for irrigation in western France”

April 22, 2026

9:30am – Noon: Imagineerings avec **Chris Büscher**

- Geoffrey Molle: “Urban drainage systems: towards a surface ecology of water ? Tackling the sponge-city imagineering from the underground in Lyon » (co-authors: Emeline Comby, Anne Honegger-Rivière, Gislain Lipeme-Kouyi, Manon Mézière)
- Jiri Janac: “Imagineering Dust Bowl in the Heart of Europe: Water Infrastructures and Obduracy of Past Futures”
- Gabrielle Bouleau: “Water Infrastructures in the Territories They Traverse: the Challenge of Environing inUncertain Times” (co-authors: Clémence Guimont, Rémy Petitimberty)

Noon – 1:30pm: Lunch time

1:30pm – 3pm: Visit to the ENPC passive building with the OCAPI team

3pm – 3:15pm: Coffee break

3:15pm – 5pm: Presentation with Eurydice on three scenarii for Paris and Water