

PULSE³

**Paradigms and Theories for Creating
Opportunities and Solving Problems**

By

Dr. Richard Meissner

**Water Governance Group
Natural Resources and the Environment
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research**

Outline

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- PULSE³
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- Component #3: Theories for practice
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- Case study 2: The UNDP'S Water and Ocean Governance Focus Area



Rationale and Definitions

- **Science** not the dogmatic insistence of its claims but based on *constant critique*.
- Paradigms and theories **influence** the way people perceive reality and react to reality.
 - A **paradigm** is a worldview underlying **theories** and **methodologies**.
 - My use - **research tradition** that organises and guides **science** or **research**.
 - A theory explains the **relationship** between phenomena.
- Paradigms and theories are closely related to **practice**.
 - Theories help us to **organise** and **communicate** the large volume of data we are bombarded with on a daily basis.
- **We** develop and use theories to assess an issue or situation.
 - Theories are part of the never ending cognitive processes.



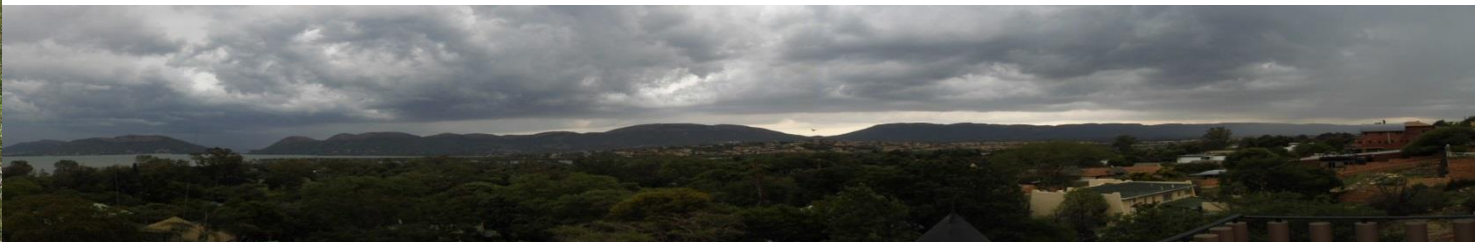
PULSE³

- People Understanding and Living in a Sustained Environment.
- Cube denotes three forces: **thinking**, **shaping** and **change**.
- PULSE³ analyses practices, plans, projects and programmes.
 - Theory **shapes** how practitioners see the world.
- PULSE³ recognises **individuals**, **interest groups**, **scientists** and **private companies**.
- It has an **interpretivist** and **critical** agenda, but *does not* reject rationalism.
- PULSE³ consists of **three components**.
 - Paradigm assessment
 - The ethos of scientific variation
 - Repertoire of theories for practice



Component #1: Paradigm Assessment

- Paradigms are **not permanent** features of the scientific landscape.
- The 5 scientific paradigms identified assist in the paradigmatic **profiling**.
- 5 Paradigm Matrix
- Value 0 = absent, 1 = present, 1 = both are present.
- Paradigm assessment can help in **what is being missed**.
- The amount of time and resources spent on a rationalist agenda can detract scientists from problems lurking in the shadows impeding **understanding** and **innovation**.



Component #2: Ethos of Analytic Eclecticism

- A paradigm or theory has blind spots.
- **Analytic eclecticism**: that includes both social and natural sciences, different research methods in both disciplines.
- Rationale is to avoid **paradigmatic compartmentalisation**.
 - Arguing from one paradigm can become an **obstacle in understanding**.
 - Analytic eclecticism **does not** discard established paradigms or traditions,
- Analytic eclecticism has three pillars
 - **Open-ended problem** formulation.
 - Middle-range causal account integrating **complex interactions**.
 - **Connecting** scholarly debates with **problems**.
- Promise: not **simplicity** and **confirmation bias**.



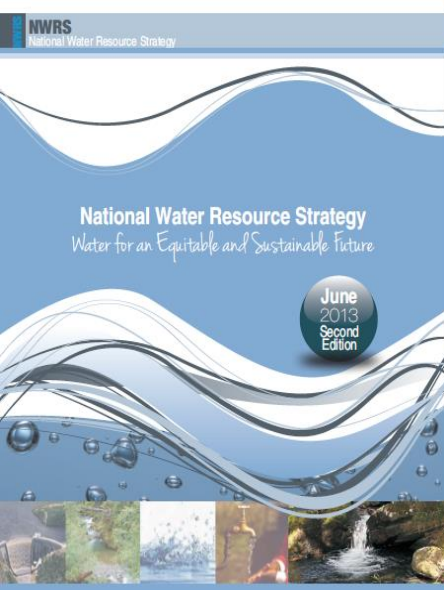
Component #3: Theories for Practice

- To **apply** analytic eclecticism one must have a repertoire of theories to choose from.
- This is to prevent PULSE³ from becoming a panacea
 1. Agential power
 2. Ambiguity theory of leadership
 3. Complexity theory
 4. Cultural theory of International Relations
 5. Everyday international political economy
 6. Feminisms
 7. Hydro-social contract theory
 8. Interactive governance theory (Governability)
 9. Interest group corporatism
 10. Interest group pluralism
 11. Marxism
 12. Modernity
 13. Neo-liberalism (Liberal pluralism)
 14. Neo-realism (Realism)
 15. Normative commensalism
 16. Political ecology or Green politics
 17. Social constructivism
 18. Strategic adaptive management or adaptive management
 19. Theory of social learning and policy paradigms.



Case Study: NWRS, Second Edition

- The NWRS2 is a 115 page document.
- Based on seven strategic themes.
- There are also five enabling factors to support its implementation.
- It has 16 chapters.



Case Study: NWRS, Second Edition

- NRWS2 through Analytic eclecticism
 - Paradigmatic limitation.
 - Other paradigms are present in the NWRS2 but to a limited extent only.
 - Support to municipalities.
 - Education and awareness.
 - Participatory paradigm
 - No paradigm shift, but rather top-down participation towards the NWRS2.
 - Nevertheless, structuralism strongly comes to the fore in the transboundary domain.
 - Economic development and energy generation priorities emphasis material domain.
 - Agents and ideational elements are also structuralist and material.
 - Objective relations.
 - Logical conditions.



Case Study: NWRS, Second Edition

- Theories for practice.
 - Agential power.
 - Ambiguity theory of leadership.
- Enhancing the NWRS2's implementation
 - NWRS2 following a trend in the international water discourse.
 - DWS embeds it into rationalist structures.
 - Ontology of SA's water sector more complicated than rationalism would make us believe it is.
 - Collective beneficiation.
 - Issue of leadership is important.



Case Study: UNDP Water and Ocean



A screenshot of the UNDP website header. It features the UNDP logo on the left, a navigation menu with links for 'UNDP around the world', 'About Us', 'Publications', 'News Centre', and 'Partners' in the center, and a search bar on the right. Below the navigation menu are three main sections: 'Our Work', 'Millennium Development Goals', and 'Our Perspective'.

Sustainable development

Democratic governance and
peacebuilding

Climate and disaster resilience

Home > Our Work > Environment & Energy > Focus Areas >

Overview

▶ Strategic Themes

▼ Focus Areas

**Water and Ocean
Governance**

Sustainable Energy

Ecosystems and
Biodiversity

Sustainable Land
Management

Ozone and Climate

Chemicals and Waste
Management

Water and Ocean Governance

Through the earth's water cycle, the planet's fresh Water and Ocean are inextricably linked. Ninety-seven percent of the earth's water is in the ocean and the ocean supplies almost all the water that falls on land as rain and snow. Of the small portion that is freshwater, about a third is in groundwater and a mere 0.3% in accessible surface waters. Currently, just under 900 million people lack access to safe water and over 2.7 billion lack access to basic sanitation. The 2015 MDG for water is on target to be achieved globally, but with significant regional and national gaps, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The impacts of low access to water and sanitation represent a substantial drag on socioeconomic development in many countries.



In focus



World Water Day 2015

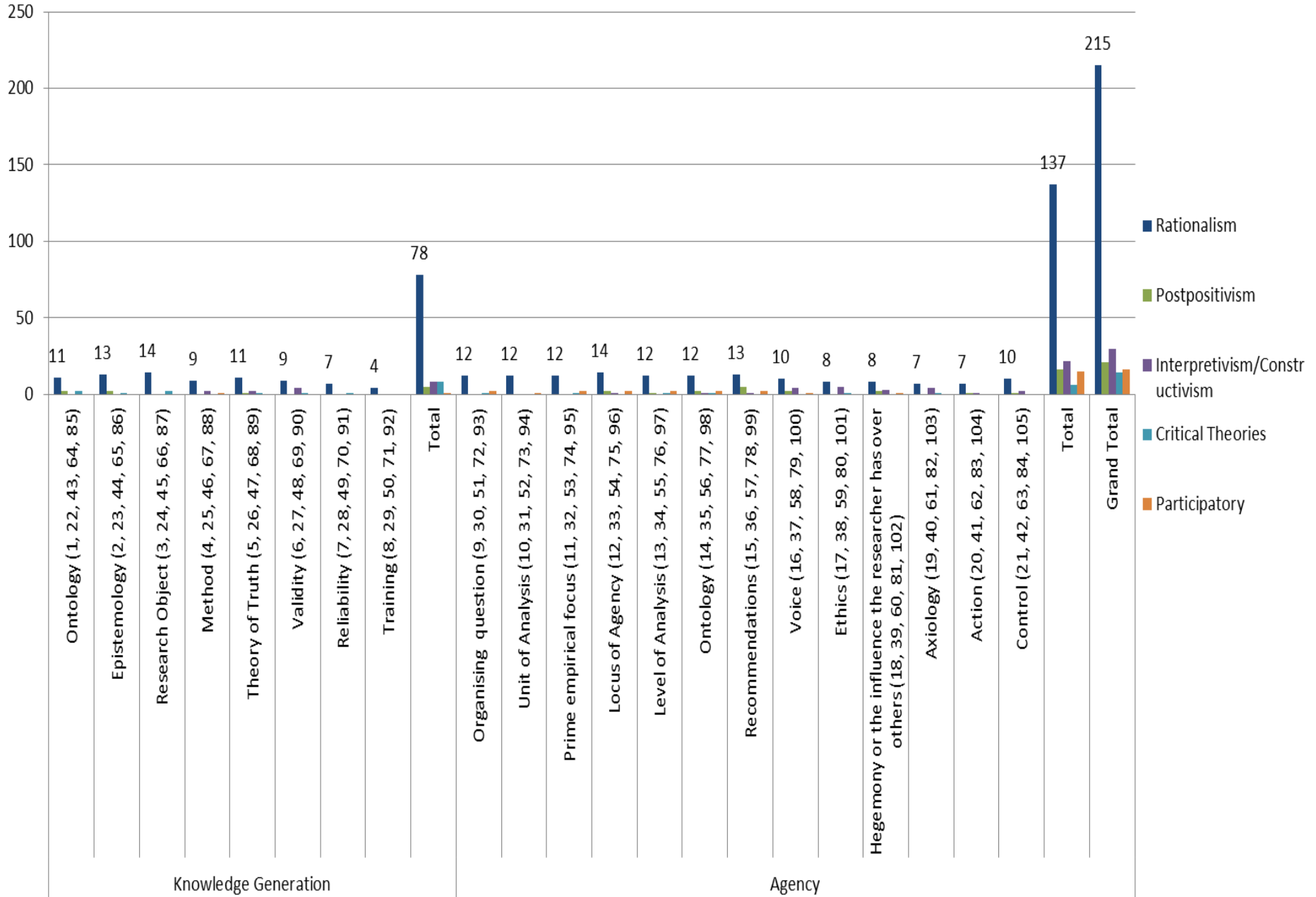
A day for water and water for sustainable development.

Saving Our Tuna

UNDP-Discovery Channel
Documentary - 5 minute version of the Tuna video from Discovery Asia.

- Web content of the UNDP's Water and Ocean Governance Focus Area
 - Emphasis on water governance.
- The content is in line with themes in the South African water discourse.
 - Gender.
 - Transboundary water resources management.
- Relevant to the South African context.

Case Study: UNDP Water and Ocean



Case Study: UNDP Water and Ocean

- The web content through analytic eclecticism
 - Paradigmatic limitation.
 - Prior assumptions about certain actors are highlighted.
 - These assumptions can become law-like in nature.
 - No problematisation of complexity of root causes.
- Should we discard the paradigmatic ways of the UNDP?
- Rather investigate issues it with alternative paradigms in mind.
- The UNDP uses a number of theories.
 - Neoliberal institutionalism.
 - Hegemonic politicians model.
 - Integrated Water Resource Management.



Case Study: UNDP Water and Ocean

- Theory for practice.
 - Social constructivism.
 - People's actions are always in relation to objects including other actors.
 - Rationalism informs the UNDP's identity.
 - Competition over water will increase because of climate change – governance therefore conflictual and anarchic.
 - Other paradigms and theories play a role but only...
 - Theories as causal mechanisms in power relations.



Conclusion

- Paradigms and theories have a constituting influence
- PULSE enables the analysis of policies, programmes and plans in a robust manner.
- PULSE also helps visualising policies, programmes and plans.
- PULSE highlights the hidden and finer nuances of governance activities.



Thank you for listening

Richard Meissner (D.Phil)

Senior Researcher: Water Resource Governance Systems Research Group

CSIR - Natural Resources and the Environment Unit

PO Box 395

Room S210

Building 33

Pretoria

Meiring Naude Road

0001

Brummeria

Tel: 012 841 3696

Cell: 071 677 6262

Fax: 012 842 70311

E-mail: rmeissner@csir.co.za