

# The sixth bibliometric finding concerning a missing cultural value in groundwater depletion research

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“[...] her ethereal attire earns her the title of “Dreamy Wings.” Her entire being is like an ethereal painting, a playful creation of nature using colors, lines, dots, strokes, and patches. One can only exclaim, “Absolutely enchanting. Is this real or an illusion?”

In "The Philosophy of Awakening"; [The Kingfisher Story Collection](#) [1]

## **Purpose**

This short piece of communication has the sole purpose of identifying some evidence, supporting our view regarding a possible missing environment-nurturing cultural value [2]. As groundwater depletion has recently emerged as one of the most crucial environmental issues [3], we aim to examine the extant cultural studies within the boundary of groundwater depletion research.

## **Method**

In what follows, we employ the bibliometric approach that has been presented in Nguyen & Vuong [4]. The search queries used in the current study are drawn from the bibliometric analyses of Zyoud & Fuchs-Hanusch [5] and Jia et al. [6]. However, these two studies solely focus on groundwater research, so we also integrate another set of keywords regarding depletion ("depletion" and "depleting") into the search using a Boolean AND.

After completing the search, the number of publications is narrowed down according to the Research Areas structured by the Web of Science (WoS). The second collection consists of the following research areas: Geography, Urban Studies, Anthropology, Development Studies, Arts Humanities other topics, Public Administration, Social Sciences other topics, Sociology, Area Studies, History, Public Environmental Occupational Health, International Relations, Psychiatry, Government Law, Demography, Social Issues. Eventually, we select papers appointed to the Cultural Studies research area from the second collection. The whole procedure is displayed in Figure 1. The search is conducted on November 10, 2020. It should be noted that we do not limit the search results by language, document type, or publication time when seeking the first collection in the WoS database.

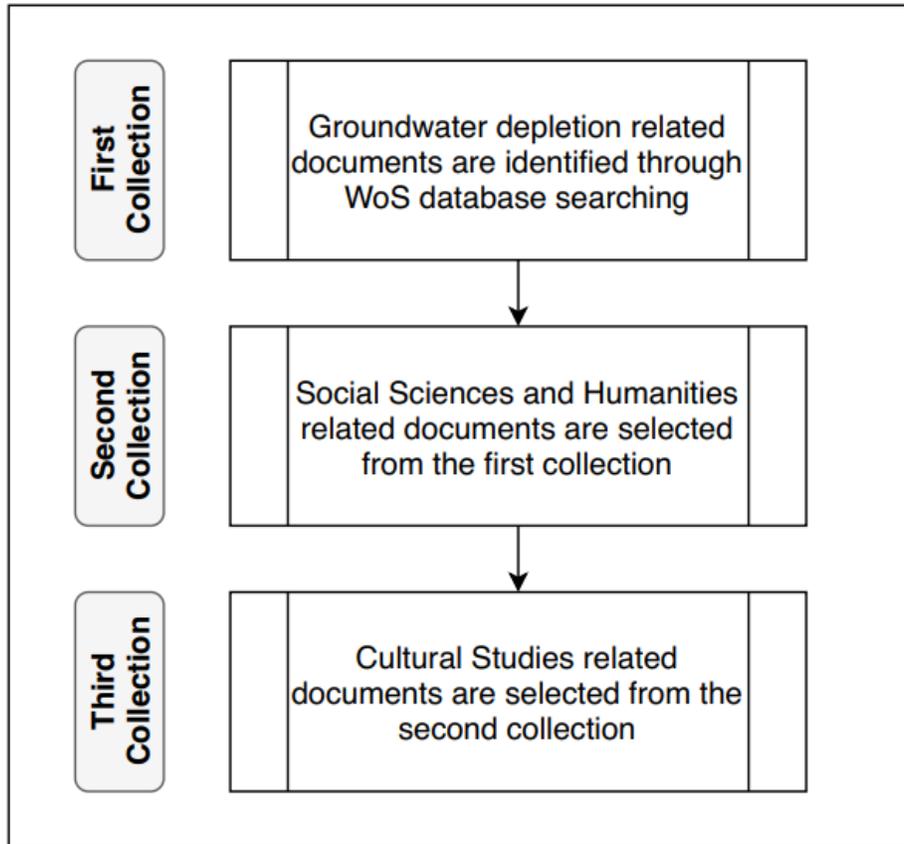


Figure 1: Searching procedure

## Findings

The preliminary result shows that there are 3,978 groundwater depletion related studies. When the scope is narrowed down to Social Sciences and Humanities research areas, we obtain 102 records equivalent to 2.56% of the total documents. Surprisingly, no studies are classified as the Cultural Studies research area by the WoS (see Figure 2).

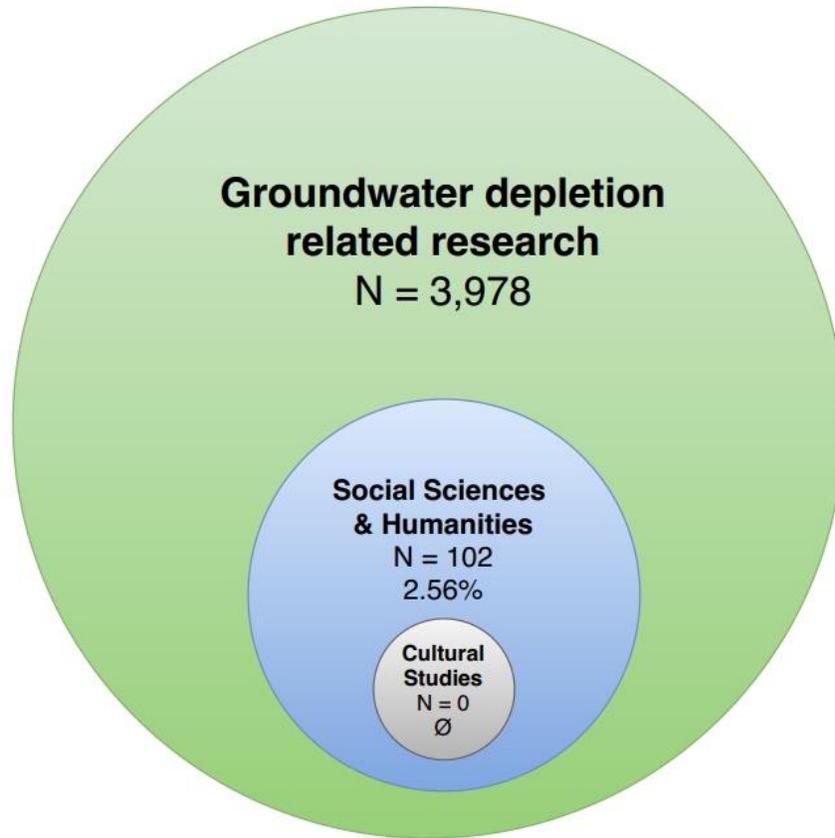


Figure 2: Percentage of Cultural Studies in water pollution research

### Remarks

We have found an empty set of cultural studies within the boundary of groundwater depletion research, which is different from previous studies [7-11]. The presence of cultural studies is recorded despite its less significant contribution to the scientific output. The result is, perhaps, because of the modest quantity of documents regarding groundwater depletion. Still, the presumption that the impact of cultural factors on the environment has been underestimated is also a reasonable explanation [2].

We are aware that this finding is preliminary, and our statement in [2] can potentially be somewhat subversive by nature. Therefore, this communication has no intention of making any conclusion. It rather keeps the finding clean and clear for later use. The effort represents our approach of enabling the mindsponge process to work better and more efficiently in discovering a new paradigm that supports the nurturing of humanistic values for natural protection and a sustainable environment [12,13].

The future research directions will consider possible limitations (data, methods, or analytical framework), in line with [14].

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