

The fourth finding concerning a missing cultural value in water pollution research

Minh-Hoang Nguyen ^{1,2}

Quan-Hoang Vuong ^{1,3,4}

¹ The Centre for Interdisciplinary Social Research, Phenikaa University, Hanoi 100803, Vietnam

² Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Beppu, Oita, Japan

³ Centre Emile Bernheim de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en Gestion, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels 1050, Belgium

⁴ AISDL, Vuong & Associates, Hanoi 100000, Vietnam

Working Draft v2
Date: November 10, 2020
Last update: May 17, 2024

No. AISDL-ENV-BIB04



(Un-peer-reviewed draft)

*

* *

“[...] 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]. Here, we attempt to examine the presence of cultural studies within the boundary of water pollution research.

Method

In what follows, we employ the bibliometric approach that has been presented in Nguyen & Vuong [3]. The search queries of Sun, Wang, & Ho are borrowed for identifying documents related to water pollution [4]. Nevertheless, as those queries are not sufficient to cover research related to other types of water pollution, like marine and river pollution, we also employ keywords "water", "marine", "ocean", and "river" during 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: Business Economics, Public Environmental Occupational Health, Development Studies, Health Care Sciences Services, Pediatrics, Geography, Mathematical Methods in Social Sciences, Public Administration, Government law, Sociology, Area Studies, Urban Studies, Social Sciences other topics, Education Educational Research, and Anthropology. Eventually, we select papers of which research area is Cultural Studies from the second collection. The whole procedure is displayed in Figure 1. The search is conducted on November 9, 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.

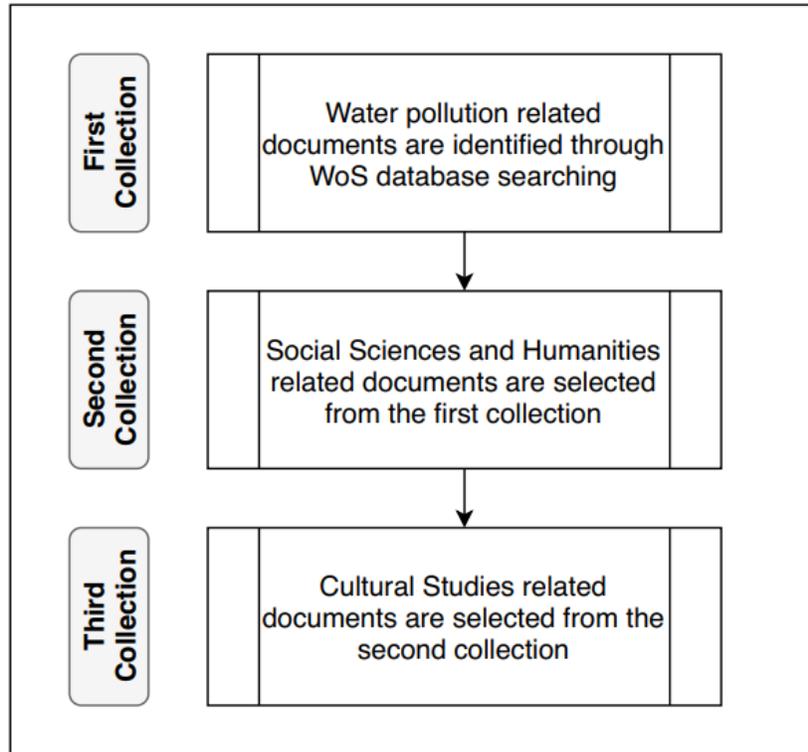


Figure 1: Searching procedure

Findings

The preliminary result shows that there are 301,787 documents related to water pollution research, including studies regarding estuary, marine, and river pollution. When the scope is narrowed down to Social Sciences and Humanities research areas, we obtain 15,163 records, representing 5.03% of the total number of documents. There remain only four documents (0.001% of the total publications) when we select solely 'Cultural Studies' research area (see Figure 2).

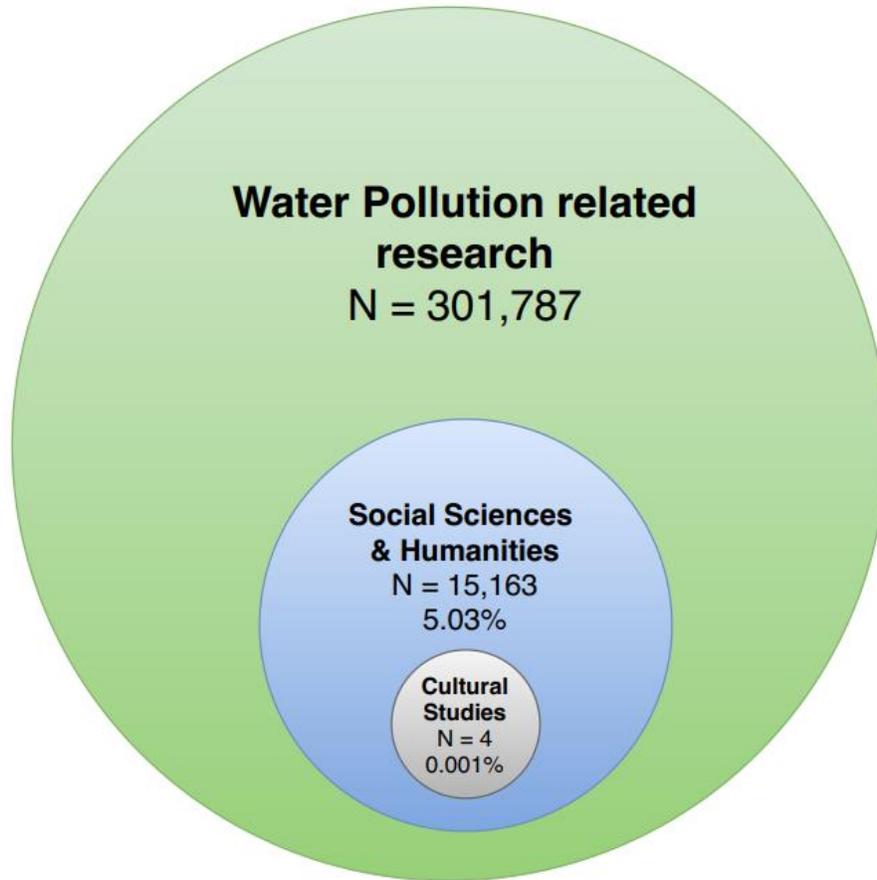


Figure 2: Percentage of Cultural Studies in water pollution research

Four documents listed in the Cultural Studies research area were all published after 2013. The earliest study attempts to explain the evolving relationships between governments and Environmental NGOs (ENGOS) in China. They support the viewpoint that the increasing collaborations between governments and ENGOS improve the effectiveness and efficiency in solving environmental degradation [5]. Doganova & Laurent discuss the operations of the European markets for cleantech and biofuel, which are structured by the intertwining government regulation and the market mechanism [6]. In the end, they suggest that the coexistence of regulatory interventions and a certain degree of freedom given to the market "can be envisaged" as a political economy that is for "collectively deciding about and managing sustainability issues."

Dissimilar from the two studies above, the remaining book chapters concentrate on how environmental factors can affect culture and vice versa. Odhiambo shows the third party's role in lessening gender inequality in Muslim communities by ensuring water security [7]. In contrast, Arman, Unicomb, & Luby hint at the fact that changing residents' perceptions regarding safe water and waterborne diseases would result in better health by uptaking water treatment technology [8].

Remarks

We have found the existence of cultural studies within the boundary of water pollution research. Still, its portion, which is even smaller than the proportion of cultural studies within climate change, biodiversity, and air pollution research [9-11], is negligible. The current finding is in line with other previous results, supporting the presumption of Vuong [2] on the trivial presence of cultural studies in solving environmental issues.

Among four cultural studies, two studies concern government interactions with NGOs and private sectors, which suggests that current viewpoints tend to anticipate governmental involvement to be an effective way of dealing with environmental degradation. The other two studies directly imply the relationship between cultural values and water pollution issues. Still, they propose neither proper framework nor theory that can capture the impact of culture on the environment. Furthermore, since changing cultural perspectives could lead to better health [8], it might also be possible that evolving environment-healing culture could amend the environmental quality.

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].

References

- [1] Vuong, Q. H. (2022). *The Kingfisher Story Collection*.
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/BOBG2NNHY6>
- [2] Vuong, Q. H. (2021). The semiconducting principle of monetary and environmental values exchange. *Economics and Business Letters*, 10(3), 284-290.
doi:10.17811/ebl.10.3.2021.284-290
- [3] Nguyen, M. H., & Vuong, Q. H. (2021). Evaluation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: the international collaboration trilemma in interdisciplinary research. *Pacific Conservation Biology*, 28(6), 517-531. doi:10.1071/PC21026
- [4] Sun, J., Wang, M. H., & Ho, Y. S. (2016). A historical review and bibliometric analysis of research on estuary pollution. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 64: 13-21. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2011.10.034

- [5] Xu, J., & Byrne, J. (2020). Explaining the Evolution of China's Government–Environmental NGO Relations since the 1990s: A Conceptual Framework and Case Study. *Asian Studies Review*. doi: 10.1080/10357823.2020
- [6] Doganova, L., & Laurent, B. (2020). Keeping things different: coexistence within European markets for cleantech and biofuels. *Journal of Cultural Economy* 9(2): 141-156. doi: 10.1080/17530350.2015.1110530
- [7] Odhiambo, G. (2015). Water, Gender, Philanthropy, and Human Security: Courses and Concerns in MMCs. In S. Hasan (Ed.), *Human Security and Philanthropy: Islamic Perspectives and Muslim Majority Country Practices* (pp. 231-261). Berlin: Springer-Verlag Berlin.
- [8] Arman, S. (2013). A Qualitative Exploration of Factors Affecting Uptake of Water Treatment Technology in Rural Bangladesh. In C. Banwell, S. Ulijaszek & J. Dixon (Ed.), *When Culture Impacts Health: Global Lessons for Effective Health Research* (pp. 205-214). San Diego: Elsevier Academic Press Inc.
- [9] Nguyen, M. H., & Vuong, Q. H. (2020). The first finding from a bibliometric analysis concerning a missing environment-nurturing cultural value. *OSF Preprints*. doi:10.31219/osf.io/bhju8
- [10] Nguyen, M. H., & Vuong, Q. H. (2020). In search of a new cultural value: The second finding from a bibliometric analysis on biodiversity. *OSF Preprints*. doi:10.31219/osf.io/gzkfj
- [11] Nguyen, M. H., & Vuong, Q. H. (2020). The third finding concerning a missing cultural value: a bibliometric analysis using the Web of Science. *OSF Preprints*. doi:10.31219/osf.io/jbcx3
- [12] Vuong, Q. H. (2023). *Mindsponge Theory*. Walter de Gruyter GmbH. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C3WHZ2B3>
- [13] Nguyen, M.-H. (2024). Five principles to leverage the humanistic values for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. <https://mindsponge.info/posts/307>
- [14] Vuong, Q. H. (2020). Reform retractions to make them more transparent. *Nature* 582(7811):149. doi:10.1038/d41586-020-01694-x