

Complex Water Issues: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Assessing Knowledge and Negotiating Solutions

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The paper discusses certain literature concerning transdisciplinary approaches to water issues. The paper begins with a discussion of “post normal science” as developed first by Silvio Funtowicz and Jerome Ravetz and surveys the literature examining the evolution of this concept and advocating a transdisciplinary and participatory approach to addressing significant issues related to water and water management. Moving from the general concept to the more specific, the paper then examines the literature addressing stakeholder involvement and interaction in transdisciplinary studies and research projects ranging from data collectors as “citizen scientists” to policy makers who frame the issues and make the final decisions.