

Foreword

Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this special issue, edited by the Netherlands team of Wim Ravesteijn, Erik van der Vleuten and Leon Hermans. Wim Ravesteijn is a lecturer at Delft University of Technology and can be reached at <W.Ravesteijn@tbm.tudelft.nl>. Erik van der Vleuten is at Twente University/Eindhoven University of technology and may be reached at <e.b.a.v.d.vleuten@tm.tue.nl>. Leon Hermans is a research associate in policy analysis at the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management of the Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands. There are longer biosketches of the editors attached to their articles inside. The articles selected demonstrate the frameworks of Actor Theory and Large Technical Systems in policy analysis, after the work of Thomas Hughes, making it a primer on these concepts, as well as an intimate view of the roles water plays in our lives.

Most people in wealthier countries take water for granted. One turns on a spigot and relatively pure water comes out. People use it with abandon, except for periodic times of drought, unmindful of the additionally enormous amounts of water used for irrigation, mining and other industrial activities. But for the Netherlands and many other people around the world water is either scarce, dangerous or both. It is an area where technology and policy intersect that we should be more aware of, and I thank Messrs Ravesteijn, van der Vleuten and Hermans for this substantial look into the world of water.

On a closing note, *KT&P* does not have the budget to print in color and thus the illustrations accompanying the "Bringing Actors Together Around Large-Scale Water Systems" are difficult to read. This does not, however, lessen their value as exemplars as the text makes clear in its thorough description of color mapping techniques.

Happy Reading,
David Clarke, Editor