

Systemic constellations

This text was written with the support of Ignacio A. Verdugo Ramírez de Arellano, systemic constellator.

This tool uses methods and techniques inspired in systems therapy, and it has been used to better recognize and reconcile water-related values in systems such as basins, groupworks and water governance bodies. With systemic constellations, can explore and contribute to:

- a. Gain insight into the systemic dynamics influencing the conflict and how values play a role on these dynamics.
- b. Identify underlying patterns, connections, and entanglements contributing to the conflict.
- c. To make recommendations for resolving the conflict by bringing awareness to the systemic factors at play.
- d. To promote understanding, reconciliation, and a pathway toward sustainable resolution.

How does it work?

In any system, whether family, organizational, communal, political, geopolitical or interests, there are elements, stories, actors, circumstances, tensions, even interests, that are not always easy to see. We are used to "seeing" linearly, it is easy for us to appreciate the consequences by their facts, that is, by the law of cause and effect, but it is very difficult for us to look systemically, because no one educates us to do that. It is difficult for us to understand that, in the problems of one, of a part, the whole is involved, and in the whole, it is full of things, stories, elements of those mentioned above, that are not seen, that do not seem to be a part. of the problem and less of the solution. Through the methodology of Systemic Constellations, we can see what is there and that we have not seen. The methodology, tool or technology, allows us to "see what is", beyond our judgments or preconceived ideas; It allows us to "realize", obtain information that, otherwise, is very difficult to consider, much less accept. By applying this tool to basins, to any system that is linked to water, it can help understand, with a "systemic" view, what is happening that we have not had access to see or consider before. Public policies should always consider the whole, learning to permanently take a systemic view of every problem.

The systemic view has rules, principles or "orders", as Bert Hellinger calls them, and these can be applied to any human system and as we see thousands of cases, all of them refer their problems to the breakdown of one or more of these. Orders, that good individual or collective work, as the case may be, can begin to solve and the first step will always be: see, realize, consider, include. That first step can be fundamental to begin solving a business, family, social or political problem. By using constellations, it is possible to innovate in the way we address urgently and dangerously approaching territorial problems around water, around the world. No one can ignore the recurring conflicts that the lack of water, the climate crisis, droughts, floods and in general the socio-political challenge of providing adequate governance to water entails - and will do so in an increasingly tense and complex manner.

The Valuing Water Initiative has made use of this tool in contexts like The Netherlands, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Sweden and Brazil to better include, understand, experiment and learn. Though these exercises, it has been possible to acquire a better understanding of what values, actors, interests cannot be excluded. To give opportunities to the different stakeholders in each region of each territory, around water. Thus, we will find people who see it as a water resource for human consumption, others for agriculture or livestock and the productive industry in general, for others it will be essential as a means of transportation, tourism, sports and not a few with a cultural perspective, landscape, spiritual, as well as ecology, science, health and much more. In contexts of scarcity, pollution, overflow or damage in any way, conflicts will increase and it will be the focus of socio-political, economic, cultural problems, etc. Therefore, it is urgent to address early and in a peaceful manner, new ways of managing, governing, legislating, and integrate mediating this fundamental resource or element for life. With constellations, the goal is to help this happen harmoniously, generating contexts of trust and listening so that dialogue and the common good prosper, a systemic view is generated that allows inclusion, justice and life.

How to implement it?

To use this method, it is essential to have a certified systemic constellatory, preferably with experience working in organizational settings. The Valuing Water Initiative has worked with the following constellators:

-Raimond Hafkenscheid – The Netherlands: [Raimond Hafkenscheid Strategie Advies Consultancy](#)

-Ignacio A. Verdugo Ramírez de Arellano – Chile: [Team Building Partners – Coaching – Equipos de Alto Desempeño – Liderazgo](#)

-Marissa Mar Pecero – Mexico: [Marissa Mar Pecero - Consultora en Agua, Comunicación, Educación, Transparencia y Políticas Públicas - Varios | LinkedIn](#)