

Delta Blues: Culture, stakeholders and sediments

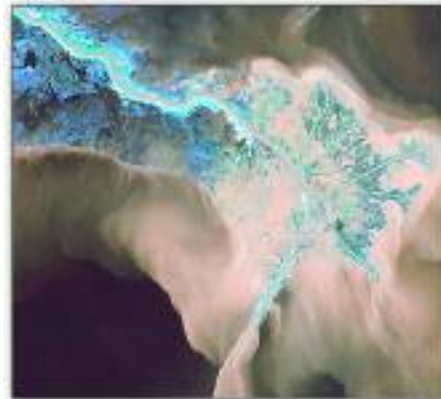
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Sed Net



The Mississippi delta



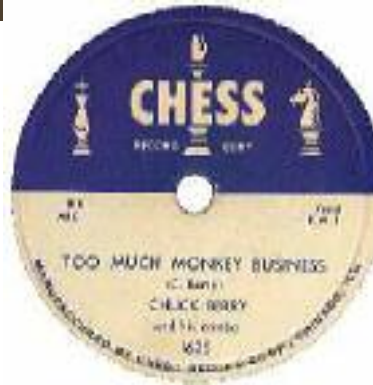
Migration facts of the Mississippi



- People (south→north)
1920's: 775.000
1930's: 350.000
1940's: 1.600.000
1950's: 1.500.000
- Sediments
500 million tons annual



From Chicago to England



What can we learn from this?

- Culture ← People ↔ River → Sediments
- Cultural aspects give sediments meaning
- Culture: differences
- Mixing leads to innovations
- Language as expression of a certain culture,
- but also as a means to bridge gaps

Cultural theory

- Descriptive theory
- Starting point: social construction of reality
- Cultural differences lead to different:
 - *Perceptions* of “reality”
 - *Languages* to describe “reality”
 - *Assessments* of risk
 - Views on *problems and solutions*

Culture and sediments

- Make an inventory of cultural views: perspectives and language
- Talk to cultural groups in “their language”
- Mix the perspectives
- Develop a “common language”,
- Proces of joint fact finding, joint solutions,
- Find also the ‘contested’ solutions

Cultural views on sediment management

Three groups:

- Users: economic reasoning, challenges, technology as solution, short term oriented
- Controllers: societal risk between boundaries, belief in regulations and authority, medium term oriented
- Guardians: preserve ecosystems, “natural sediments”, long term oriented

Language and blind spots

	Language	Blind spots
Controller	Government: Control & Regulation Danger/Safety of sediments Research (predict outcomes)	Unusual, “risky”, solutions Ownership of solutions Costs are no “hurdle”
Guardian	Damage to Nature/Ecosystem Waste Risk Regulation	Economically viable Efficient solutions Short term impact Costs
User	Challenge and Profit Technology Pragmatic Costs	Long term impact Ecosystem Risk Control & regulation

Why involve stakeholders?

- Mixing cultural views can lead to innovative solutions and a new common language
- To generate robust solutions that fit in different cultural views
- To use the knowledge of the stakeholders
- To raise awareness on the problem
- To counteract obstructive power

Who are the stakeholders?

Everybody who is affected by or has an effect on sediment quality/quantity:

- River-/ watermanagers
- Nature conservation organisations
- Dredging companies
- Port authorities
- Industries
- Local and national governments
- Drinking water companies
- Agriculture organisations
- Civilians/ civil organisations



How to involve stakeholders?

Five levels:

- Information
- Consultation
- Advising
- Co producing
- Co deciding
- Independent process manager
- Different tools: consensus conference, workshops, etc.

I showed you:

- The importance of culture related to sediment
- Mixing cultural views might lead to innovations
- The three cultural perspectives, the language, and their blind spots
- Why and how stakeholders should be involved

Let's do it !

