

Bergen im Chiemgau

*Who knows
where ... is?*

Treuchtlingen

Wörth am Rhein



Okay! And what about these brands?





Berlin University
Alliance



No. 1 – Water related Protest in Lüneburg

Water fights: Scarcity, Conflict and Water Justice in Germany

Ella Hanewald | Supervised by Henriette Schubert-Zunker |
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Agenda

- 1. Germany has Water Problems!
- 2. But why exactly Mineral Water Production Conflicts?
 - 2.1. Basic idea behind this Research and its Relevance
 - 2.2 Why it is all about asking the right Question(s)
- 3. Methodology, Course design and Cases
- 4. One closer Look: Adelholzener
- 5. Summary and Outlook
- 6. Literature, Media Sources and List of Illustrations

1. Germany has Water Problems!

Elon Musk on Germany's water issues, quoted in DerStandard (2021):

“This region has so much water, look around! [...] Here, water is everywhere. Does this [Brandenburg] look like a desert to you? That's ridiculous. It rains so much.”

1. Germany has Water Problems!



No. 2 – Dried up river in Bavaria

- Germany is a hotspot of the global water crisis (Güntner et Al., 2023)
- Symptoms like:
 - Lowering ground water tables (Joeres et Al., 2022)
 - 6 % loss in total usable water between 1991 and 2020 (UBA, 2022)
- 19 % of all water providers reported regional shortages in 2022 (DVGW, 2023)
- Water as a Human and Constitutional Right (Article 2, 20 GG)
- Important economic factor



No. 3 – A bottling plant

?

2. But why exactly Mineral Water Production Conflicts?

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No. 4 – Mineral Water

2.1 The Basic Idea



No. 5 – A view of the Student Conference's buffet

- Mineral Water as a “controversial” commodity
 - Attracts more easily questions around **legitimacy** and **distribution** than e.g. tap water
- Gaining intimate knowledge on local power / interest juxtapositions and general local context
 - Via student led empirical research into aforementioned mineral water production conflicts
- Go from the specific to the general and derive broader, potentially applicable knowledge

2.1 Relevance



No. 6 – One of the protesting citizens

- A new, not before systematically researched angle on Germany’s water conflict
 - (Our) Conflicts did appear quite recently
- Deeper understanding of citizens’ initiative motives may help with reducing future conflicts
 - Help developing a political consensus on use and distribution of water
 - Critically reflect possible solutions
- Also, another valuable contribution to solidify guidelines in Water Justice research in Germany

2.2 Asking the Research Question(s)

Which water distribution is fair?

Why do citizens' initiatives protest the local water practices of mineral water producers and what demands do they make?

Which water use do they see as fair(er) and why?

3. Methodology and Course Design



No. 7 – Symbolic image: Interview

- Empirical social research
 - Qualitative, guided interviews
 - Qualitative content analysis of transcripts via MAXQDA
- Course design
 - Research on existing information
 - Case (pre)selection
 - Research proposal / research question
 - Stakeholder analysis
 - Interview preparation + Interviews
 - (Qualitative Analysis)

3. Methodology and Course Design

But!

It wasn't finished in this semester

To-Dos:

More interviews, qualitative analysis of transcripts
and publishing it via a podcast on our institute's website!
Because everyone eventually makes one ;)

3. Cases

Weiding InnFood Mineral Waters	Treuchtlingen Altmühltaler Getränke	Bergen (Oberbayern) Adelholzener Alpenquellen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby food company with a long-term commitment • Wants to go even further • Citizens first feared PFAS now they fear for precious deep ground water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral water • '19 doubling of extraction announced (Old company) • '23 takeover by Aldi Nord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will they overuse? • Local citizens aren't amused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also, mineral water (a lot) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuns! • Licence must be renewed '25 • Citizens might trust a nun but not the corporate leadership

4. Adelholzener Deep Dive



- Long existing company, deeply enrooted in local economy
 - Wants to expand
- Extracts extra pure deep ground water
- Region receives ca. 1000-1500 mm of rain each year
- Supposedly funnels all profits into their social ventures

No. 8 – Sister Rosa Maria Dick and Adelholzener factory

4. Adelholzener Deep Dive



No. 9 – Bergen in the Chiemgau

- Critique of intransparent process
- Supposed lack of documents
- Lots of scepticism on citizens' side
- Initiative gets support in local community
- No one fears an immediate shortage of drinking water

4. Adelholzener: We asked

How just is Adelholzener's water extraction perceived by the citizens' initiative "Unser Bergener Wasser", the local politics of Bergen and the company itself?

And what role does the corporate framing (Catholic social enterprise) play in the respective judgement of the justness of extraction?

4. Adelholzener: Discussion of our results / Challenges

	1) Interview with local politician	2) Interview with citizens' initiative member
Problems (procedural justice)	Recognition of the lack of data within local authorities	Mainly lack of certain documents and expert opinions by Adelholzener; lack of data within local authorities
Drinking water scarcity (distributive justice)	No real danger of drinking water scarcity was seen in the coming decades	Emphasis on the long-term risk of water scarcity as a result of climate change
Prioritisation/distribution of water (distributive justice)	1) Nature, 2) citizens, 3) companies	1) Citizens, 2) other districts (if in need), 3) companies
Role of Adelholzener/order (distributive justice)	Christian-social orientation of the company/order plays no role in the assessment of water abstraction	

A little reminder has never heard nobody

Which water distribution is fair?

Why do citizens' initiatives protest the local water practices of mineral water producers and what demands do they make?

Which water use do they see as fair(er) and why?

5. Summary

- Citizens' initiatives often **already appear** when there are only announcements
- An **insufficient knowledge situation** initiates mistrust, insecurity and protective reactions
- There are classical demands like a stop to expansion plans but also **interestingly** a call for company / government transparency
- Mineral / packaged water is generally seen as a luxury item and basically always loses the “fight” (**Baby food does hit different**)
- Just water use/distribution **should consider**:
 - nationwide ground water loss; the heightened importance of deep ground water; clear, well communicated and public licence processes and eventual hard prioritization against company's profit interests

5. Outlook and Challenges

- We are looking at a **Work in Progress** here (Lack of data, getting contact)
- Prescheduled interviews allow for a **variety** of preparation, concealment or simply a decline before anything happens (**usability/interpretation of data!**)
- It appeared to us we therefore must train ourselves in the art of **reading between lines**
- The topic stays relevant nevertheless because the intensification of these kind of conflicts is expected with less water available. **Research must go on.**

Because we all kind of need to
drink water

6. Literature and Media Sources

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6. List of illustrations

- Logo 1 – Entry slide:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/de/thumb/6/64/Adelholzener_Alpenquellen_logo.svg/1024px-Adelholzener_Alpenquellen_logo.svg.png (28.09.2024)
- Logo 2 – Entry slide: <https://saskiawasser.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Saskia%C2%AE-Wasser-logo.webp> (28.09.2024)
- Logo 3 – Entry slide: <https://altmuehltaler.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Logo-Homepage-300x96.png> (28.09.2024)
- Picture 1 – <https://www.landeszeitung.de/lokales/lueneburg-ik/lueneburg/protestaktion-vor-dem-coca-cola-werk-VCUA46BXE6YUGVVUJWIDMPMYX4.html> (28.09.2024)
- Picture 2 – https://www.ufz.de/export/data/2/270352_rissbach800x450px.jpg (29.09.2024)

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- Picture 3 – <https://watermanaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/mineral-water-bottling-plant-1.jpg> (29.09.2024)
- Picture 4 – [https://www.thespruceeats.com/thmb/4Uxr_CKC7aR-UhEiclvVqLaiO0k=/1500x0/filters:no_upscale\(\):max_bytes\(150000\):strip_icc\(\)/GettyImages-488636063-5ab2dbd8a8ff48049cfd36e8ad841ae5.jpg](https://www.thespruceeats.com/thmb/4Uxr_CKC7aR-UhEiclvVqLaiO0k=/1500x0/filters:no_upscale():max_bytes(150000):strip_icc()/GettyImages-488636063-5ab2dbd8a8ff48049cfd36e8ad841ae5.jpg) (29.09.2024)
- Picture 5 – Taken privately by Presenter, thank you BUA <3 (02.10.2024)
- Picture 6 – <https://www.ovb-online.de/assets/images/29/506/29506590-adelholzener-alpenquellen-in-siegsdorf-sarina-kraft-unser-bergener-wasser-3G7a.jpg> (29.09.2024)
- Picture 7 – <https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQqd82XzZLxYwQ3P5GfrhBxaB4rAgKc054tkg&s> (29.09.2024)

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- Picture 8 – https://www.mk-online.de/fileadmin/_processed_/d/e/csm_1702collage_908258cb8b.jpg (30.09.2024)
- Picture 9 – https://www.bergen-chiemgau.de/fileadmin/_processed_/3/5/csm_Luftbild_Campingplatz_83c2afe042.jpg (01.10.2024)

Thank You for your Attention!

My contact: hanewald@campus.tu-berlin.de

I will gladly provide the slides + eventual podcast episodes

The Discussion / Time for Questions starts now :)