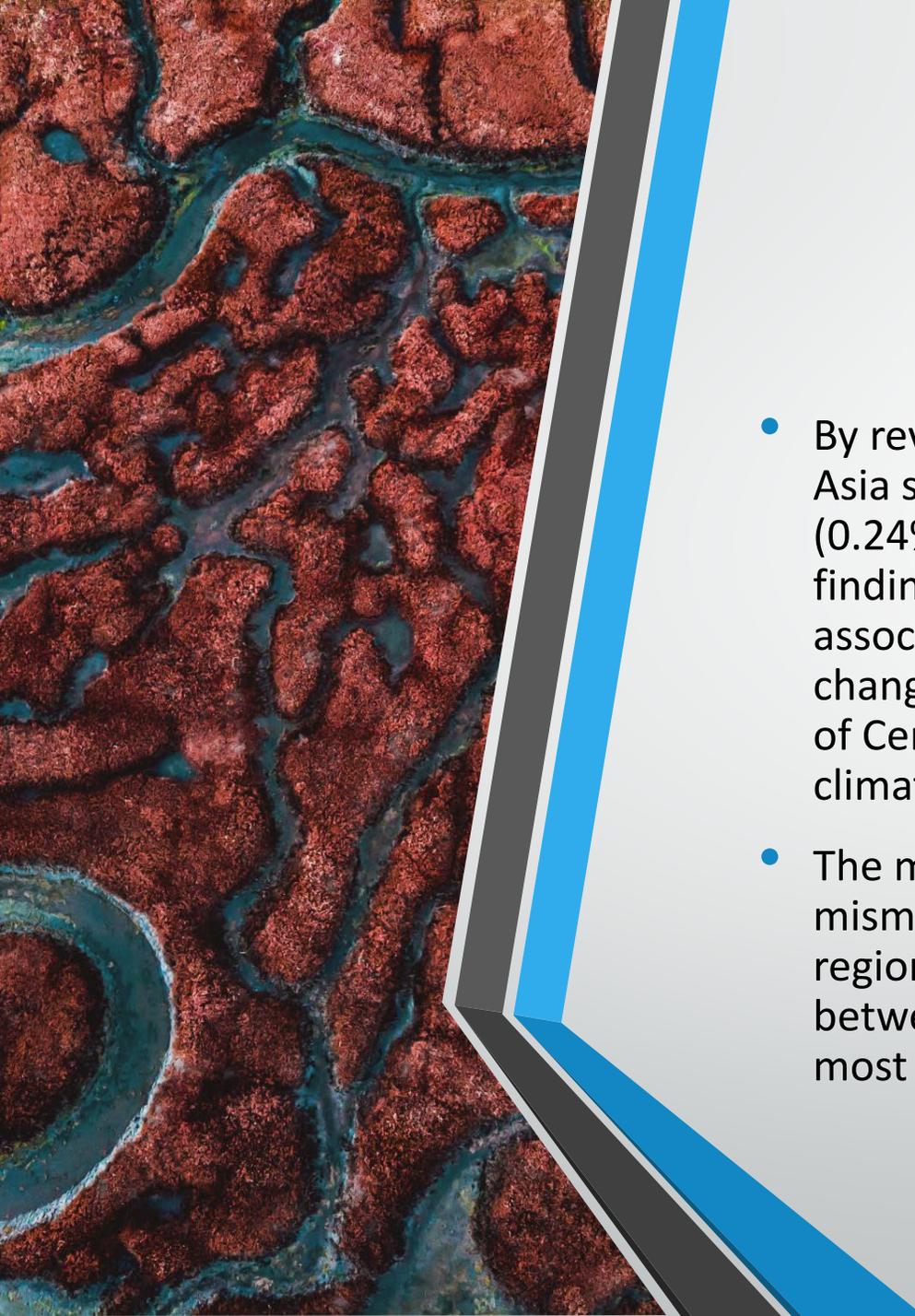




How does climate change challenge the securitization discourse of Central Asia

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Climate change in regional securitization discourse

- By reviewing the 13,488 journal articles in eight key journals for Central Asia studies, Vakulchuk et al. (2023) has found that only 33 articles (0.24%) were related to climate change or related thematic. Their findings also suggest that conferences of 17 Central Asia area studies associations only – 0.02% of individual presentations addressed climate change. The scholars who have been most involved in the securitization of Central Asia have disregarded the severe security risks posed by climate change in the region.
- The massive part of reviewed data under our study focused on the mismatch between hydrological and political boundaries as a threat to regional peace. Conflicts around renewable resources, such as water, between upstream and downstream states in Central Asia have become most discussed issue both in expert and media discourse.

Reconceptualization points:

Climate change as risk multiplier and as a factor of reinforcing regional cooperation.

Areas that have experienced conflicts in the past may be more vulnerable to climate change's acute impacts due to limited coping mechanisms and scant resources for building resilience.

Preliminary findings:

- Not clear distinguish between the risks/threats associated with climate-induced and anthropogenic-induced factors in the conflict contextualization.
- Much of the literature is dedicated to generalised scenarios without assessing the risk interlinkages among countries. Among those publications that do discuss the climate induced vulnerabilities, there is also a heavy focus on water issues.
- Visible gaps in the knowledge production include low representation of the voice of civil society regarding climate change, environmental justice and conflicts.