JOSEPH CAMPBELL'S MONOMYTH AND FLOOD NARRATIVES: AN ANALYSIS OF THE VEZ RIVER WATERSHED

O MONOMITO DE JOSEPH CAMPBELL E AS NARRATIVAS DE INUNDAÇÃO: ANÁLISE NA BACIA HIDROGRÁFICA DO RIO VEZ

EL MONOMITO DE JOSEPH CAMPBELL Y LAS NARRATIVAS DE INUNDACIONES: ANÁLISIS EN LA CUENCA HIDROGRÁFICA DEL RÍO VEZ

LE MONOMYTHE DE JOSEPH CAMPBELL ET LES RÉCITS D'INONDATION: ANALYSE DANS LE BASSIN VERSANT DE LA RIVIÈRE VEZ

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Introduction

River floods are a recurring natural phenomenon with significant impacts on various regions around the world, profoundly affecting local communities. The negative impact of floods is highlighted by their being one of the leading causes of weather-related fatalities (Coles; Hirschboeck, 2020). For these and other reasons, understanding people's behaviour in relation to floods can help develop strategies to mitigate their negative impact, including reducing mortality (Hamilton *et al.*, 2020).

The Rio Vez watershed, located in northern Portugal, exemplifies this reality, frequently experiencing floods that drastically alter the daily lives of its inhabitants. The way these experiences are narrated and interpreted, both by the local population and the media, plays a crucial role in shaping risk perception, building community resilience, and informing responses to future catastrophic events. In this context, the application of Joseph Campbell's "Hero's Journey" (Wahyuni, 2018), a widely recognised narrative structure, offers a powerful analytical tool for uncovering and understanding the narratives that emerge around floods.

This article introduces an innovative method for analysing these narratives, using Campbell's "Hero's Journey" or monomyth (Boukemmouche; Al-Khawaldeh, 2022) as a coding and structuring framework. By adapting this structure to the lived and reported stories of floods in the river Vez watershed, the goal is not only to gain a deeper understanding of the inhabitants' experiences but also to establish a comparative approach that allows for evaluating the different trajectories of these experiences over time. The study employs a qualitative method and thematic content analysis, selecting articles about this watershed region.

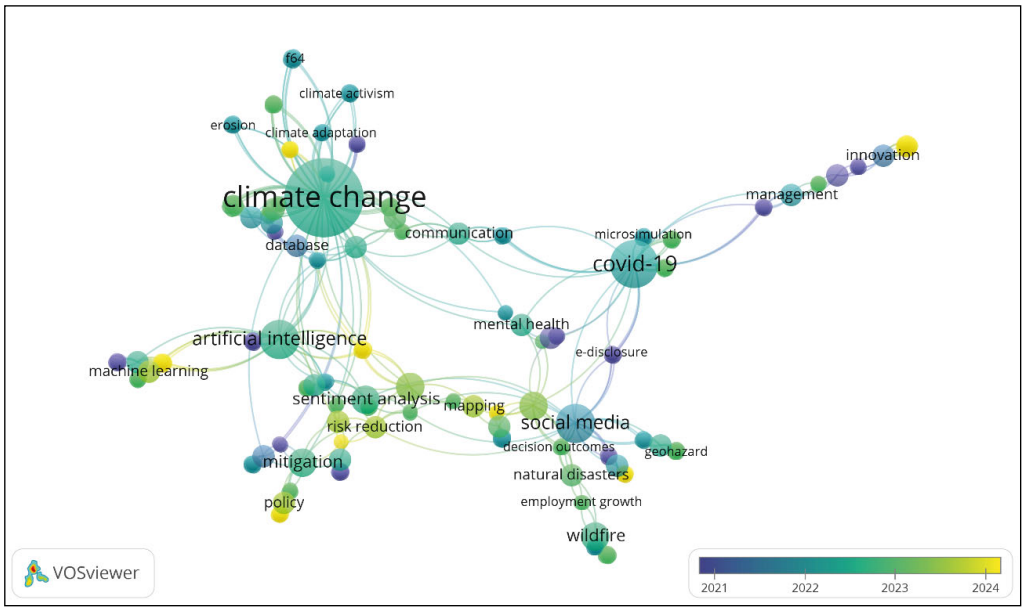
The central issue addressed in this study is the lack of a robust and reliable methodology for constructing and analysing structured flood narratives to effectively compare the inhabitants' experiences. The guiding question of this work is: "**How can the structure of the Hero's Journey be used to create coherent and comparable narratives about flood experiences in the Rio Vez watershed?**" This issue arises from the observation that flood-related narratives tend to be scattered and unstructured, making comparative analysis and in-depth understanding of local experiences difficult. The findings of this study include revealing how floods are described in various publications, reflecting a pattern of situational determination. In this context, through the application of Campbell's monomyth theory, this study develops a structure classified into 12 stages of flooding (described in section four of this document), which allows for the systematic capture and comparison of these narratives, offering emotional and sensitive insights into community resilience, risk perception, and responses to flood events. Two scientific articles were analysed to determine how language contributes to knowledge construction in managing a crisis. We conclude that flood experiences are comparable, and it is possible to identify converging and diverging points among authors, contributing to better flood response capabilities.

Joseph Campbell's "Hero's Journey" and narratives of floods

The work of the American scholar of mythology and religion, Joseph Campbell (Roberto, 2017), on the "Hero's Journey" is regarded as a narrative model that transcends cultures and time periods. The Hero's Journey traces the path of the main protagonist, the hero, from the beginning to the end of their adventure, through the key trials they must undergo. By applying Campbell's theory of the mythological Hero's Journey and the process of individuation, the study showcases the psychological development of the main protagonists through the different stages of the monomyth, presenting their final transformation and the value created as a result of the stages they completed along the journey (Boukemmouche; Al-Khawaldeh, 2022). Campbell's theory offers a powerful framework for understanding narratives of overcoming and resilience in contexts of adversity, such as floods, where the hero's journey can mirror the emotional and social journey of affected communities (Campbell, 1949).

A flood can be likened to a deluge (Şahin, 2023), a heavy downpour that can result in a flood. Returning to the Epic of Gilgamesh, a literary work described by Şahin (2023) as the oldest in history, it depicts the hero's quest for immortality. The struggle for survival unfolds in stages akin to the Hero's Journey. A hero may be accompanied by a secondary character on this arduous journey (Şahin, 2023). As the narrative progresses, the hero experiences the cycle of separation, initiation, and return (Boukemmouche; Al-Khawaldeh, 2022; Şahin, 2023). At the end of the story, the hero, having survived, successfully achieves their original goal.

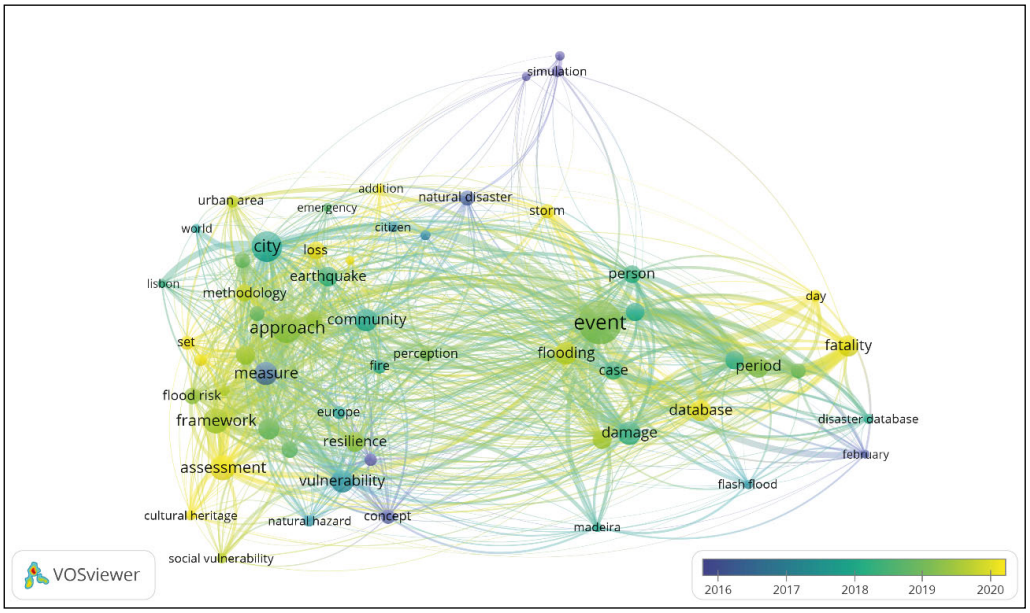
In the realm of creating human spaces, particularly in the context of spatial imagination, human geographies, and cartographic practices, some authors, such as Steffen Wöll (2023), highlight the need to develop new narratives, referencing Joseph Campbell's ideas. Inspired by this perspective and drawing on experience from the study of floods, we conducted comprehensive research in scientific databases to enrich and substantiate the investigation related to the application of Campbell's theory to flood studies. The VOSviewer software was utilised for mapping and visualising bibliometric data, aiming to demonstrate that, in Portugal, flood research in recent decades is representative and that there is a growing need for distinct approaches in addressing the narratives associated with this phenomenon. In this context, the term "Disaster" encompasses the largest national project dedicated to the study of floods, which made extensive use of data sources from the periodical press. It was therefore included in the selection of key terms for subsequent bibliographic research. On ScienceDirect, a search conducted for the period 2010 to 2025, using the terms "Disaster" AND "Portugal" AND "floods", resulted in 91 documents (Figure 1). The keyword analysis identified 426 terms with at least one occurrence, with "social media" standing out as the third most frequent term, with 5 occurrences. This set of publications involved 389 authors, with a maximum of two publications per author.



Source: Own elaboration based on bibliometric data (2024).

Figure 1. Search on ScienceDirect and Analysis Focused on the Terms.

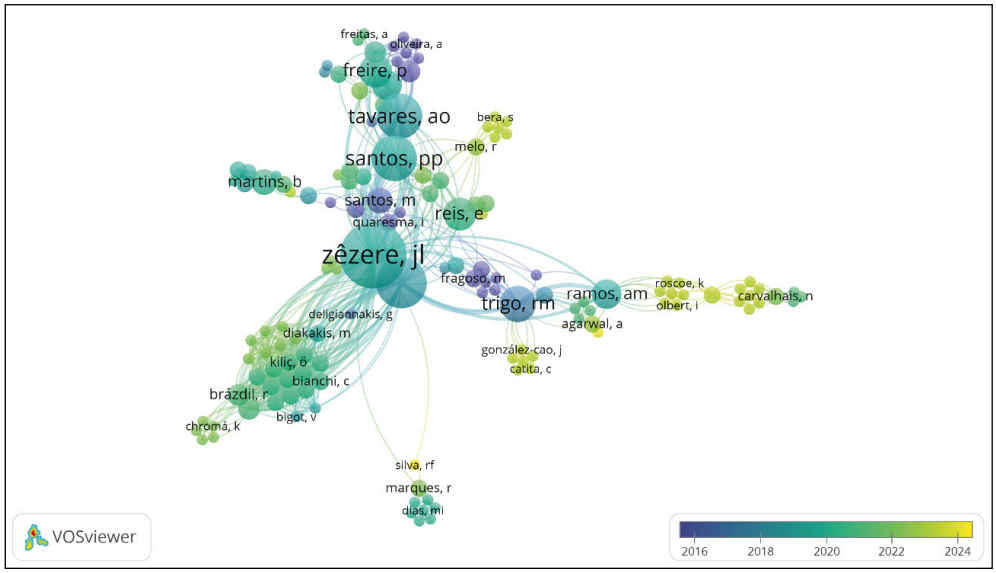
In the Web of Science (WoS), the analysis of 159 documents, focused on terms contained in titles and abstracts, generated 4,732 unique terms. By establishing a minimum criterion of 10 occurrences per term, 98 relevant terms were identified, of which 59 were selected for analysis, with "disaster database" (Figure 2) appearing with 13 occurrences.



Source: Own elaboration based on bibliometric data (2024).

Figure 2. Search on the Web of Science and Analysis Focused on the Terms.

Additionally, the co-authorship analysis revealed a total of 547 authors involved in publications on the subject. Among them, Zêzere (Figure 3) stands out as the most prolific author, with a total of 19 publications, reflecting his significant influence on flood research in Portugal. This predominance not only underscores the relevance of his work within the scientific community but also indicates potential areas for collaboration and continuity in future research.



Source: Own elaboration based on bibliometric data (2024).

Figure 3. Search on the Web of Science and Co-authorship Analysis.

The bibliometric analysis process provided a detailed understanding of scientific production and collaboration networks on the topic of floods in Portugal. The results highlight that scientific publications frequently draw on a variety of data sources, including social media and specialised databases such as "Disaster." This bibliometric study also demonstrates the potential to enrich our documentary analyses by applying the narrative structure of the Hero's Journey, offering new perspectives and deepening the interpretation of data in flood research, where survivors can be identified as heroes. The evidence suggests that the application of Joseph Campbell's theory to the study of floods in Portugal is not yet a predominant approach, despite its potential. This underscores the importance of emphasising that the Hero's Journey, as outlined by Campbell, is a universal human narrative, concerned with the conceptualisation of narratives, as noted by Jennings (2022).

Methodology

In this study, a literature review on Joseph Campbell's "Hero's Journey" and flood narratives was conducted across various scientific databases. Initially, the Consensus database was utilised with the terms "Hero Theory" and "floods", resulting in 12 relevant documents.

Additionally, a search was conducted on the Web of Science (WoS) and Dimension using the terms "The Hero with a Thousand Faces", "Campbell", and the "12 distinct stages" to identify studies that address the narrative structure proposed by Campbell.

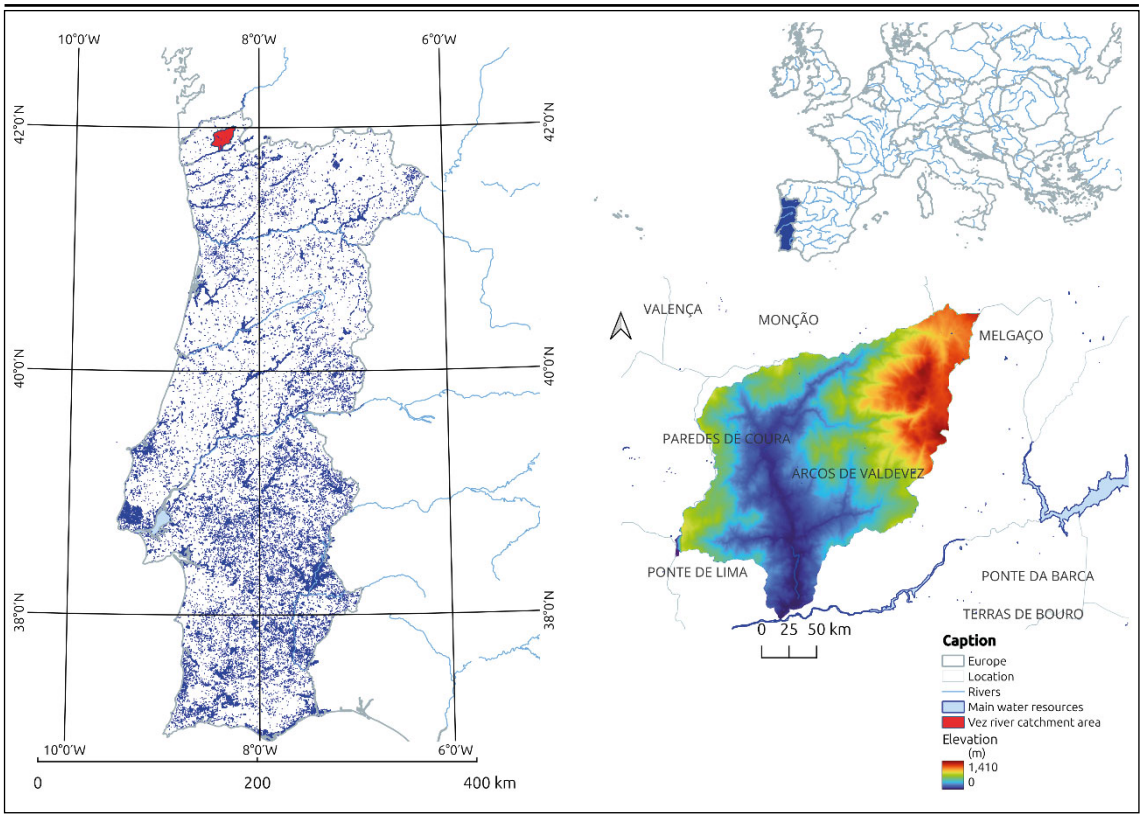
To investigate documents that use data sources on floods and report the stories of affected populations within Portuguese territory, a search was conducted in the ScienceDirect database using the terms "Disaster" AND "Portugal" AND "floods". This same query was repeated on the Web of Science (WoS) with the same terms. Co-occurrence analysis, as well as the examination of authors and co-authors, was performed using the VOSviewer software. This procedure allowed for the identification of publications addressing flood events in the Portuguese context and revealed the scarcity of studies applying the Hero's Journey narrative, thus establishing a solid foundation for subsequent analysis.

Subsequently, a case study design focused on the Vez River basin was employed, aiming to thematically reveal how floods can be narrated and interpreted. This is a qualitative research design that investigates one or more specific situations using various data collection methods, such as the review of scientific documents published by Portuguese researchers, in order to identify common themes and data sources. This research applies Campbell's theory of the mythological Hero's Journey and revisits Carl Jung's ideas on the process of individuation (Boukemmouche; Al-Khawaldeh, 2022) in the context of flood events in the Vez River basin. We propose a visual diagram that represents an adaptation of the 12 stages of the Hero's Journey to the case study of floods in the Vez River basin. The diagram visualises how each stage of the Hero's Journey can be applied to the experiences of individuals, offering an analysis that compares the related narratives of two studies (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).

In this document, the term "floods" is defined as the flooded areas that directly impact humans and public and private infrastructure.

Study Area

The Vez River basin, located in northern Portugal (Figure 4), is prone to flooding and has been the subject of various studies (Bellu *et al.*, 2016; Carvalho-Santos *et al.*, 2016; Gonçalves, 2020) that explore both the physical aspects of floods and the socio-cultural responses of the affected communities. However, the majority of the literature focuses on technical and environmental analyses, with little emphasis on the narratives constructed around these experiences (Şahin, 2023; Rogers *et al.*, 2023). There is a significant gap in understanding how flood stories are narrated by the periodical press and local inhabitants, and how these narratives shape community resilience and risk perception. Studies on various flood-affected regions have shown that narratives play a crucial role in articulating community responses, influencing everything from collective memory to mitigation practices (Coles; Hirschboeck, 2020; Hamilton *et al.*, 2020).



Source: Created in Qgis, from data obtained in GEOFABRIK (2024).

Figure 4. Geographical location of the Vez river basin.

This study introduces a new perspective on the analysis of flood narratives in the Vez River basin by integrating the structure of the "Hero's Journey." By combining literary analysis with disaster studies research, the aim is to achieve a better understanding and comparison of the trajectories of the inhabitants' experiences over time. As Roberto (2017, p. 79) states, "the concept related to the term hero is tied to the societies that created it," reflecting the values of each era and the needs of each people.

These human characteristics are particularly evident in the area most affected by floods, which in 2024 was honoured with the emblematic figure of "Lininha da Valeta" through the "MurArcos" Festival (Figure 5). This tribute includes a painting by Daniela Guerreiro, depicting an elderly woman who endured and lived through the floods over the last century. Lininha da Valeta passed away at the age of 101, as reported on 26 June 2023 by the newspaper O Minho (https://ominho.pt/morreu-aos-101-anos-lininha-da-valeta-figura-emblematica-de-arcos-de-valdevez/).

Documentary evidence of this tribute, including images of the painting on the door of Lininha's residence at 151, was widely publicised in the media, such as on Rádio Alto Minho (9 May 2024, 15:04) and the newspaper O Minho (9 May 2024, 13:41). It is worth noting that this residence was one of those affected by the floods of 1909, 1914, 1987, 1999, 2000, and 2001, with the water levels reaching over a metre inside the house (Gonçalves; Trindade, 2014). The upper floor of the house proved invaluable to "Linhinha" in overcoming the challenge of each day with a flood inside her home.

Valeta, located in the União de Freguesias de S. Salvador, Vila Fonche e Parada, stands out as an emblematic site, home to the largest river beach on the Vez River—the positive side—but also the site of the most devastating floods—the negative side.

Source: Photographs obtained from the União de Freguesias da Junta de Freguesia de S. Salvador, Vila Fonche e Parada, 8 May 2024 <https://www.facebook.com/jfav.pt>.

Figure 5. "MurArcos".

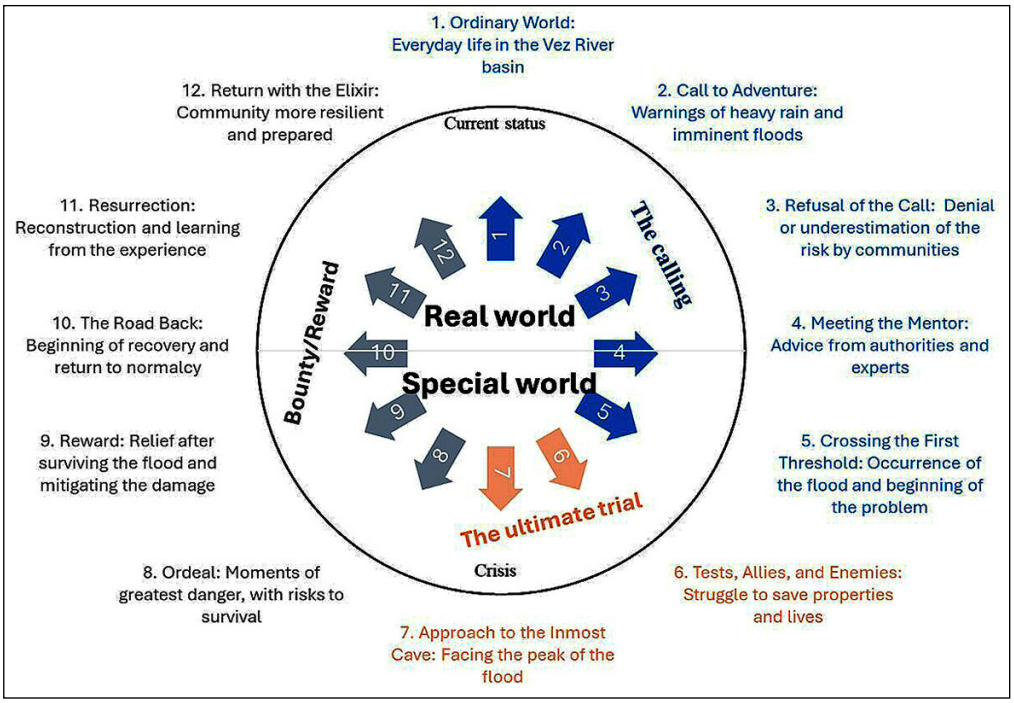
The hero's journeys, although rooted in ancient myths, retain contemporary relevance, as Roberto (2017) emphasises. The images from "MurArcos" powerfully illustrate the hero's immortality through the figure of "Lininha da Valeta," perpetuating her memory and symbolising human resilience in the face of adversity. The depiction of "Lininha" is not only a tribute to a life marked by resistance to floods but also a visual metaphor encapsulating the ongoing struggle of the inhabitants of the Vez River basin against the forces of nature. This homage not only reflects the importance of preserving collective memory but also highlights the role of cultural and artistic narratives in the construction of community identities. By immortalising "Lininha," the community reaffirms its own history and identity, acknowledging the challenges faced and the transformations that have shaped the region over time. Thus, the figure of "Lininha" transcends her individuality, becoming a collective symbol of perseverance and hope – fundamental elements in understanding disaster narratives and community resilience.

An Introduction to the Hero's Journey in the Context of Floods

The Hero's Journey, in its original version by Campbell (1949), was designed with up to 17 stages. According to the adapted model by McKay *et al.* (2023) and Roberto (2017), these stages can be distributed across three phases: separation or call to adventure, initiation or final ordeal, and reward or return. There are multiple versions proposed by Campbell or modified adaptations, which are justified by the specific application and the essential transformative experiences fundamental to the monomyth process.

The adaptation of the Hero's Journey into 12 stages in the context of the Vez River floods was conceived to concisely capture the most critical and universal moments of the inhabitants' experience. This approach is inspired by the research of McKay *et al.* (2023), who applied the Hero's Journey in contexts of traumatic experiences, establishing a clear parallel between different types of adverse experiences, such as violence and natural disasters. Roberto (2017) also presents an example related to the search for responses to traumatic emotional experiences, following Campbell's work—a twelve-stage cycle that the character must navigate during the journey of self-discovery. This author explains each stage of the hero's cycle.

In the illustrated representation in Figure 4, the real world embodies the call to adventure, which can be understood as the ideal place to live, in urban lowland areas that are more developed in terms of public and economic infrastructure. The final ordeal relates to the fulfilment of expectations (McKay *et al.*, 2023). In the case of flood events, individuals experience the crisis phase. They perceive the occurrence, and cognitive and emotional resilience is activated through the senses (McKay *et al.*, 2023; McKay, 2023). They begin to acquire legitimate skills on how to cope with the crisis (McKay *et al.*, 2023) and consequently with the danger. This is followed by the return or reward phase. Those involved begin to feel more confident in their ability to take risks (McKay *et al.*, 2023). Although the experiences with the floods were uncomfortable, a positive outcome was achieved (McKay *et al.*, 2023); after overcoming the obstacle, the "heroes" were rewarded (Şahin, 2023).



Source: Author's own work (2024), based on adaptations from the consulted bibliography: Ensslin and Tejasvi Goorimoorthee, 2018; Solovyov, 2023; Roberto, 2017; Wahyuni, 2018; Steffen Wöll, 2023.

Figure 6. A Proposed Visual Representation of the 12-Stage Hero's Journey for the Case of Floods in the Vez River Basin.

The representation of all possible hero or superhero models ensures that the reader identifies with the narrative and internalises the corresponding values and knowledge (Roberto, 2017). This approach allows for a better understanding of the natural social context in harmony with the anthropogenic environment in which it is situated, enhancing awareness of the flood issues triggered by climate causes. It is believed that as individuals mature through their experiences, they create cultural value around the theme of floods. Therefore, while the interpretation, perception, and intended message may lack consistency or simplicity, it aligns with the views of other researchers (Mckay *et al.*, 2023) that these choices are intentional, invoking continuous reflection and analysis of emerging data.

Application of the Hero's Journey in the analysis of scientific articles

In this subsection, only two scientific articles are included in the analysis, with their narratives considered under specific expectations, aiming for a focused comparison of the most relevant approaches to the Vez River watershed. These articles were selected for offering distinct yet complementary perspectives: one centred on the application of predictive models, and the other on innovation through the digitisation of historical records obtained from the periodical press. Accordingly, the 12 stages of the Hero's Journey are presented across three tables corresponding to the three stages (separation, initiation, and return).

The works of Fonseca *et al.* (2018) and Gonçalves (2022) both address the issue of flooding in the Vez River watershed, where we can identify some convergent and divergent points. They converge in their investigation of the problem of flooding (the ordinary world), an event that can cause traumatic experiences for the inhabitants, as shown by the extraction of concepts from the articles (Table 1). In the separation stage, both articles recognise the importance of data sets on flooding. They also agree on the integration of knowledge into a new application. The authors diverge in their approaches with two distinct models: Fonseca *et al.* (2018) focuses on the development of hydrological models, while Gonçalves (2022) emphasises the digitisation and innovation of data records collected from the periodical press. Thus, both recognise the need for advancements but differ in their practical and technological approaches.

Table 1. Heroic stages for the first stage: separation.

Stages	Extraction of concepts from the articles	Separation
1. Ordinary world	Initial state of flood risk (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Traditional use of flood data (Gonçalves, 2022).	Initial state of flood risk (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).
2. Call to adventure	Identification of flood risks(Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Need for innovation in the recording and use of flood data (Gonçalves, 2022).	Recognition of the importance of more systematic data records (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).
3. Refusal of the call	Initial doubts about the implementation of the models (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Challenges and resistance to the digitisation of historical records (Gonçalves, 2022).	Concerns about the accuracy of models and obtaining precise data (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Concerns about the feasibility and cost of digitisation (Gonçalves, 2022).
4. Meeting the mentor	Theoretical and methodological guidance from previous research (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Introduction of the digital application proposal as a solution (Gonçalves, 2022).	Inspiration and grounding from models and experts in the field (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Presentation of the digital application (Gonçalves, 2022).
5. Crossing the first threshold	Initial implementation of the selected models, starting calibration and validation (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).	Integration of existing knowledge into a new application (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).

Source: Author's own work based on Campbell's model and analysis of the documents: Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022.

In the second stage, initiation takes place, giving rise to the challenges of data inconsistency (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018) and to technical, legal, and institutional challenges (Gonçalves, 2022). Thus, in this stage, the evaluation of the models is necessary to reflect the local hydrological reality (Table 2). Consequently, the results must demonstrate practical reliability (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018), validation, and proven effectiveness (Gonçalves, 2022).

Table 2. Heroic stages for the second stage: initiation.

Stages	Extraction of concepts from the articles	Separation
6. Tests, allies, and enemies	Challenges with data inconsistencies and model calibration (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Also, technical, legal, and institutional challenges (Gonçalves, 2022).	Evaluation of the models to reflect the hydrological reality of the region(Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).
7. Approach to the innermost cave	Critical phase for achieving accuracy in flood risk predictions (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Development of the application and integration with existing data (Gonçalves, 2022).	The results must demonstrate practical reliability (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Preparation for the validation phase and proven effectiveness (Gonçalves, 2022).

Source: Author's own work based on Campbell's model and analysis of the documents: Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022.

In the third stage, the return, the models are subjected to rigorous testing (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022) to produce flood risk maps (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018) It becomes possible to disseminate results and adopt new tools to support governance (Table 3). The consolidation of knowledge for replication is evident. The contribution lies in advancing more efficient and sustainable urban risk management policies (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).

Table 3. Heroic stages for the third stage: return.

Stages	Extraction of concepts from the articles	Separation
8. Ordeal	Rigorous testing: accuracy in flood predictions (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018) and validation of the digital application (Gonçalves, 2022).	Models ready for practical application in risk management (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).
9. Reward	Validated models produce reliable risk maps (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Digital application ready for public use (Gonçalves, 2022).	Contribution with direct applications in public safety and local urban planning (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).
10. The road back	Dissemination of results (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Adoption of the new tool by economic and governmental entities (Gonçalves, 2022).	Widespread adoption of the tool, increasing its effectiveness and social impact (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).
11. Resurrection	Application of risk models in real-world contexts (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Positive impact on the sustainability of economic policies (Gonçalves, 2022).	Contribution to more efficient and sustainable urban risk management (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022).
12. Return with the elixir	Consolidation of knowledge for replication (Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Digitised flood data available (Gonçalves, 2022).	Provision of a replicable model, with benefits for society(Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018). Contribution to sustainable economic and environmental policies (Gonçalves, 2022).

Source: Author's own work based on Campbell's model and analysis of the documents: Fonseca; Santos; Santos, 2018; Gonçalves, 2022.

In conclusion, the analysis of the studies by Fonseca *et al.* (2018) and Gonçalves (2022) reveals a strategic complementarity in addressing flooding in the Vez River basin. While Fonseca *et al.* (2018) emphasise the importance of a solid foundation of predictive models to enhance accuracy and effectiveness in risk management, Gonçalves (2022) highlights the urgency of modernisation through the digitisation of historical records, proposing a technological transformation that could potentially revolutionise traditional practices. The convergence of these perspectives suggests that an integrated approach—combining the robustness of theoretical models with digital innovation—may offer a more effective and resilient solution to the growing challenges associated with flooding. This integrated path not only improves the response to extreme events but also promotes more sustainable and informed management of watersheds in the future. The hero described here is seen as fighting for their own survival and/or the well-being of society (the positive aspect), bearing the responsibility of combating flooding as a problem (the negative aspect), given that floods can cause damaging economic, social, and environmental consequences. It is a struggle to bring benefits to oneself or to the community in which one is situated.

Results and Discussion

The monomyth theory is applied to flooding in the Vez River basin with adaptations tailored to the local context. This represents an innovative method for analysing data sources on natural events, as it has not been previously applied to similar cases. Joseph

Campbell's hero, modified through the lens of narrative theory, is applied to "MurArcos", which provokes reflection on humanity's use and occupation of urban public space. There is an opportunity for us to identify with the hero "Lininha".

The analysis of the articles by Fonseca *et al.* (2018) and Gonçalves (2022), structured according to the Hero's Journey, revealed distinct approaches to the study of flooding in the Vez River basin. In the separation stage: both articles highlight the value of flood data. Fonseca *et al.* (2018) focus on the calibration of hydrological models, while Gonçalves (2022) invests in the digitisation of historical records. The convergence lies in the appreciation of new methods, with divergences in practical and technological approaches. In the initiation stage, the challenges include data inconsistencies and technical difficulties. Both studies agree on the need for rigorous evaluation, with Fonseca *et al.* (2018) addressing hydrological models and Gonçalves (2022) facing issues in digitisation. In the return stage: Fonseca *et al.* (2018) validate models for mapping risks, and Gonçalves (2022) validates the digital application. Both studies demonstrate significant advancements in risk management and provide practical contributions to urban policy.

The analysis reveals that Fonseca *et al.* (2018) and Gonçalves (2022) offer complementary approaches to flooding in the Vez River basin. Fonseca *et al.* (2018) highlight the robustness of predictive models, while Gonçalves (2022) promotes innovation through digitisation. The combination of these approaches could result in more effective and sustainable flood management solutions, enhancing response capabilities and urban planning.

Conclusions

This study aimed to reflect on the importance of the continuous analysis of emerging data in flood management, with a particular focus on the Vez River basin. By limiting the analysis to two specific studies, it was possible to conduct a detailed investigation of methodologies and key concepts, facilitating a deeper understanding of the distinct strategies employed in flood management. The analysis demonstrated that integrating robust predictive models with technological innovations not only enhances the effectiveness of proposed solutions but also promotes long-term sustainability, addressing the challenges faced by individuals during flood events more effectively.

Furthermore, applying the Hero's Journey theory in this context encouraged creative self-discovery, fostering critical and social thinking on the subject. In this process, the hero—represented by flood survivors and managers—is challenged to self-sacrifice for the common good, emphasising the importance of collective resilience and commitment to protecting affected communities.

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