



## **The role of the “socio” in socio-hydrology: equal partner or a marriage of convenience (and necessity)?**

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Socio-hydrology as a concept has been in vogue for past 10-15 years and has been defined as a means to better integrate hydrological and societal processes and connections. Rarely, however, do we reflect on the balance between the two elements in the concept, and all too often the “socio” is seen as a necessary evil in support of hydrological sciences, rather than as an equal partner. The objective of this contribution is to assess the “socio” component of socio-hydrology, a fairly recent and accepted genre within the hydrological sciences. A brief history of the term and related research is outlined, followed by a discussion of the current balance between socio and hydrology in this science, and directions for future research and integration. This contribution also introduces the concept of a “water policy cycle” as a way to integrate the “socio” into the more traditional (and engineering and bio-physical biased) hydrological cycle. Finally, we use an ongoing case of coproduction of knowledge and decision making in a dynamic southwest Idaho river basin to illustrate the opportunities and challenges of socio-hydrology at the local and regional scale. This contribution will address the “Society co-production of knowledge and policy” theme of HS 5.5.