



## **Floods and droughts: friends or foes?**

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Water hazards are some of the biggest threats to lives and livelihoods globally, causing serious damages to society and infrastructure. But floods and droughts are an essential part of the hydrological regime that ensures fundamental ecosystem functions, providing natural ways to bring in nutrients, flush out pollutants and enabling soils, rivers and lakes natural biodiversity to thrive. Traditionally, floods and droughts are too often considered separately, with scientific advance in process understanding, modelling, statistical characterisation and impact assessment are often done independently, possibly delaying the development of innovative methods that could be applied to both.

This talk will review some of the key characteristics of floods and droughts, highlighting differences and commonalities, losses and benefits, with the aim of identifying future key research challenges faced by both current and next generation of hydrologists.