



## Audiovisual Recording of the History of Hydro(geo)logy

Okke Batelaan (1), Keith Beven (2), Craig T. Simmons (1), and Philippe Renard (3)

(1) Flinders University, National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training, College of Science and Engineering, Adelaide, Australia ([okke.batelaan@flinders.edu.au](mailto:okke.batelaan@flinders.edu.au)), (2) Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom, (3) Centre for Hydrogeology and Geothermics, University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

“Man is immeasurably more interesting than other animals because he alone is able to create such intangible values as beauty, justice, and truth. Is not the history of these creative activities the most interesting part of the history of man? The scientific activity is particularly interesting from the historical point of view because it is not simply creative but cumulative. Our artists are not greater than artists of the past, our saints are not better than those of the past, but our scientists are undoubtedly more knowing. Michel Angelo stands upon the shoulders of Phidias, but that does not make him any taller. On the other hand, Newton stands upon the shoulders of Galileo and because of that he can see further...” (Sarton, 1935). This quote from the ‘father of the history of science’ was used in 1988 to introduce an AGU publication on the History of Hydrology. Now, 30 years later, EGU has its first session on the History of Hydrology. As a companion to this session, film interviews are organized with some of the EGU Dalton and Darcy medallists. These interviews will follow the tradition of the AGU History of Hydrology Film Interviews (<https://hydrology.agu.org/resources/history-of-hydrology-film-interviews/>) and those of the IAH ‘The Hydrogeologist Time Capsule’ (<https://timecapsule.iah.org/>). The first provides nine interviews taken between 1985 and 1997, while the latter project is still very active and has interviewed 13 hydrogeologists between 2007 and 2017. In both cases, the purpose of the interviews is to capture the personal stories and history behind the science and the scientist. Generally, science is good in recording research outcomes, but we do not talk much about the ‘journey’ to arrive at new scientific discoveries. If scientists share their personal stories about their career, their inspirations, successes, failures, collaborations, friendships, influences, thoughts about the future, etc. these recordings can be very inspirational and helpful for all, early career up to senior, scientists. Moreover, often personal and historical accounts also explain certain directions and developments of our science that are not written in the pages of journal papers. Hence, these recordings are a source of new and valuable information for scientists to further understand and appreciate science itself. With this poster presentation, we aim to encourage others to also tape interviews with researchers who contributed to the development of our science.