



Evolution of Community Research Efforts in Hydrology: Progress Made and Lessons Learned

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In contrast to traditional individual principal investigator-driven research, hydrology has recently experienced a greater emphasis on community research efforts. Prominent amongst these are the Predictions in Ungauged Basins (PUB) and Panta Rhei – Change in Hydrology and Society decadal initiatives, under the umbrella of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS). These are generally unfunded efforts, which have nevertheless made a universal impact on the science and its applications. There have been other, more limited, grassroots efforts, which have been inspired by the success of PUB (and Panta Rhei), amongst which I will include the UIUC Hydrologic Synthesis Project and the Socio-hydrology movement, which have also made a significant impact not commensurate with the funding received. Community efforts are best appropriate and almost indispensable in the case of comparative studies and inter-disciplinary studies, which requires participation of scientists reflecting on their experiences from multiple places and across multiple disciplines. This makes the science process also a social process, which requires especial care and attention, to ensure greater participation and success. In this talk I will describe the compulsions that have led to the adoption of recent initiatives, and many of the underlying organizing principles and the science themes behind them that have contributed to the excitement towards and success of these initiatives.