

## 13<sup>th</sup> Vienna Catchment Science Symposium, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

### On the Theme of: How to inspire the next generation of hydrologists through science

Hydrology advances when bold ideas, conceived in clever minds, rise to meet society's needs while embracing evolving technologies. It falters, however, when knowledge becomes fragmented, is inherited without challenge, or loses its depth and vitality. So what, then, is the soul of hydrology? And how do we pass it on, the power to see things that otherwise would be hidden? The aim of this symposium is to reimagine how we share the beauty and purpose of hydrological science, to spark wonder and inspire creativity, ensuring the next generation inherits not just our knowledge, but our passion.

Time	Session	Location
8:30	Tea, coffee, pastries and greetings	3rd Floor Foyer
8:45	Welcome and Introduction Günter Blöschl	Kuppelsaal
9:00	Inspiring through field mistakes, modeling breakdowns and eureka moments: insights across the critical zone Kamini Singha, Colorado School of Mines, USA	Kuppelsaal
9:50	Understanding hydrology by imagination and imaging Marc Bierkens, Utrecht University, The Netherlands	Kuppelsaal
10:40	Tea and coffee	3rd Floor Foyer
11:20	The motivation of hydrological discovery: lessons from the past to inspire a new generation Julian Klaus, University of Bonn, Germany	Kuppelsaal
12:10	Lunch	3rd Floor Foyer
13:30	Introduction to the small group discussion sessions	Kuppelsaal
13:45	Small group discussion sessions Group 1: <i>Articulating the "Soul" of Hydrology</i> Aim: to brainstorm what foundational ways of thinking define hydrology's "soul," and how these can be communicated to early-career scientists in compelling and authentic ways. Moderator: Pedro Chaffe Group 2: <i>Inspiring curiosity through innovative teaching</i> Aim: to brainstorm creative formats, narratives, and teaching strategies that deepen students' intuitive understanding of hydrological processes, and convey the purpose, beauty and passion of hydrological science. Moderator: Ilja van Meerveld Group 3: <i>Connecting bold hydrological ideas with societal needs</i> Aim: to brainstorm how emerging technologies and problem-driven science can be leveraged to mentor and motivate the next generation to pursue impactful hydrological research. Moderator: Sergiy Vorogushyn	Kuppelsaal  Seminar room AD0309 (3rd floor)  Seminar room 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor
16:00	Tea and coffee	3rd Floor Foyer
16:30	Plenary: Exchange of group findings	Kuppelsaal
17:30	Evening drinks reception followed by dinner	3rd Floor Foyer

Location: Kuppelsaal, TU Wien. Karlsplatz 13, 4th floor, 1040 Vienna

Photos



