

## ***Interactive comment on “HESS Opinions “The art of hydrology”<sup>1</sup>” by H. H. G. Savenije***

**H. H. G. Savenije**

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I would like to thank Alberto Montanari for his very positive and constructive reaction. In my words, he states that although a flexible modelling approach is necessary for research, we should not forget that certain established models perform perfectly well under the conditions for which they have been developed, and that the flexibility should be in the mind of the hydrologist rather than in the model.

Well, I fully agree with this point of view and I find it a valuable addition to the opinion paper. In the final version I shall make mention of it. Still we should not stop to underline that often models are used in situations for which they have not been developed. During the AGU meeting in San Francisco, which I just attended, I saw again

<sup>1</sup>Invited contribution by H. H. G. Savenije, the EGU Henry Darcy Medallist 2008 for outstanding contributions to Hydrology and Water Resources Management.

several presentation where this was the case. For instance a poster where Topmodel was used to a catchment where the runoff mechanisms was clearly rapid subsurface flow, and where the aquifer was 30 m deep. On the other hand, I also attended several presentations where efforts were made to use flexible model structures, so certainly, research is moving in the right direction.

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