

Interactive comment on “Measuring perspectives on future flood management on the Rhine: application and discussion of Q methodology” by G. T. Raadgever et al.

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As authors of the manuscript, we would like to thank the Referee for the many good comments, which allow us to improve the manuscript. In this reaction we discuss the points on which we would like to get some more feedback.

An overarching point of discussion is whether the discussion of Q methodology as a tool to measure and analyze perspectives is interesting to the readers of HESS. We can shorten the discussion if the other readers and reviewers of the manuscript also think that the discussion is less relevant. Our aim was to not only present the different perspectives on future flood management in the article, but also to discuss the relevance of perspectives for water management, explain how to elicit perspectives

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using Q methodology, and identify strengths and weaknesses of this method.

Comment 6: We took into account the different statistical rules for generating and analyzing the factors, such as the Eigenvalue of each factor (>1), the significance of individual factor loadings, and the significance of differences between factor scores. We did not find overall statistical assumptions that need to be met in literature; perhaps we overlooked something?

Comment 12: We will explain in Appendix B why we do not present the mean statement scores and the spread around the mean. This is because score categories in Q methodology do not have a fixed meaning, as in a normal questionnaire, but statements scores represent the agreement of an individual with a statement relatively to other statements. Therefore, individual Q sorts need to be analyzed in their entirety, and direct comparison of scores on one statement may lead to misinterpretations.

Comment 21: We think Appendix A is relevant for readers who are not familiar with flood management in the Rhine basin, and Appendix B is relevant for readers interested in details of the shared perspectives. We will check that all essential information is in the main text.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 5, 437, 2008.

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