

1 **Socio-hydrologic data assimilation: Analyzing human-flood interactions by model-**  
2 **data integration**

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13

14 **Abstract**

15 In socio-hydrology, human-water interactions are simulated by mathematical models.  
16 Although the integration of these socio-hydrologic models and observation data is  
17 necessary to improve the understanding of the human-water interactions, the  
18 methodological development of the model-data integration in socio-hydrology is in its  
19 infancy. Here we propose to apply sequential data assimilation, which has been widely  
20 used in geoscience, to a socio-hydrological model. We developed particle filtering for a  
21 widely adopted flood risk model and performed an idealized observation system  
22 simulation experiment and a real-data experiment to demonstrate the potential of the  
23 sequential data assimilation in socio-hydrology. In these experiments, the flood risk  
24 model's parameters, the input forcing data, and empirical social data were assumed to be  
25 somewhat imperfect. We tested if data assimilation can contribute to accurately  
26 reconstructing the historical human-flood interactions by integrating these imperfect  
27 models and imperfect and sparsely distributed data. Our results highlight that it is  
28 important to sequentially constrain both state variables and parameters when the input  
29 forcing is uncertain. Our proposed method can accurately estimate the model's unknown  
30 parameters even if the true model parameter temporally varies. The small amount of  
31 empirical data can significantly improve the simulation skill of the flood risk model.

32 Therefore, sequential data assimilation is useful to reconstruct historical socio-  
33 hydrological processes by the synergistic effect of models and data.

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37 **1. Introduction**

38 Socio-hydrology is an emerging research field in which two-way feedbacks between  
39 social and water systems are investigated (Sivapalan et al. 2012, 2014). Understanding  
40 complex socio-hydrologic phenomena contributes to solving water crises around the  
41 world. Socio-hydrology has been recognized as an important scientific grand challenge  
42 to meet United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (Di Baldassarre et al. 2019).

43

44 The most popular approach in socio-hydrology is to develop dynamic models which  
45 compute non-linear interactions between human and water. For instance, Di Baldassarre  
46 et al. (2013) developed a simplified model, which described human-flood interactions, to  
47 understand the levee effect in which high levees generate a false sense of security and  
48 induce social vulnerabilities to severe floods (see also Viglione et al. 2014; Ciullo et al.  
49 2017). Van Emmerik et al. (2014) developed a stylized model, which described two-way  
50 feedbacks between environment and economic activities, to understand the historical  
51 competition for water between agricultural development and environment health in  
52 Australia (see also Roobavannan et al. 2017). Pande and Savenije (2016) modeled  
53 economic activities of smallholder farmers to analyze the agrarian crisis in Marathwada,  
54 India. While socio-hydrologic models described above assumed the existence of a single

55 lumped decision maker, Yu et al. (2017) incorporated a collective action into their model  
56 and analyzed the dynamics of community-managed flood protection systems in coastal  
57 Bangladesh. Please refer to Di Baldassarre et al. (2019) for the comprehensive review of  
58 socio-hydrologic modeling.

59

60 In addition to these modeling approaches, both qualitative and quantitative data related to  
61 socio-hydrologic processes are important to understand human-water interactions. For  
62 instance, Mostert (2018) revealed historical changes in river management from water  
63 resources development to protection and restoration by analyzing qualitative data. Dang  
64 and Konar (2018) applied econometric methods to analyze quantitative data in both  
65 human and water domains and quantified the causal relationship between trade openness  
66 and water use. Kreibich et al. (2017) performed the detailed case study analysis on paired  
67 floods, consecutive flood events which occurred in the same region with the second flood  
68 causing significantly lower damage. They found that the reduction of vulnerability played  
69 a key role for successful adaptation to the second floods.

70

71 Although it is expected that the integration of model and data contributes to accurately  
72 understanding the socio-hydrologic processes (Mount et al. 2016), the methodological

73 development of the model-data integration in socio-hydrology is in its infancy. Generally,  
74 mathematical models can provide spatiotemporally continuous state variables and  
75 quantitative scenarios for future socio-hydrologic developments. In addition,  
76 mathematical models can quantitatively provide possible scenarios unrealized in the real-  
77 world, which gives the insight to targeted processes (e.g., Viglione et al. 2014). The major  
78 limitation of socio-hydrological models is that they are often inaccurate due to the  
79 uncertainty in their input forcing, parameters, and descriptions of the processes. On the  
80 other hand, hydrologic and social data are often more reliable than numerical models and  
81 can provide more complete understanding of the socio-hydrological processes (e.g.,  
82 Mostert 2018), although data also have uncertainties. However, in many cases, relevant  
83 data in socio-hydrology are sparsely distributed so that it is difficult to completely  
84 reconstruct the historical socio-hydrologic processes from data. The other limitation of  
85 the data-driven approach is that the quantification of the causal relationship cannot be  
86 easily done only by empirical data (e.g., Dang and Konar 2018). Considering this  
87 advantages and disadvantages of model and data, previous studies used social statistics  
88 to calibrate and validate their socio-hydrologic models (e.g., Barendrecht et al. 2019;  
89 Roobavannan et al. 2017; Ciullo et al. 2017; van Emmerik et al. 2014; Gonzales and  
90 Ajami 2017).

91

92 In geosciences, sequential data assimilation has been widely used for the model-data  
93 integration. Data assimilation sequentially adjusts the predicted state variables and  
94 parameters of dynamic models by integrating observation data into models based on  
95 Bayes' theorem. Data assimilation has been widely applied to numerical weather  
96 prediction (e.g., Miyoshi and Yamane 2007; Bauer et al. 2015; Poterjoy et al. 2019;  
97 Sawada et al. 2019), atmospheric reanalysis (e.g., Kobayashi et al. 2015; Hersbach et al.  
98 2019), and hydrology and land surface modeling (e.g., Moradkhani et al. 2005; Sawada  
99 et al. 2015; Rasmussen et al. 2015; Lievens et al. 2017). Applicability of the data  
100 assimilation approach to the socio-hydrologic models has yet to be investigated.

101

102 In this study, we aim to develop the methodology of sequential data assimilation for the  
103 flood risk model proposed by Di Baldassarre et al. (2013). From a series of idealized  
104 experiments and a real-data experiment in the city of Rome, we demonstrate the potential  
105 of data assimilation to accurately reconstruct the historical human-flood interactions. We  
106 focus on the case in which the socio-hydrologic model's parameters, input forcing data,  
107 and social data are somewhat inaccurate.

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109

## 110 **2. Method**

### 111 **2.1. Model**

112 In this study, we used a socio-hydrologic flood risk model proposed by Di Baldassarre et  
113 al. (2013). This model conceptualizes human-flood interactions by the set of simple  
114 equations which describe the states of flood, economy, technology, politics, and society.  
115 Based on this original model of Di Baldassarre et al. (2013), many similar flood risk  
116 models have been proposed, validated, and applied (e.g., Viglione et al. 2014; Ciullo et  
117 al. 2017; Barendrecht et al. 2019). Here we briefly describe this model. Please refer to Di  
118 Baldassarre et al. (2013) for the complete description of this model.

119

120 The governing equations of the flood risk model are shown below:

$$121 \quad F = \begin{cases} 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{W + \xi_H H}{\alpha_H D}\right) & \text{if } W + \xi_H H > H \\ 0 & \text{if } W + \xi_H H \leq H \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$122 \quad R = \begin{cases} \varepsilon_T (W + \xi_H H - H) & \text{if } (F > 0) \text{ and } (FG > \gamma_E R \sqrt{G}) \text{ and } (G - FG > \gamma_E R \sqrt{G}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

123 (2)

$$124 \quad S = \begin{cases} \alpha_S F & \text{if } (R > 0) \\ F & \text{if } (R = 0) \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

$$125 \quad \frac{dG}{dt} = \rho_E \left(1 - \frac{D}{\lambda_E}\right) G - \Delta(Y(t))(FG + \gamma_E R \sqrt{G}) \quad (4)$$



126 
$$\frac{dD}{dt} = \left(M - \frac{D}{\lambda_p}\right) \frac{\varphi_P}{\sqrt{G}} \quad (5)$$

127 
$$\frac{dH}{dt} = \Delta(Y(t))R - \kappa_T H \quad (6)$$

128 
$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \Delta(Y(t))S - \mu_S M \quad (7)$$

129

130 This model has four state variables: G, D, H, and M. G(t) [L<sup>2</sup>] is the size of the human  
 131 settlement; D(t) [L] is the distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the  
 132 river; H(t) [L] is the flood protection level (or levee height); M(t) [.] is the social  
 133 awareness of the flood risk. The timestep was set to annual.

134

135 Equation (1) calculates the intensity of flooding events F(t) [.] from the high water level  
 136 W(t) [L], the height of the levee H(t) [L], and the distance of the human settlement from  
 137 the river D(t) [L]. Equation (2) calculates R(t) [L], the amount by which the levees are  
 138 raised responding to the flood event. There are three required conditions under which  
 139 people decide to raise the levee. First, the flood event occurs. Second, the damage of flood  
 140 (FG) should be larger than the cost of raising levee. Third, the cost of raising levee should  
 141 be lower than the wealth remaining after the flooding. Equation (3) shows the magnitude  
 142 of the psychological shock by the flood event S(t) [..]. If the levee is raised, the  
 143 psychological shock is assumed to be mitigated. Equation (4) explains the dynamics of

144  $G(t)$ , the size of the human settlement or the wealth of the community. Following the  
145 notation of Di Baldassarre et al. (2013),  $\Delta(Y(t)) = 1$  with integral only when time  $t$   
146 passes the time of the flooding event ( $F > 0$ ), otherwise,  $\Delta(Y(t)) = 0$ . The term  $FG +$   
147  $\gamma_E R \sqrt{G}$  (total cost of flood damage and construction of levees) appears only if flood  
148 occurs. Equation (5) shows the dynamics of the distance of the center of mass of the  
149 human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ . When the social awareness of the flood risk is high,  
150 people tend to live far from the river. Equation (6) computes the dynamics of the flood  
151 protection level  $H(t)$  and equation (7) shows the dynamics of the social awareness of the  
152 flood risk  $M(t)$ . The explanation of parameters can be found in Table 1.

153

154

## 155 **2.2. Data Assimilation**

156 In this study, we used Sampling Importance Resampling Particle Filtering (SIRPF) as the  
157 method of data assimilation. SIRPF has been widely used in hydrologic data assimilation  
158 (e.g., Moradkhani et al. 2005; Qin et al. 2009; Sawada et al. 2015). Compared with the  
159 other data assimilation algorithms such as ensemble Kalman filter, SIRPF is robust  
160 against model nonlinearity and associated non-Gaussian error distribution. The  
161 disadvantage of SIRPF is that the infeasible computational resources are required if the

162 numerical model is computationally expensive, which is not the case in the flood risk  
163 model.

164

165 The flood risk model can be formulated as a discrete state-space dynamic system:

$$166 \quad \mathbf{x}(t + 1) = f(\mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{u}(t)) + \mathbf{q}(t) \quad (8)$$

167 where  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  is the state variables (i.e. G, D, H, and M),  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  is the model parameters,  $\mathbf{u}(t)$   
168 is the external forcing (i.e., the high water level), and  $\mathbf{q}(t)$  is the noise process which  
169 represents the model error. In data assimilation, it is useful to formulate an observation  
170 process as follows:

$$171 \quad \mathbf{y}^f(t) = h(\mathbf{x}(t)) + \mathbf{r}(t) \quad (9)$$

172 where  $\mathbf{y}^f(t)$  is the simulated observation,  $h$  is the observation operator which maps the  
173 model's state variables into the observable variables, and  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is the noise process which  
174 represents the observation error.

175

176 The SIRPF is a Monte Carlo approximation of Bayesian update of the state variables and  
177 parameters:

$$178 \quad p(\mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}^o(1:t)) \propto p(\mathbf{y}^o(t) | \mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}^o(1:t-1)) \quad (10)$$

179 where  $p(\mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}^o(1:t))$  is the posterior probability of the state variables  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  and  
180 parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  given all observations up to time  $t$   $\mathbf{y}^o(1:t)$ . The prior knowledge,  
181  $p(\mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}^o(1:t-1))$ , based on the model integration is updated using the likelihood  
182 which includes the new observation at time  $t$   $p(\mathbf{y}^o(t) | \mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta})$ . In this study, we assumed  
183 that our observation error follows Gaussian distribution so that the likelihood can be  
184 formulated as follows:

$$185 \quad p(\mathbf{y}^o(t) | \mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta}) \equiv L(\mathbf{y}^o(t), \mathbf{x}(t), \boldsymbol{\theta}) =$$

$$186 \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det(2\pi\mathbf{R})}} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbf{y}^o(t) - \mathbf{y}^f(t) \right)^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \left( \mathbf{y}^o(t) - \mathbf{y}^f(t) \right) \right] \quad (11)$$

187 where  $\mathbf{R}$  is the covariance matrix of the observation error process  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ . The prior  
188 knowledge of the state variables is approximated by the ensemble simulation:

$$189 \quad p(\mathbf{x}(t) | \mathbf{y}^o(1:t-1)) \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta \left[ \mathbf{x}(t) - f \left( \mathbf{x}^i(t-1), \boldsymbol{\theta}^i, \mathbf{u}^i(t-1) \right) \right] \quad (12)$$

190 where  $N$  is the ensemble size,  $\mathbf{x}^i, \boldsymbol{\theta}^i, \mathbf{u}^i$  are the realizations of the ensemble member  $i$ ,  
191 and  $\delta[\cdot]$  is the Dirac delta function.

192

193 The posterior probability of the state variables and parameters can be approximated as  
194 follows:

$$195 \quad p(\mathbf{x}(t) | \mathbf{y}^o(1:t)) \approx \sum_{i=1}^N w(i) \delta(\mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{x}^i(t)) \quad (13)$$

$$196 \quad p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}^o(1:t)) \approx \sum_{i=1}^N w(i) \delta(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}^i) \quad (14)$$

197 where  $w(i)$  is the normalized weight for the realization of the ensemble member  $i$  and  
198 is calculated using the likelihood (see also equation (11)).

$$199 \quad w(i) = \frac{L(\mathbf{y}^o(t), \mathbf{x}^i(t), \theta^i)}{\sum_{k=1}^N L(\mathbf{y}^o(t), \mathbf{x}^k(t), \theta^k)} \quad (15)$$

200 Note that equations (13) and (14) update all state variables and parameters of the model  
201 although the weight is calculated using only observable variables. Therefore, it is not  
202 necessary to observe all state variables in order to update all system variables.

203

204 The implementation of SIRPF is the following:

- 205 1. Model state variables are updated from time  $t-1$  to  $t$  using ensemble  
206 simulation (equations (8) and (12)).
- 207 2. Simulated observations are calculated for all ensembles (equation (9)).
- 208 3. The likelihood for each ensemble member is calculated (equation (11))
- 209 4. The weights are obtained for all ensembles (equation (15))
- 210 5. We applied a resampling procedure according to the normalized weights.

211 The normalized weights of ensemble  $i$ ,  $w(i)$ , can be recognized as the  
212 probability that the ensemble  $i$  is selected after resampling. Resampled state  
213 variables and parameters are defined as  $\mathbf{x}_{resamp}^i$  and  $\theta_{resamp}^i$ , respectively.

214 6. Since there are no mechanisms to increase the variance of parameters of  
 215 ensemble members, Moradkhani et al. (2005) proposed to perturb the  
 216 ensembles of parameters:

$$217 \quad \boldsymbol{\theta}^i \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\theta}_{resamp}^i + \varepsilon^i \quad (16)$$

$$218 \quad \varepsilon^i \sim N(0, \max(\boldsymbol{\omega}, s \times Var^\theta)) \quad (17)$$

219 where  $N(\cdot)$  is the Gaussian distribution,  $Var^\theta$  is the variance of  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^i$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$   
 220 is the fixed hyperparameter (see Table 1 for its variable) which guarantees  
 221 that the ensembles of parameters do not converge into a single value.  $s$  is  
 222 an adaptively changed factor according to the effective ensemble size,  $N_{eff}$ .

$$223 \quad s = s_0 \left(1 - \left(\frac{N_{eff}}{N}\right)^2\right) \quad (18)$$

$$224 \quad N_{eff} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^N w(i)} \quad (19)$$

225 where  $s_0 = 0.05$ . The effective ensemble size is the measure of the  
 226 diversity of ensembles. If the effective ensemble size becomes small,  
 227 ensembles should be strongly perturbed in order to maintain the diversity of  
 228 ensembles. Similar strategy has been used in many SIRPF systems (e.g.,  
 229 Moradkhani et al. 2005; Poterjoy et al. 2019).

230

231

### 232 3. Experiment design

#### 233 3.1. Observation System Simulation Experiment

234 In this study, we performed three observation system simulation experiments (OSSEs).

235 In the OSSE, we generated the synthetic truth of the state and flux variables by driving

236 the flood risk model with the specified parameters and input. Then, we generated

237 synthetic observations by adding the noise to this synthetic truth. Those synthetic

238 observations were assimilated into the model by SIRPF. The performance of SIRPF was

239 evaluated by comparing the estimated state variables by SIRPF with the synthetic truth.

240 Model parameters used to generate the synthetic truth can be found in Table 1. They are

241 identical to Di Baldassarre et al. (2013). The OSSE has been recognized as an important

242 preliminary step to verify the newly developed data assimilation systems (e.g.,

243 Moradkhani et al. 2005; Vrugt et al. 2013; Penny and Miyoshi 2016; Sawada et al. 2018).

244

245 The high water level for the synthetic truth was generated by the following:

$$246 \quad W = \min(v - 10, 0) \quad (20)$$

247  $v$  follows the Gumbel distribution:

$$248 \quad p(v) = \frac{\exp(-\frac{v-\mu}{\beta})}{\beta} \exp(-\exp(-(v-\mu)\beta)) \quad (21)$$

249 where  $\mu = 9, \beta = 2.5$ . Although our high water level is not identical to Di Baldassarre  
250 et al. (2013), the estimated trajectory of the state variables is similar to Di Baldassarre et  
251 al. (2013).

252

253 Synthetic observations were generated by adding the Gaussian white noise to the F, G, D,  
254 H, and M (see section 2.1) of the synthetic truth. The mean of the Gaussian white noise  
255 was 0. The observation error, the standard deviation of the Gaussian white noise, was  
256 firstly set to 10% of the synthetic true variables. Although this observation error is  
257 generally larger than that used in meteorology and hydrology, we further increased the  
258 observation error and tested the sensitivity of the observation error to the SIRPF's  
259 performance. We firstly assumed that all of the F, G, D, H, and M can be observed every  
260 10 years or every 10 model integration steps. Then, we evaluated the sensitivity of the  
261 observation network (i.e. the observable variables and the observation intervals) to the  
262 SIRPF's performance. Although it is not straightforward to observe social memory M,  
263 several previous studies obtained the proxy of the social memory by interview data  
264 (Barendrecht et al. 2019) and the number of Google searches (Gonzales and Ajami 2017).

265



266 We used the ensemble mean of root-mean square errors (mRMSE) as an evaluation  
267 metrics:

$$268 \quad RMSE^i = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (x^i(t) - z(t))^2} \quad (22)$$

$$269 \quad mRMSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N RMSE^i \quad (23)$$

270 where  $RMSE^i$  is root-mean-square-error for  $i$  th ensemble,  $T$  is the computational period,  
271  $x^i(t)$  is the simulated state variables of ensemble  $i$  at time  $t$ ,  $z(t)$  is the synthetic truth  
272 at time  $t$ .

273

274

### 275 **3.1.1. Experiment 1: Perfect model with uncertain high water levels**

276 In the first OSSE, we assumed that there is no uncertainty in model parameters. We used  
277 the same parameter variables as the synthetic truth run and we did not perform the  
278 estimation of parameters. Our SIRPF updated only state variables. Although the model  
279 had no uncertainty, it was assumed that the input data, the timeseries of the high water  
280 level, were uncertain. Lognormal multiplicative noise was added to the synthetic true high  
281 water level so that different ensemble members have different high water levels in the  
282 data assimilation experiment. The two parameters of the lognormal distribution,  
283 commonly called  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$ , were set to 0 and 0.15, respectively.

284

285

### 286 **3.1.2. Experiment 2: Unknown model parameters and uncertain high water levels**

287 In the second OSSE, we assumed that some of the synthetic true parameter values were  
288 unknown. The unknown parameters in the experiment 2 were the cost of levee raising  $\gamma_E$ ,  
289 the rate by which new properties can be built  $\varphi_P$ , the rate of decay of levees  $\kappa_T$ , and  
290 memory loss rate  $\mu_S$  (see Table 1). We selected these unknown parameters one by one  
291 from four equations of economy, politics, technology, and social to discuss how each state  
292 variable's observation affects the estimation of parameters across these four equations  
293 (see section 2.1). We have no unknown parameters related to F (equation (1)) since it is  
294 unlikely that the parameters in equation (1) are much more inaccurate than the other  
295 parameters. The parameters related to flood are mainly determined by the topography of  
296 the flood plain so that the process described in equation (1) can be replaced by more  
297 accurate hydrodynamic models in the real-world case study. The initial parameter  
298 variables were assumed to be distributed in the bounded uniform distributions whose  
299 ranges were found in Table 1. The uncertainty of the simulation induced by these  
300 parameters' uncertainty is large enough to demonstrate the potential of data assimilation  
301 to minimize the simulation's uncertainty (see Results). Our SIRPF sequentially

302 assimilated observations and estimated both state variables and parameters in the  
 303 experiment 2. The high water level data were uncertain as the experiment 1.

304

305

306 **3.1.3. Experiment 3: Unknown and time-variant model parameters and uncertain**  
 307 **high water levels**

308 To further demonstrate the potential of sequential data assimilation in socio-hydrology,  
 309 we assumed that the description of the model was biased in the experiment 3. Here we  
 310 assumed that two of the model parameters were temporally varied by the unknown  
 311 dynamics. Specifically, the rate by which new properties can be built,  $\varphi_P$ , and the  
 312 memory loss rate,  $\mu_S$ , were temporally varied in the experiment 3:

$$313 \quad \varphi_P(t) = \begin{cases} 5000 & (t < 250) \\ 5000 + (t - 250) \times \frac{40000 - 5000}{500} & (250 \leq t < 750) \\ 40000 & (750 \leq t) \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

$$314 \quad \mu_S(t) = \begin{cases} 0.01 & (t < 250) \\ 0.01 + (t - 250) \times \frac{0.10 - 0.01}{500} & (250 \leq t < 750) \\ 0.10 & (750 \leq t) \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

315 In the data assimilation experiment, we assumed that the dynamics of  $\varphi_P$  and  $\mu_S$  was  
 316 unknown, and we integrated the flood risk model with time-invariant  $\varphi_P$  and  $\mu_S$ . We  
 317 evaluated if SIRPF could track this time-variant parameter and reveal the bias of the  
 318 model's description. The cost of levee raising  $\gamma_E$ , and the rate of decay of levees  $\kappa_T$

319 were assumed to be time-invariant unknown parameters as they were in the experiment  
320 2. The cost of levee raising  $\gamma_E$  affects the state variables of the flood risk model mainly  
321 in the initial early years and the gradual change of the rate of decay of levees  $\kappa_T$  has few  
322 impacts on the state variables. Therefore, we found that it is difficult to track the temporal  
323 change of these two parameters. The input forcing data, high water level, were uncertain  
324 as described in the experiment 1.

325

326

### 327 **3.2. Real-data experiment**

328 In addition to the OSSEs, we performed the real-world experiment in the city of Rome,  
329 Italy. Ciullo et al. (2017) collected real-world data and calibrated their flood risk model.  
330 Using the data collected by Ciullo et al. (2017), we performed the data assimilation  
331 experiment. It should be noted that the flood risk model of Ciullo et al. (2017) is different  
332 from our model (i.e. Di Baldassarre et al. 2013), although they are conceptually similar.

333

334 All the data were collected from Figure 1 of Ciullo et al. (2017) by WebPlotDigitizer  
335 (<https://automeris.io/WebPlotDigitizer/>). The observed high water level of Tiber River  
336 was used as input forcing data (W). The levee height (H) and population (G) were used

337 as the observation data to be assimilated into the flood risk model. In Ciullo et al. (2017),  
338 population values within the Tiber's floodplain were normalized by the theoretical  
339 maximum Tiber's floodplain population which is estimated to the range between  $10^6$   
340 and  $2 \times 10^6$ . Since our flood risk model needs the population values (not normalized  
341 values), we multiplied  $1.5 \times 10^6$  and the normalized values shown in Figure 1 of Ciullo  
342 et al. (2017) to obtain population in the floodplain.

343

344 We added lognormal multiplicative noise to the observed high water level as we did in  
345 the OSSEs. The observation errors of levee height and population were set to 10% and  
346 25% of the observed values, respectively. Since Ciullo et al. (2017) showed the large  
347 uncertainty in the estimation of the theoretical maximum population (see above), it is  
348 reasonable to assume that the estimation of population values also has relatively large  
349 uncertainty.

350

351 As the second and third OSSEs, we have 4 unknown parameters in this real-world  
352 experiment. We used the same settings of parameters as the OSSEs, which are shown in  
353 Table 1, except for  $\xi_H$ , proportion of additional high water level due to levee heightening.  
354 In this real-world experiment, we set  $\xi_H = 0$  because the observed high water level

355 includes the effects of levee heightening. This treatment is consistent to Ciullo et al.  
356 (2017) (see their Table 2).

357

358 The initial conditions of H and M were set to 0. The initial conditions of D were obtained  
359 from the uniform distribution between 1000 and 5000. The initial conditions of G were  
360 obtained from the uniform distribution between 1500 and 50000.

361

362

## 363 **4. Results**

### 364 **4.1. Observation System Simulation Experiment**

#### 365 **4.1.1. Experiment 1: Perfect model with uncertain high water levels**

366 Figure 1 shows the timeseries of the model variables calculated by 5000 ensembles with  
367 no data assimilation. Although the ensemble mean of the state variables is close to the  
368 synthetic truth, the ensembles have the large spread especially for G. The uncertainty in  
369 the input forcing brings the uncertainty in the estimation of the historical socio-hydrologic  
370 condition.

371

372 Figure 2 indicates that this uncertainty is mitigated by assimilating the observations of F,  
373 G, D, H, and M into the model every 10 years with 5000 ensembles. Table 2 shows that  
374 RMSE is reduced for all state variables by data assimilation.

375

376 While we can observe all of F, G, D, H, and M in Figure 2 and Table 2, Figure 3 shows  
377 the performance of our SIRPF in which only one of them can be observed. Our SIRPF  
378 updates all state variables although only one of them is assimilated. Figure 3 reveals that  
379 we can accurately propagate the observation information into the model state space. In  
380 other words, our SIRPF can positively impact the estimation of not only observed state  
381 variables but unobserved state variables. For instance, even if we can observe only G, the  
382 simulation of all G, D, H, and M is improved. This finding is promising since all of the  
383 state variables cannot be observed in the real-world applications. Figure 3 also shows that  
384 observing F is not effective compared with the other variables. This is because F is a flux  
385 and F can be observed only when floods occur so that the number of effective  
386 observations is small. In addition, observing F, D, and M negatively impacts the  
387 estimation of H and observing H does not significantly improve the simulation of D and  
388 M. Although the dynamics of F, D, and M strongly affects the decision making of whether  
389 the levees are raised or not, the amount by which the levees are raised, R, is fully

390 determined by the high water level,  $W$ , once the community determines to raise the levees  
391 (see equation (2)). Therefore, the uncertainty of  $H$  is largely induced by the uncertainty  
392 of the high water level,  $W$ , whose uncertainty is not directly mitigated by our SIRPF. This  
393 is why observing  $F$ ,  $D$ , and  $M$  is not helpful to mitigate the uncertainty of  $H$ .

394

395 While we can observe every 10 years in Figure 2 and Table 2, Figure 4 shows the  
396 sensitivity of the observation intervals to the performance of our SIRPF. Our SIRPF  
397 improves the estimation of the state variables when we can obtain observation once in  
398 50-year or 100-year (see also Figure S1 for timeseries of the model's variables), which is  
399 promising since we cannot expect the frequent observations in the real-world applications.

400

401 We set the observation error to 10% of the synthetic truth thus far. The improvement of  
402 the simulation skill can be found with larger observation errors (Figure S2). Although the  
403 SIRPF's performance gradually declines as the observation error increases, our SIRPF  
404 can significantly improve the simulation skill with 25% observation error.

405

406 Although we demonstrate the potential of our SIRPF with 5000 ensembles thus far, the  
407 improvement of the simulation skill can be found in much smaller ensemble sizes. The



408 performance of our SIRPF with 20 ensembles is similar to that with 5000 ensembles  
409 (Figure S3).

410

411

#### 412 **4.1.2. Experiment 2: Unknown model parameters and uncertain high water levels**

413 Figure 5 reveals that the flood risk model completely loses its skill to estimate the human-  
414 flood interactions if there are uncertainties in model parameters and high water levels  
415 prescribed in Section 3. In contrast to the experiment 1, the ensemble mean cannot  
416 accurately reproduce the synthetic truth.

417

418 Figure 6 indicates that our SIRPF can accurately estimate the model state variables by  
419 assimilating the observations of F, G, D, H, and M into the model every 10 years with  
420 5000 ensembles. Figure 7 indicates that four unknown parameters can also be accurately  
421 estimated. We find that it is relatively difficult to estimate the rate of levee's decay,  $\kappa_T$ ,  
422 compared with the other parameters. This is because  $\kappa_T$  strongly affects the dynamics  
423 of H and the uncertainty in H is largely determined by the uncertainty in high water levels,  
424 which is not directly mitigated by our SIRPF system. Table 3 shows that RMSE is reduced  
425 for both state variables and parameters by data assimilation.

426

427 We analyzed the impacts of the individual observation types on the simulation skill as we  
428 did in the experiment 1. Figure 8a shows that the effects of the individual observation  
429 types are similar to what we found in the experiment 1: (1) our SIRPF can improve the  
430 skill to simulate unobservable state variables; (2) observing F is not effective compared  
431 with the other observations; (3) observing H does not significantly improve the simulation  
432 of D and M. Figure 8b reveals that the parameters can be efficiently estimated by  
433 assimilating the observation of the state variables which are tightly related to the targeted  
434 parameters. For instance, observing D can greatly improve the rate by which new  
435 properties can be built,  $\varphi_P$ , in equation (5) which governs the dynamics of D. However,  
436 assimilating a single observation type can contribute to accurately estimating all four  
437 parameters in many cases, which is the promising result considering the sparsity of the  
438 observation in the real-world applications.

439

440 The good performance of our SIRPF can be found with the longer observation intervals  
441 as we found in the experiment 1. Figure 9 indicates that our SIRPF can improve the  
442 estimation of the state variables and parameters when we can obtain observation once in  
443 50-year or 100-year (see also Figures S4 and S5 for timeseries of the model's variables).

444

445 As we found in the experiment 1, the SIRPF's performance declines with the increased  
446 observation error (Figure S6). However, it is promising that our SIRPF can improve the  
447 simulation skill with larger observation errors up to 25% of the synthetic truth considering  
448 that the observations in the socio-hydrologic domain are often inaccurate.

449

450 In contrast to the experiment 1, the larger ensemble size is required to stably estimate both  
451 state variables and parameters (Figure S7). The increased degree of freedom and the  
452 nonlinear relationship between parameters and observations increase the necessary  
453 ensemble size.

454

455

456 **4.1.3. Experiment 3: Unknown and time-variant model parameters and uncertain**  
457 **high water levels**

458 In addition to the experiment 2, two of the unknown parameters ( $\varphi_P$  and  $\mu_S$ ) temporally  
459 vary in the synthetic truth of the experiment 3. We found that a larger spread of  $\varphi_P$  is  
460 required to stably track the time-variant synthetic true  $\varphi_P$  so that we increased  $s_0$  in  
461 equation (18) from 0.05 to 0.5 only for  $\varphi_P$  in this experiment 3. Figure 10 and Table 4

462 indicate that despite the error in the model's description, our SIRPF can greatly improve  
463 the simulation of the flood risk model. Please note that the synthetic truth shown in Figure  
464 10 is different from that of the previous experiments especially for D and M. Figures 11b  
465 and 11d indicate that we can accurately estimate the time-variant parameters ( $\varphi_P$  and  
466  $\mu_S$ ) as well as the other time-invariant parameters (Figures 11a and 11c). This result is  
467 promising since we cannot expect the perfect description of the socio-hydrologic model  
468 in the real-world applications. We also performed the sensitivity test on observation types,  
469 observation intervals, and ensemble sizes, which results in the same conclusions as the  
470 experiment 2 (not shown).

471

472

## 473 **4.2. Real-data experiment**

474 Figure 12 shows the timeseries of the model variables calculated by 5000 ensembles with  
475 no data assimilation. The 5000-ensemble simulation reveals the two bifurcated social  
476 systems. One builds a high levee and maintains a course of stable economic growth. The  
477 other one has no levee and its economy is damaged by severe floods many times  
478 (ensemble mean shown in Figure 12b implies that there are many ensemble members with  
479 zero levee height).

480

481 In reality, the city of Rome constructed the levee responding to the severe flood occurred  
482 on 28 December 1870. After the construction of this levee, no major flood losses occurred,  
483 allowing the steady and undisturbed growth. Figure 13 indicates that our SIRPF  
484 successfully constrains the trajectory of the ensemble simulation to the real-world (i.e.  
485 high levee and stable economic growth) by assimilating the real data of H and G. Figure  
486 S8 shows the SIRPF-estimated unknown parameters. Our SIRPF suggests lower  $\gamma_E$  than  
487 the initial ensemble mean to promote the levee construction with lower costs. Lower  $\kappa_T$   
488 is also obtained because the assimilated real data show no decay of levee from 1874 to  
489 2009. Compared with the OSSE experiment 2, the large uncertainty in estimated  
490 parameters remains at the final timestep due to the limited number of assimilated  
491 observations. In contrast to the OSSEs, our observation network has the uneven temporal  
492 distribution. Figure 13 clearly indicates that our SIRPF is robust to these intermittent  
493 observations whose intervals temporally change.

494

495 We analyzed the impacts of the individual observation types (i.e. H and G) on the  
496 simulation skill as we did in the OSSEs. Figure 14 indicates that our SIRPF realistically  
497 simulates the socio-hydrologic dynamics in the city of Rome and provides the similar

498 estimated state variables shown in Figure 13 by assimilating only population data. As we  
499 found in the OSSEs, observations of the size of the human settlement  $G$  are informative  
500 to effectively constrain the flood risk model. The dynamics of the parameter estimation  
501 is similar to the case in which data of both  $G$  and  $H$  are assimilated (Figure S9).

502

503 On the other hand, assimilating only levee height data cannot provide the similar results  
504 to those shown above. Figure 15 shows the timeseries of the model variables by the data  
505 assimilation experiment in which we assimilated the observation data of  $H$  only.  
506 Observations of the levee height cannot effectively constrain  $D$ ,  $G$ , and  $M$  compared with  
507 the observations of  $G$ . This finding is consistent to the OSSEs. The uncertainty in  
508 estimated parameters becomes larger when we omit to assimilate observations of  $G$   
509 (Figure S10). Although the impact of levee height data is limited compared with  
510 population data, it is promising that we can estimate the socio-hydrologic dynamics to  
511 some extent only from the levee height data whose distribution is temporally sparse.

512

513

514 **5. Discussion**

515 In this study, we developed the sequential data assimilation system for the widely adopted  
516 socio-hydrological model, the flood risk model by Di Baldassarre et al. (2013). We  
517 demonstrated that our SIRPF for the flood risk model is useful to reconstruct the historical  
518 human-flood interactions, which can be called “socio-hydrologic reanalysis”, by  
519 integrating sparsely distributed observations and imperfect numerical simulation. In the  
520 atmospheric science, atmospheric reanalysis has been intensively analyzed to understand  
521 complex feedback in the atmosphere, which cannot be done by analyzing only  
522 observation data due to their sparsity. Socio-hydrologic reanalysis can work as a reliable  
523 and spatio-temporally homogeneous dataset and may be helpful to deepen the  
524 understanding of human and water. In addition, socio-hydrologic reanalysis can be used  
525 as initial condition to predict the future change of socio-hydrologic processes as  
526 atmospheric scientists predict the future weather/climate using atmospheric reanalysis.  
527 Since it is impossible to directly observe all state variables and parameters as initial  
528 conditions, socio-hydrologic reanalysis is crucially important for accurate prediction.  
529 Socio-hydrologic data assimilation has a high potential to improve the understanding of  
530 the complex feedback between social and flood systems and predict their future. Our  
531 idealized OSSE and real-data experiment reveal several important findings.

532

533 First, the sequential data assimilation can mitigate the negative impact of the uncertainty  
534 in the input forcing on the simulation of socio-hydrologic state variables. We found that  
535 the small perturbation of high water levels greatly affects the long-term trajectory of the  
536 socio-hydrologic state variables as Viglione et al. (2014) found. It is necessary to  
537 sequentially constrain the state variables and parameters by sequential data assimilation  
538 if the input forcing is uncertain although previous studies on the model-data integration  
539 in socio-hydrology mainly focused on parameter calibration assuming no uncertainty in  
540 the input forcing (e.g., Barendrecht et al. 2019; Roobavannan et al. 2017; Ciullo et al.  
541 2017; van Emmerik et al. 2014; Gonzales and Ajami 2017). To deeply understand the  
542 socio-hydrologic processes, the long-term historical analysis should be performed.  
543 Although there are many studies on the accurate reconstruction of the historical weather  
544 condition (e.g., Toride et al. 2017), it may be necessary to tackle with the uncertainty in  
545 hydrometeorological datasets used for the input forcing of the socio-hydrologic models.

546

547 Second, our SIRPF can efficiently improve the simulation of the socio-hydrologic state  
548 variables using the sparsely distributed data. All model variables should not necessarily  
549 be observed to constrain the model's state variables and parameters. In some cases,  
550 observations of a single state variable are enough to reconstruct the accurate socio-



551 hydrologic state. In addition, observation intervals can be longer than 10-year. Since it is  
552 difficult to obtain the large volume of data in socio-hydrology, this finding is promising.  
553 We also give some insights about the informative observation types in the flood risk  
554 model. With uncertain high water levels, observations of the intensity of flooding events  
555  $F$  and the height of levee  $H$  are not informative (i.e. the assimilation of these observations  
556 cannot greatly improve the simulation skill) although the empirical data which can be  
557 related to  $F$  and  $H$  may be easily found. On the other hand, observations of the size of the  
558 human settlement  $G$  are informative to constrain the flood risk model. Model parameters  
559 can be efficiently estimated by assimilating the state variables which is tightly related to  
560 the targeted parameters, which is consistent to the findings of the idealized experiment by  
561 Barendrecht et al. (2019).

562

563 Third, our SIRPF is robust to the imperfectness of the socio-hydrologic model. The  
564 unknown parameters can be efficiently estimated by the sequential data assimilation.  
565 While previous studies evaluated the trajectory in the whole study period to calibrate the  
566 socio-hydrologic models by iteratively performing the long-term model integration (e.g.,  
567 Barendrecht et al. 2019; Roobavannan et al. 2017; Ciullo et al. 2017; van Emmerik et al.  
568 2014; Gonzales and Ajami 2017), we sequentially optimize parameters based on the

569 relatively short-term timeseries allowing parameters to temporally vary in the study  
570 period. The advantage of this strategy is that we can deal with time-variant parameters as  
571 previously demonstrated in the applications to hydrologic models (e.g., Pathiraja et al.  
572 2018). In the model development, parameters are formulated as time-invariant values so  
573 that the existence of time-variant parameters indicates the imperfect description of  
574 dynamic models. Sequential data assimilation can mitigate the negative impact of this  
575 imperfect model description. Vrugt et al. (2013) pointed out that the parameter  
576 optimization by the sequential filters is unstable if parameter sensitivity temporally  
577 changes (e.g., parameters affects the model's dynamics differently in the different  
578 seasons), which may be the potential limitation of our strategy compared with Bayesian  
579 inference based on the long-term trajectory such as Barendrecht et al. (2019).

580

581 The major limitation of this study is that we assume the modeled state variables can  
582 directly be observed although it is difficult to directly observe state variables of the socio-  
583 hydrologic models. For example, it is impossible to directly observe social awareness of  
584 flood risk in the flood risk model and several previous studies obtained the proxy of the  
585 social memory by interview data (Barendrecht et al. 2019) and the number of Google  
586 searches (Gonzales and Ajami 2017). When these indirect observations are assimilated

587 into a model, the (non-linear) observation operator (see equation (9)), the assignment of  
588 the observation error, and assimilation methods should be carefully designed as  
589 previously discussed in the context of numerical weather prediction (e.g., Sawada et al.  
590 2019; Okamoto et al. 2019; Minamide and Zhang 2017). Future work will focus on the  
591 methodological development to efficiently assimilate observations in the social domain  
592 with complicated structure of observation operators and errors.

593

## 594 **6. Conclusion**

595 In this study, we proposed to apply the sequential data assimilation to the socio-  
596 hydrologic models. By several OSSEs and the real-data experiment in the flood risk  
597 modeling, we found that our proposed SIRPF is robust to the imperfect input forcing and  
598 the imperfect model. The sequential data assimilation is useful to reconstruct the socio-  
599 hydrologic conditions from the inaccurate and sparsely distributed data and the imperfect  
600 simulation.

601

602

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607

#### 608 **Code/Data availability**

609 Code and data are available upon the request to the corresponding author.

610

#### 611 **Author Contribution**

612 YS designed the study. RH and YS jointly developed the data assimilation system for the  
613 flood risk model and performed the numerical experiments. YS and RH contributed to  
614 interpreting the results. YS wrote the first draft of the paper and RH contributed to editing  
615 the paper.

616

#### 617 **Competing interests**

618 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

619

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735

736 **Table 1.** Parameters of the flood risk model

737

	description	Values	Ranges in data assimilation	$\omega$ in equation (17)
$\xi_H$	proportion of additional high water level due to levee heightening	0.5	-	-
$\alpha_H$	parameter related to the slope of the floodplain and the resilience of the human settlement	0.01	-	-
$\rho_E$	maximum relative growth rate	0.02	-	-
$\lambda_E$	critical distance from the river beyond which the settlement can no longer grow	5000	-	-
$\gamma_E$	Cost of levee raising	0.5	0.2-5.0	0.01
$\lambda_P$	distance at which people would accept to live when they remember past floods whose total consequences were perceived as a total destruction of the settlement	12000	-	
$\varphi_P$	rate by which new properties can be built	10000	1000-50000	100
$\varepsilon_T$	safety factor for levees rising	1.1	-	-
$\kappa_T$	rate of decay of levees	0.001	0-0.0015	0.0000025
$\alpha_S$	proportion of shock after flooding if levees are risen	0.5	-	-
$\mu_S$	memory loss rate	0.05	0-0.4	0.0025

738

739

740 **Table 2.** RMSE of the no data assimilation experiment (NoDA) and the data  
741 assimilation experiment (DA) in which all observations are assimilated every 10 years  
742 with 5000 ensembles in the experiment 1 (see section 3.1).

743

	NoDA	DA
G	$1.06 \times 10^6$	$1.64 \times 10^4$
D	$3.60 \times 10^2$	$3.92 \times 10^1$
H	2.65	1.41
M	$1.08 \times 10^{-1}$	$8.32 \times 10^{-2}$

744

745

746 **Table 3.** RMSE of the no data assimilation experiment (NoDA) and the data  
 747 assimilation experiment (DA) in which all observations are assimilated every 10 years  
 748 with 5000 ensembles in the experiment 2 (see section 3.2).

749

	NoDA	DA
G	$2.97 \times 10^6$	$1.64 \times 10^4$
D	$1.86 \times 10^3$	$1.01 \times 10^2$
H	9.35	1.63
M	$2.24 \times 10^{-1}$	$8.99 \times 10^{-2}$
$\gamma_E$	2.08	$4.27 \times 10^{-1}$
$\varphi_P$	$1.72 \times 10^4$	$3.81 \times 10^3$
$\kappa_T$	$4.12 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.36 \times 10^{-4}$
$\mu_S$	$1.55 \times 10^{-1}$	$2.43 \times 10^{-2}$

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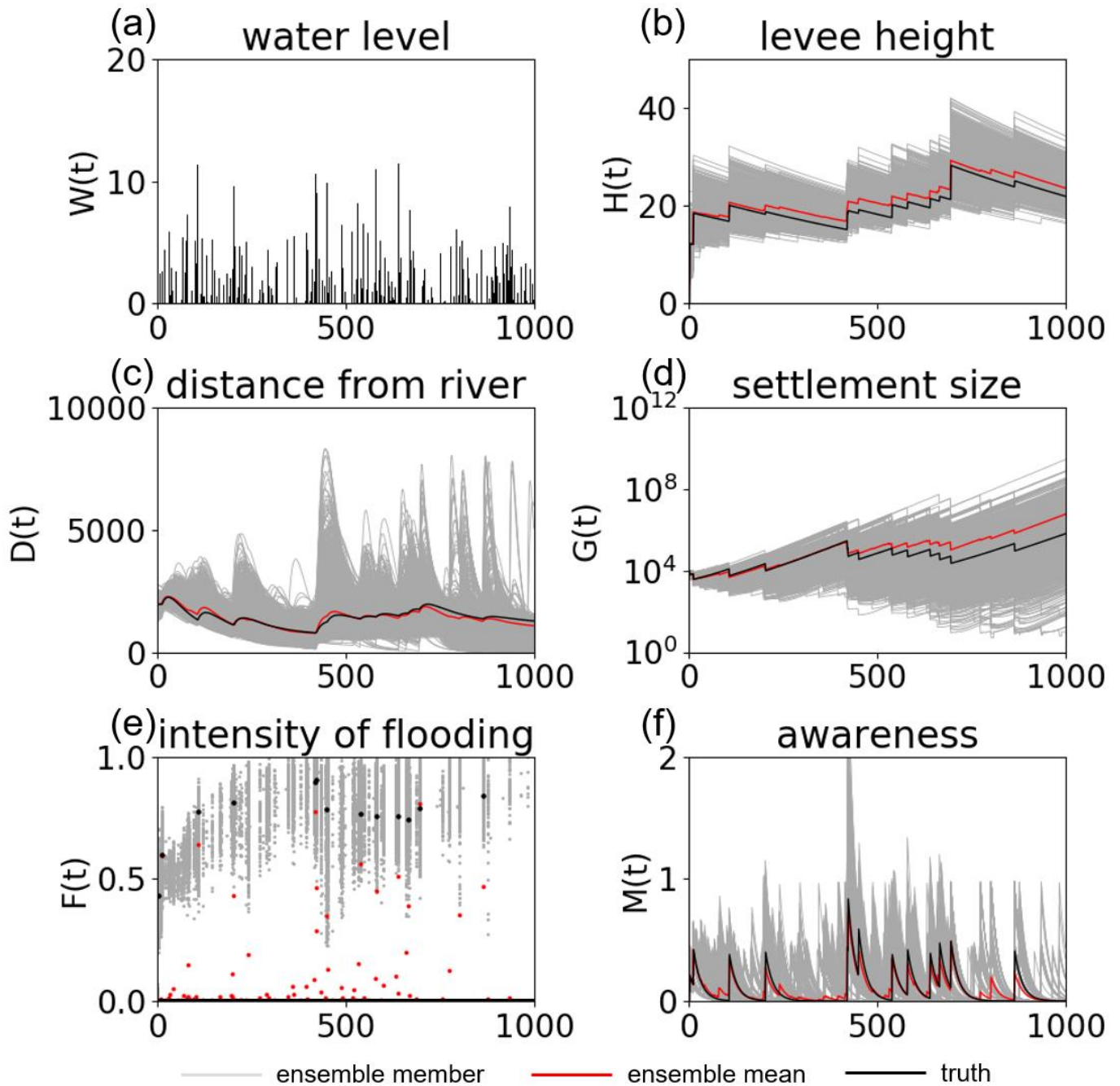
752 **Table 4.** RMSE of the no data assimilation experiment (NoDA) and the data  
 753 assimilation experiment (DA) in which all observations are assimilated every 10 years  
 754 with 5000 ensembles in the experiment 3 (see section 3.3).

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	NoDA	DA
G	$2.91 \times 10^6$	$6.20 \times 10^3$
D	$2.20 \times 10^3$	$2.02 \times 10^2$
H	9.21	1.65
M	$2.48 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.05 \times 10^{-1}$
$\gamma_E$	2.08	$5.20 \times 10^{-1}$
$\varphi_P$	$1.98 \times 10^4$	$7.68 \times 10^3$
$\kappa_T$	$4.12 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.54 \times 10^{-4}$
$\mu_S$	$1.60 \times 10^{-1}$	$3.03 \times 10^{-2}$

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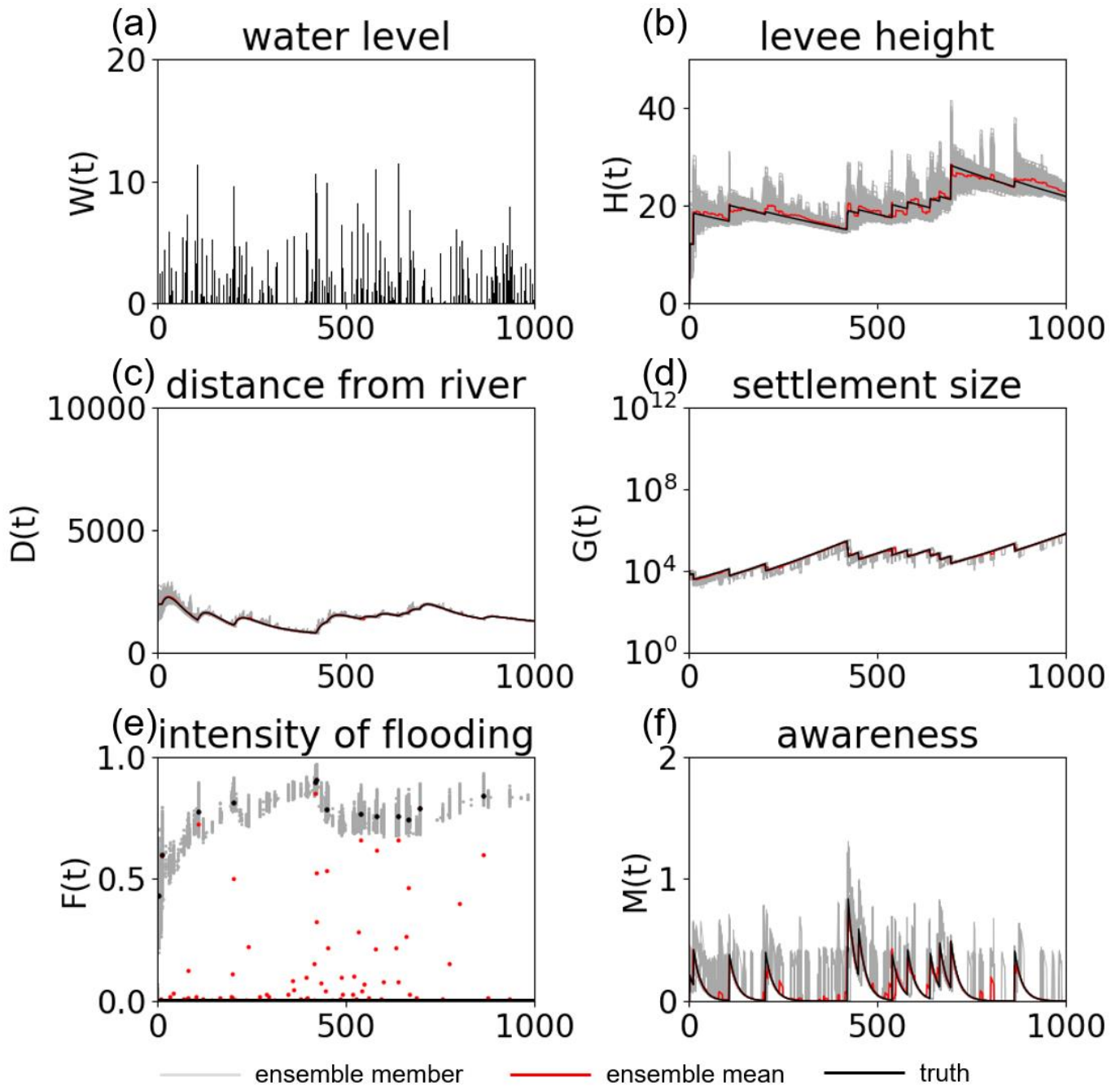
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759 **Figure 1.** Timeseries of (a) high water level  $W(t)$ , (b) the flood protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , (c) the  
 760 distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , (d) the size of the human settlement  
 761  $G(t)$ , (e) the intensity of flooding events  $F(t)$ , and (f) the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$  simulated by  
 762 5000 ensembles with uncertain high water levels and no data assimilation in the experiment 1 (see section



763 3.1.1). The time step is annual. Grey, red, and black lines are the ensemble members, their mean, and the  
764 synthetic truth, respectively.

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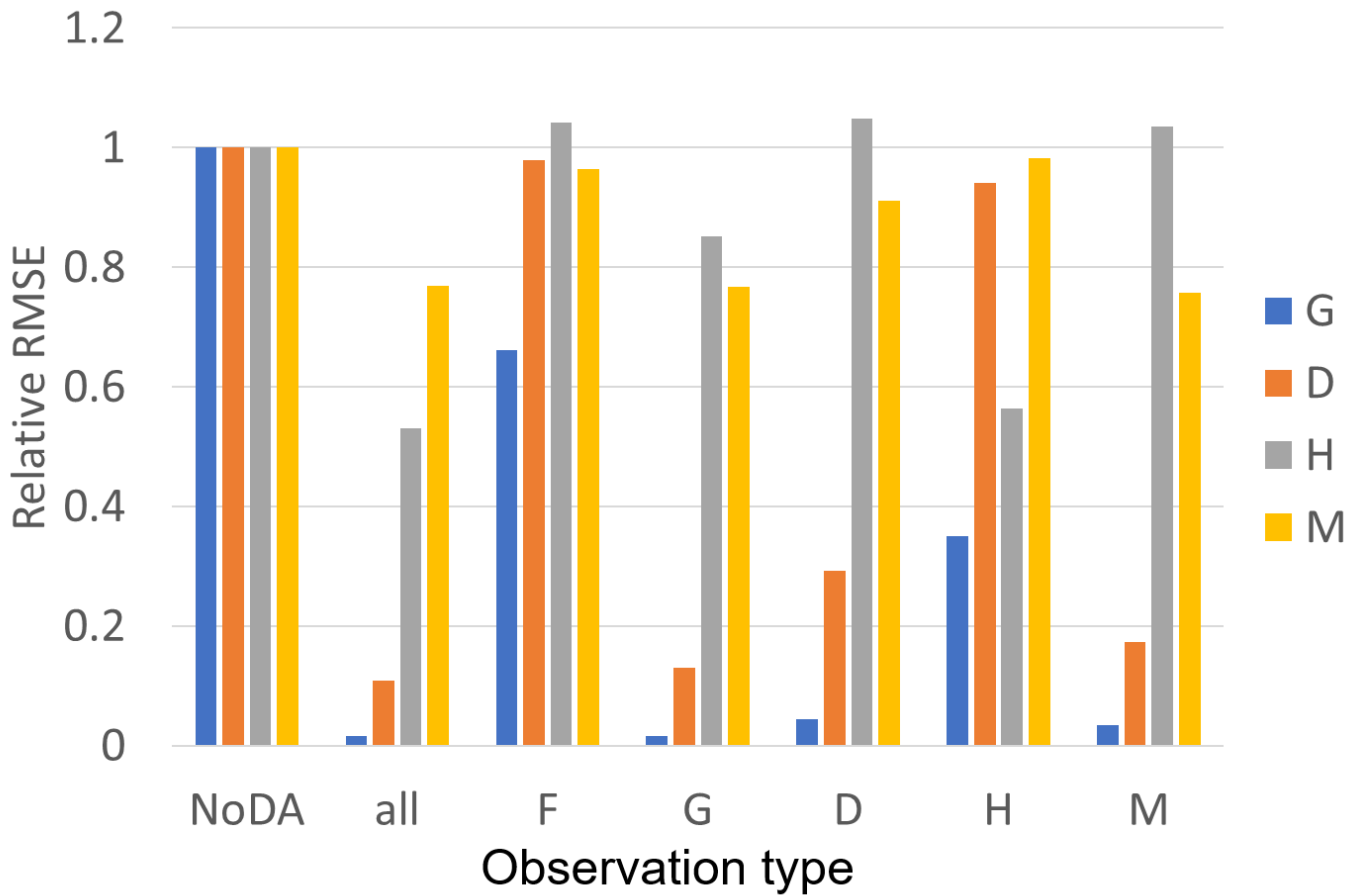
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**Figure 2.** Timeseries of (a) high water level  $W(t)$ , (b) the flood protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , (c) the distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , (d) the size of the human settlement  $G(t)$ , (e) the intensity of flooding events  $F(t)$ , and (f) the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$  simulated by the data assimilation experiment in which the observations of  $F$ ,  $G$ ,  $D$ ,  $H$ , and  $M$  are assimilated into the model

771 every 10 years with 5000 ensembles in the experiment 1 (see section 3.1.1). The time step is annual. Grey, red,  
772 and black lines are the ensemble members, their mean, and the synthetic truth, respectively.

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**Figure 3.** The ratio of RMSEs of the no data assimilation experiment (NoDA) to those of the data assimilation

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experiments in which all of observations (F, G, D, H, and M) are assimilated (all) and each one of them is

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assimilated in the experiment 1 (see section 3.1.1). Blue, orange, gray, and yellow bars are RMSEs of the size

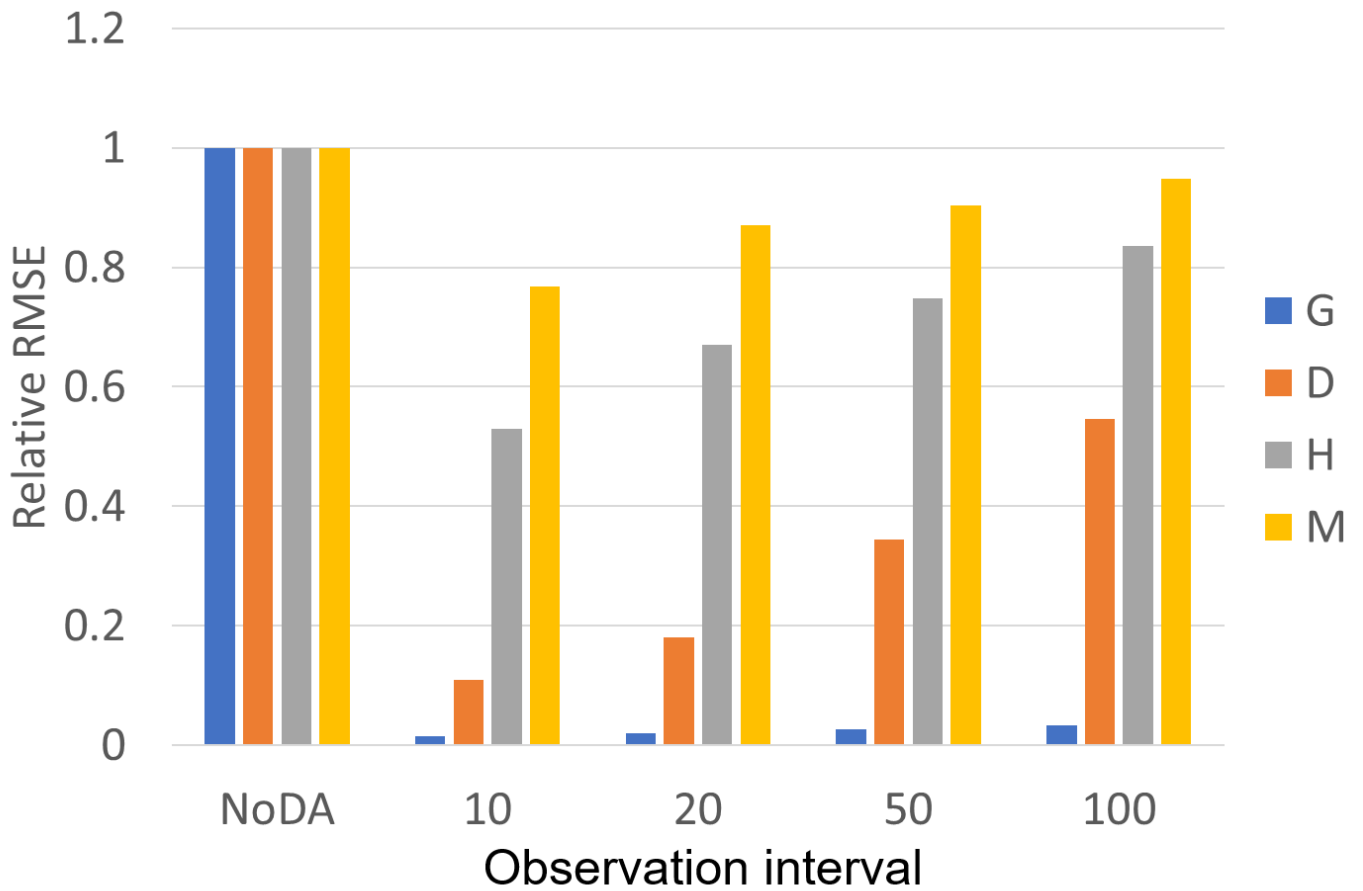
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of the human settlement  $G(t)$ , the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , the flood

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protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , and the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$ .

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**Figure 4.** The ratio of RMSEs of the no data assimilation experiment (NoDA) to those of the data assimilation

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experiments in which all of observations (F, G, D, H, and M) are assimilated every 10, 20, 50, and 100 years

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in the experiment 1 (see section 3.1.1). Blue, orange, gray, and yellow bars are RMSEs of the size of the

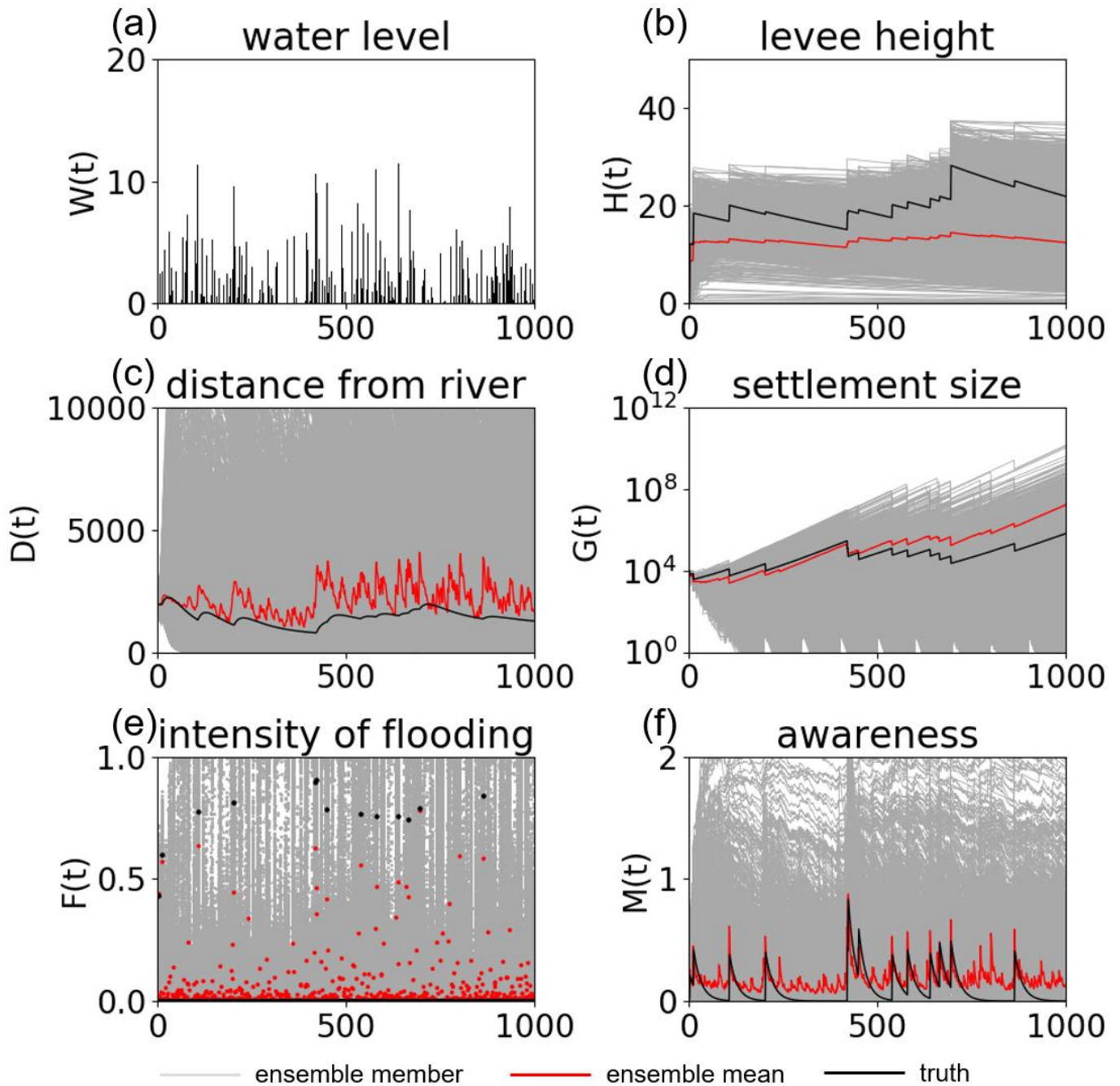
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human settlement  $G(t)$ , the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , the flood protection

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level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , and the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$ .

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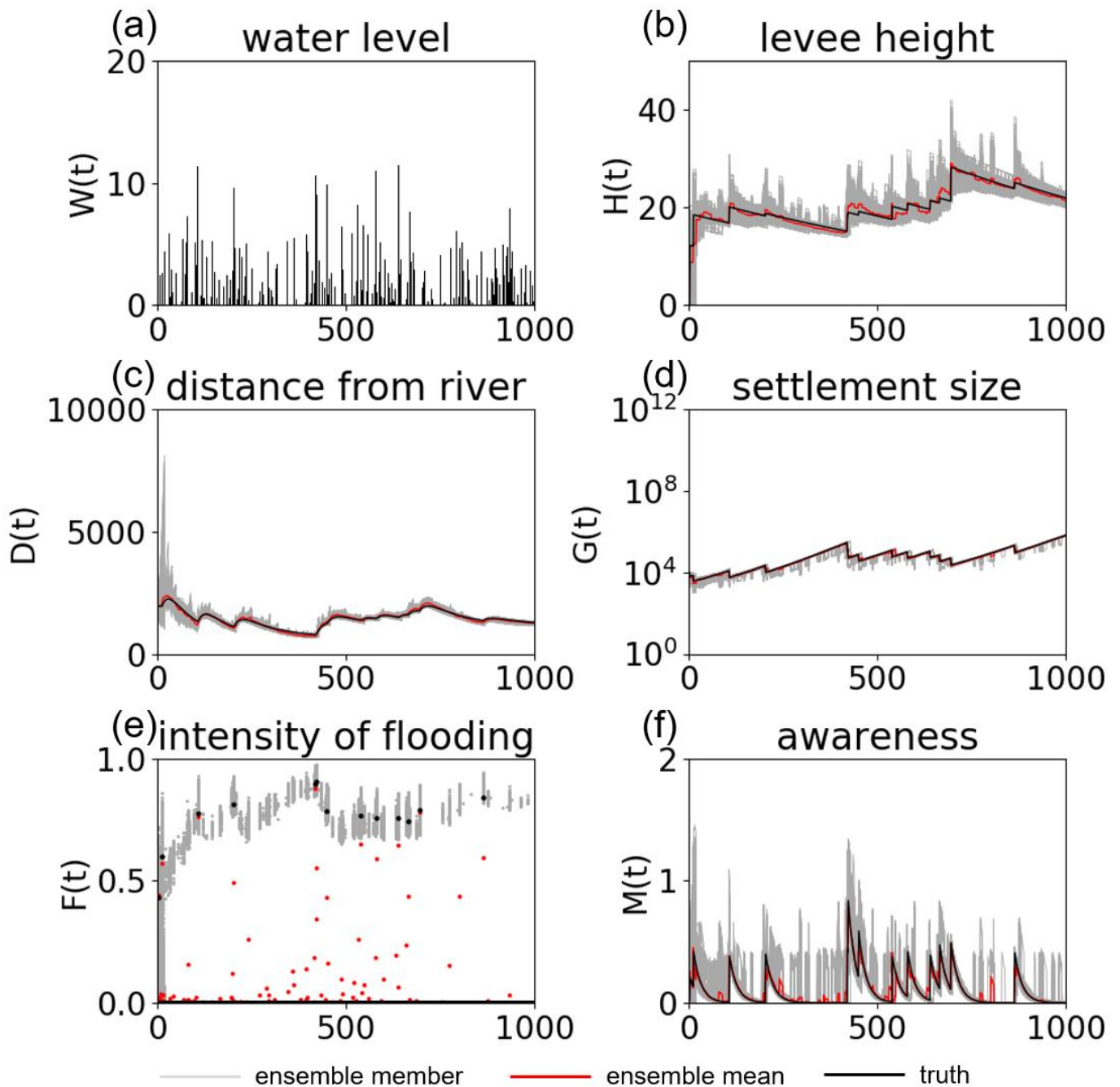


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789 **Figure 5.** Timeseries of (a) high water level  $W(t)$ , (b) the flood protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , (c) the  
 790 distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , (d) the size of the human settlement  
 791  $G(t)$ , (e) the intensity of flooding events  $F(t)$ , and (f) the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$  simulated by  
 792 5000 ensembles with uncertain high water levels and no data assimilation in the experiment 2 (see section

793 3.1.2). The time step is annual. Grey, red, and black lines are the ensemble members, their mean, and the  
794 synthetic truth, respectively.

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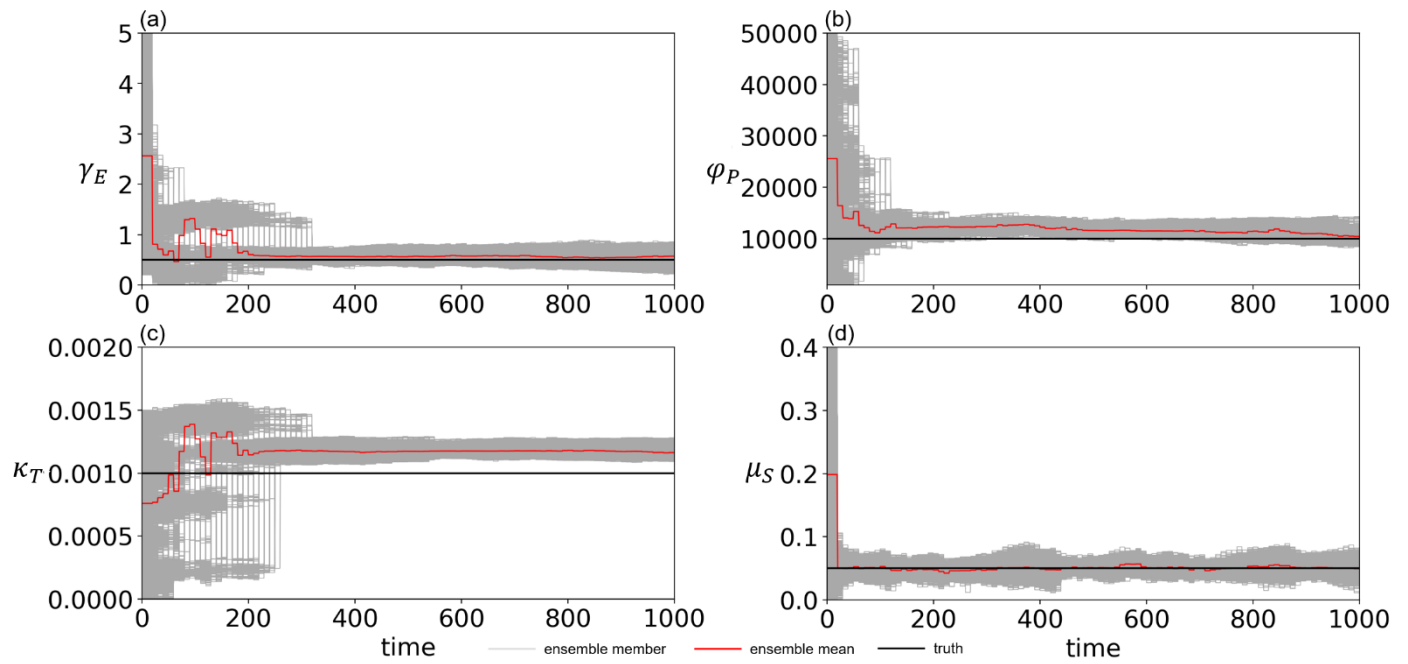


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798 **Figure 6.** Timeseries of (a) high water level  $W(t)$ , (b) the flood protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , (c) the  
 799 distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , (d) the size of the human settlement  
 800  $G(t)$ , (e) the intensity of flooding events  $F(t)$ , and (f) the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$  simulated by  
 801 the data assimilation experiment in which the observations of  $F$ ,  $G$ ,  $D$ ,  $H$ , and  $M$  are assimilated into the model



802 every 10 years with 5000 ensembles in the experiment 2 (see section 3.1.2). The time step is annual. Grey, red,  
803 and black lines are the ensemble members, their mean, and the synthetic truth, respectively.



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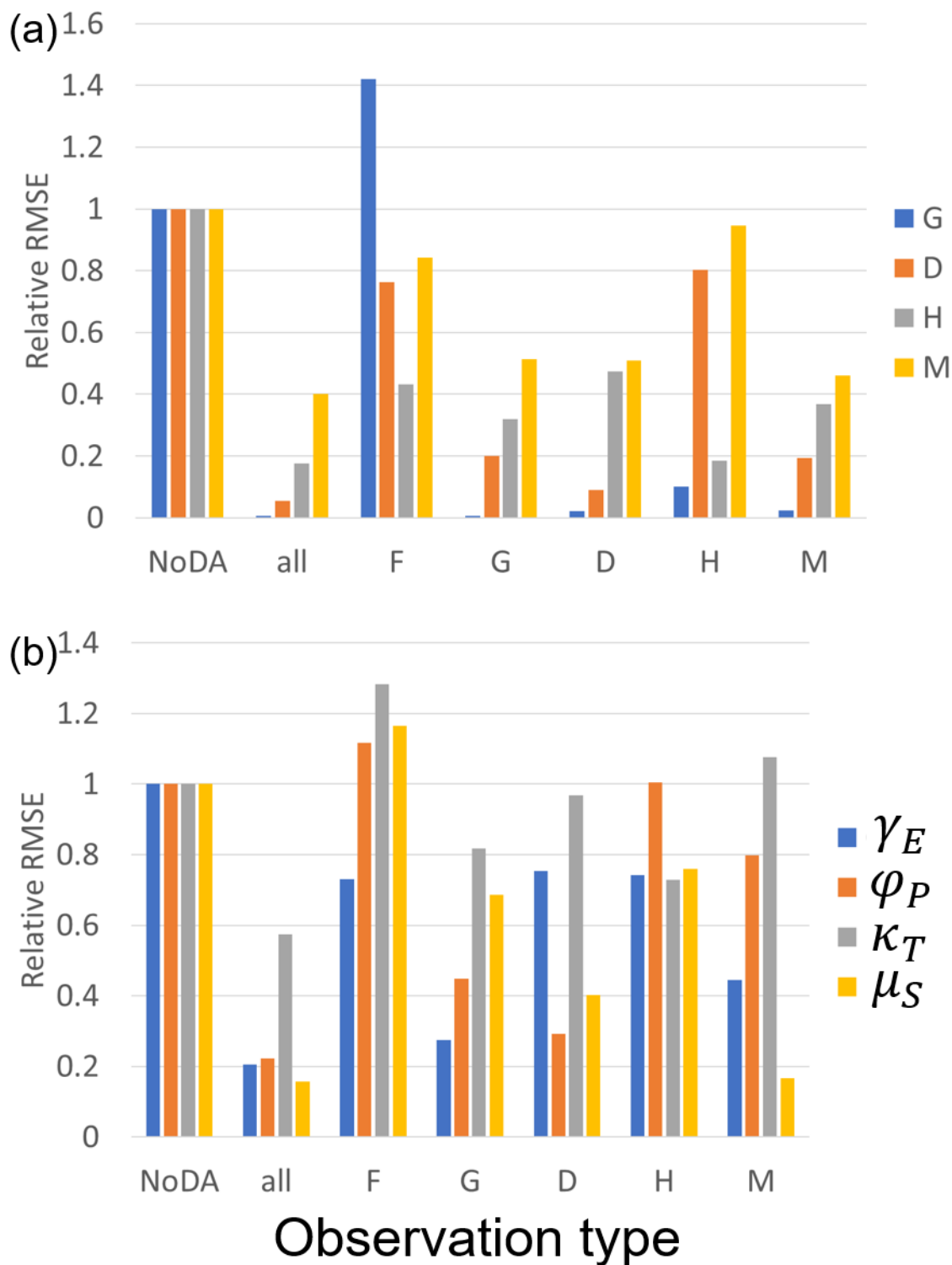
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**Figure 7.** Timeseries of (a) the cost of levee raising  $\gamma_E$ , (b) the rate by which new properties can be built  $\varphi_P$ , (c) the rate of decay of levees  $\kappa_T$ , (d) memory loss rate  $\mu_S$  estimated by the data assimilation of all observations (F, G, D, H, and M) with 5000 ensembles every 10 years in the experiment 2 (see section 3.1.2). The time step is annual. Grey, red, and black lines are the ensemble members, their mean, and the synthetic truth, respectively.

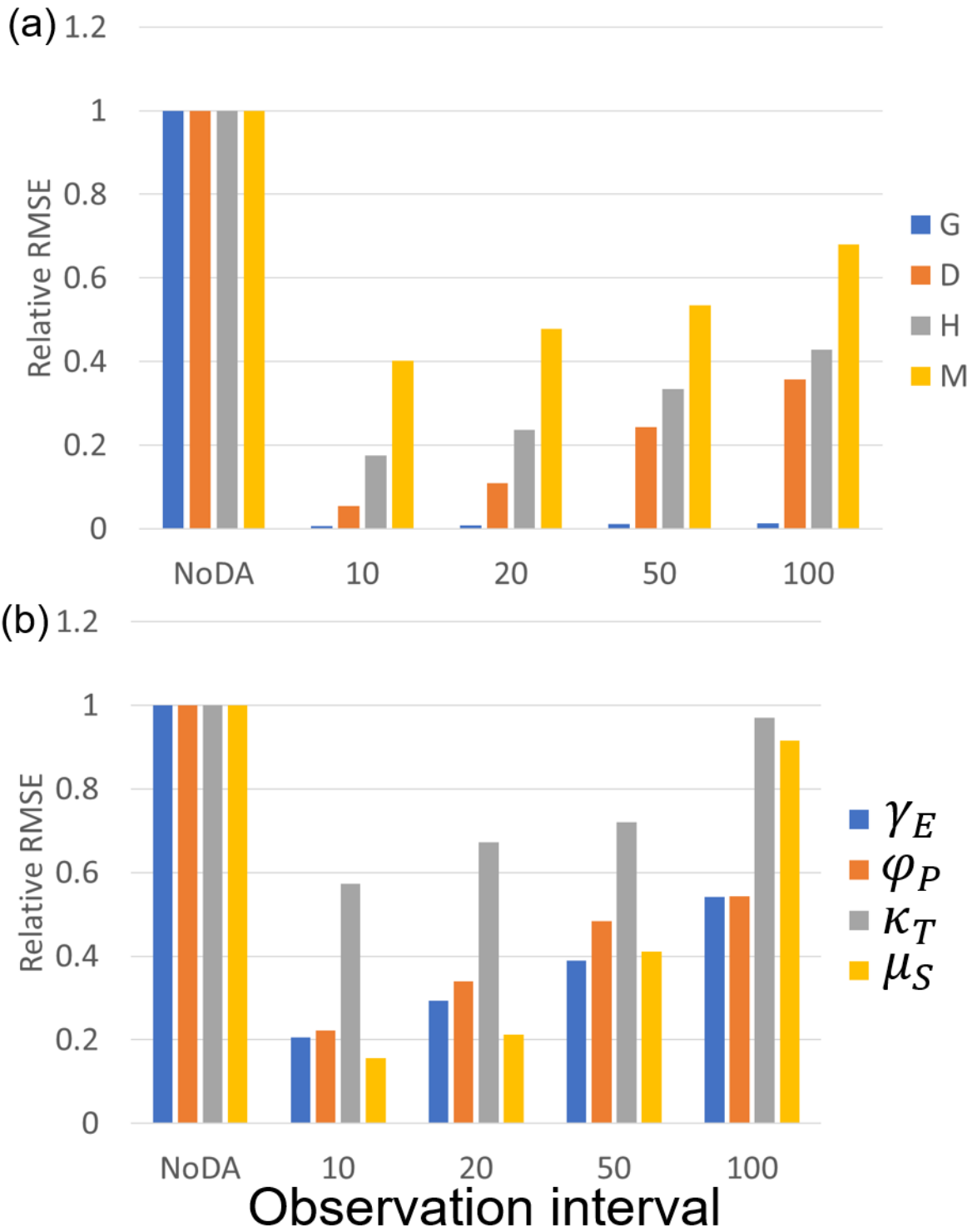


**Figure 8.** The ratio of RMSEs of the no data assimilation experiment (NoDA) to those of the data assimilation experiments in which all of observations (F, G, D, H, and M) are assimilated (all) and each one of them is assimilated in the experiment 2 (see section 3.1.2). (a) Blue, orange, gray, and yellow bars are RMSEs of the

816 size of the human settlement  $G(t)$ , the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , the flood  
817 protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , and the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$ . (b) Blue, orange, gray,  
818 and yellow bars are RMSEs of the cost of levee raising  $\gamma_E$ , the rate by which new properties can be built  $\varphi_P$ ,  
819 the rate of decay of levees  $\kappa_T$ , memory loss rate  $\mu_S$ .

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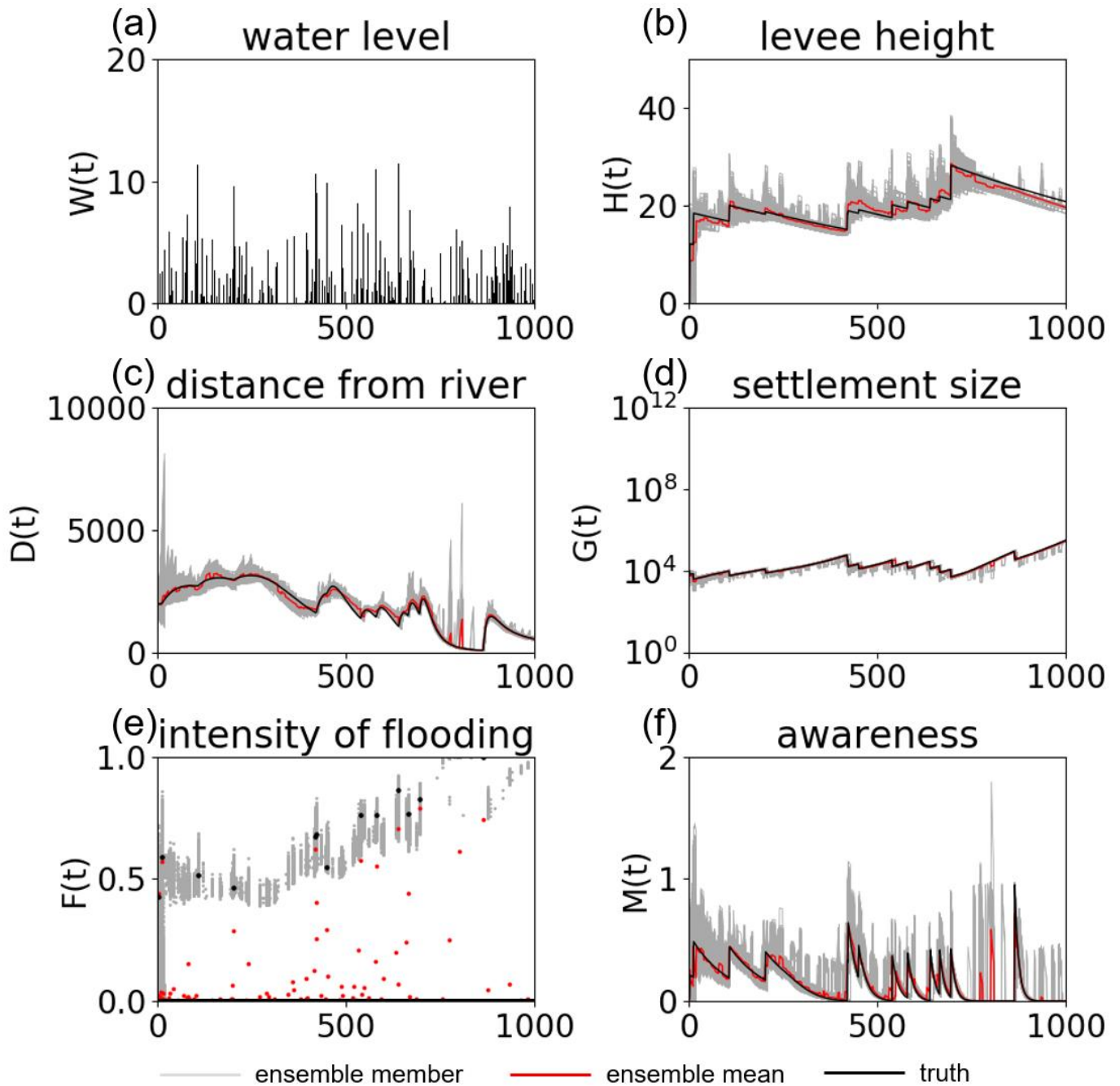
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**Figure 9.** The ratio of RMSEs of the no data assimilation experiment (NoDA) to those of the data assimilation experiments in which all of observations (F, G, D, H, and M) are assimilated every 10, 20, 50, and 100 years in the experiment 2 (see section 3.1.2). (a) Blue, orange, gray, and yellow bars are RMSEs of the size of the

826 human settlement  $G(t)$ , the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , the flood protection  
827 level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , and the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$ . (b) Blue, orange, gray, and yellow  
828 bars are RMSEs of the cost of levee raising  $\gamma_E$ , the rate by which new properties can be built  $\varphi_P$ , the rate of  
829 decay of levees  $\kappa_T$ , memory loss rate  $\mu_S$ .

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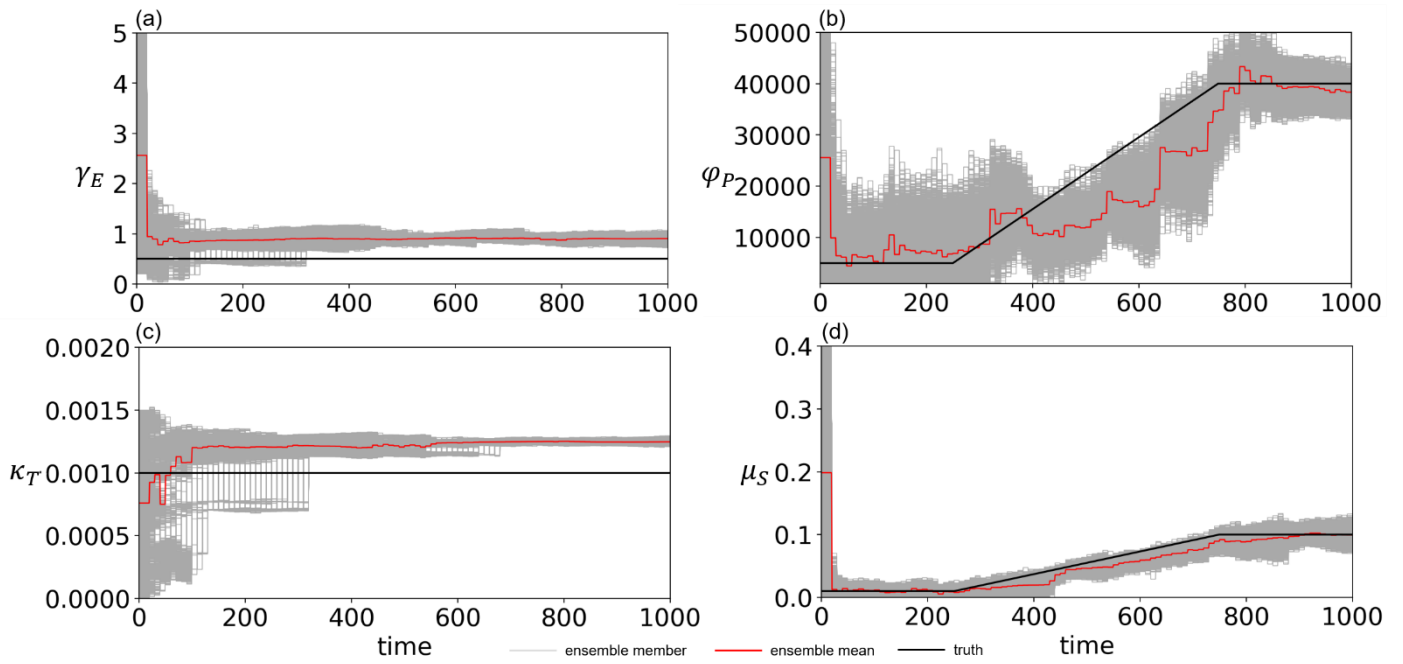


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833 **Figure 10.** Timeseries of (a) high water level  $W(t)$ , (b) the flood protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , (c) the  
 834 distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , (d) the size of the human settlement  
 835  $G(t)$ , (e) the intensity of flooding events  $F(t)$ , and (f) the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$  simulated by  
 836 the data assimilation experiment in which the observations of  $F$ ,  $G$ ,  $D$ ,  $H$ , and  $M$  are assimilated into the model

837 every 10 years with 5000 ensembles in the experiment 3 (see section 3.1.3). The time step is annual. Grey, red,  
838 and black lines are the ensemble members, their mean, and the synthetic truth, respectively.





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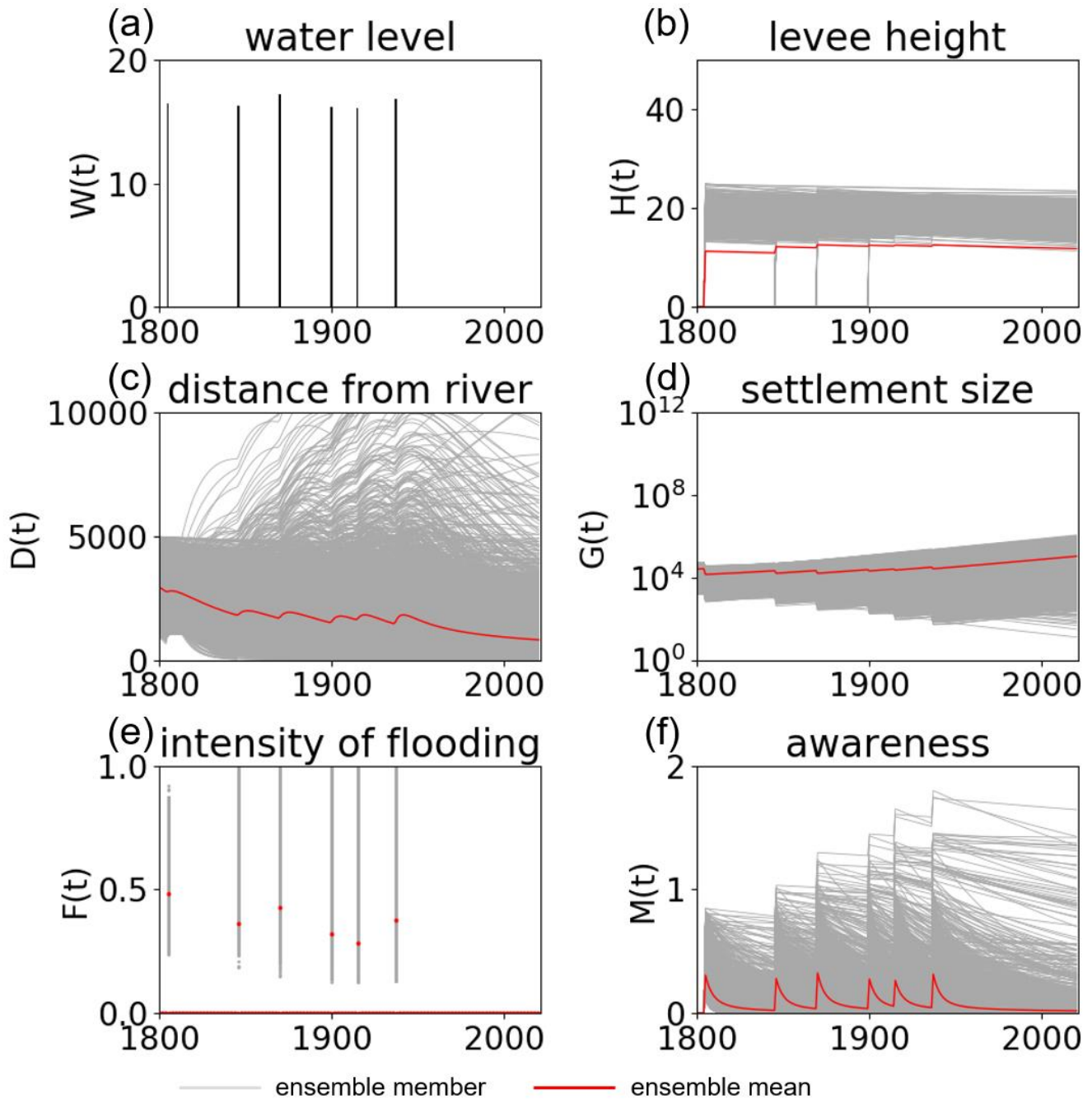
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**Figure 11.** Timeseries of (a) the cost of levee raising  $\gamma_E$ , (b) the rate by which new properties can be built  $\varphi_P$ , (c) the rate of decay of levees  $\kappa_T$ , (d) memory loss rate  $\mu_S$  estimated by the data assimilation of all observations (F, G, D, H, and M) with 5000 ensembles every 10 years in the experiment 3 (see section 3.1.3). The time step is annual. Grey, red, and black lines are the ensemble members, their mean, and the synthetic truth, respectively.

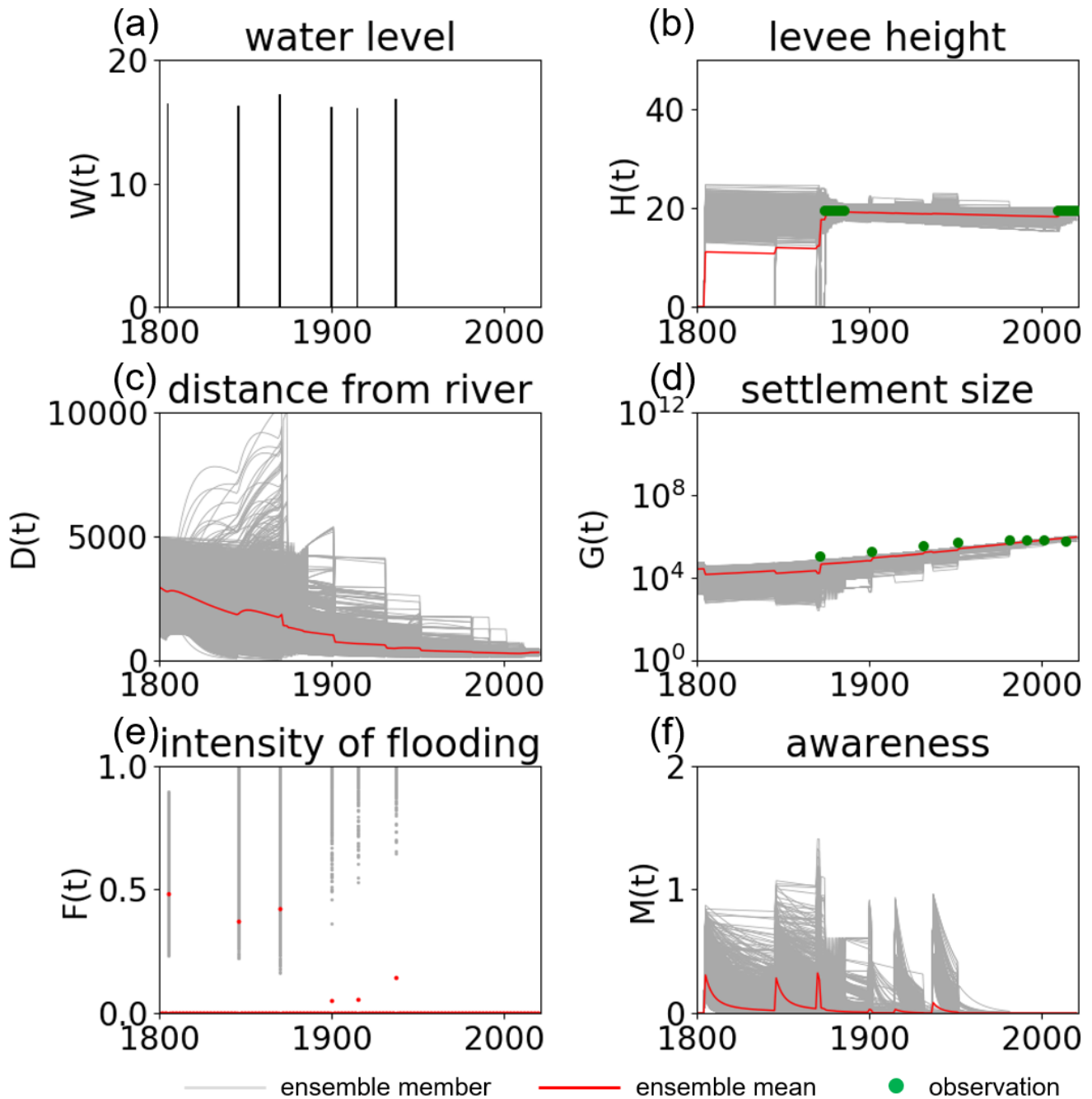


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848 **Figure 12.** Timeseries of (a) high water level  $W(t)$ , (b) the flood protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , (c) the  
 849 distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , (d) the size of the human settlement  
 850  $G(t)$ , (e) the intensity of flooding events  $F(t)$ , and (f) the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$  simulated by  
 851 5000 ensembles with uncertain high water levels and no data assimilation in the real-world experiment in the

852 city of Rome. The time step is annual. Grey, and red lines are the ensemble members and their mean,  
853 respectively.

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**Figure 13.** Timeseries of (a) high water level  $W(t)$ , (b) the flood protection level (or levee height)  $H(t)$ , (c) the

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distance of the center of mass of the human settlement from the river  $D(t)$ , (d) the size of the human settlement

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$G(t)$ , (e) the intensity of flooding events  $F(t)$ , and (f) the social awareness of the flood risk  $M(t)$  simulated by

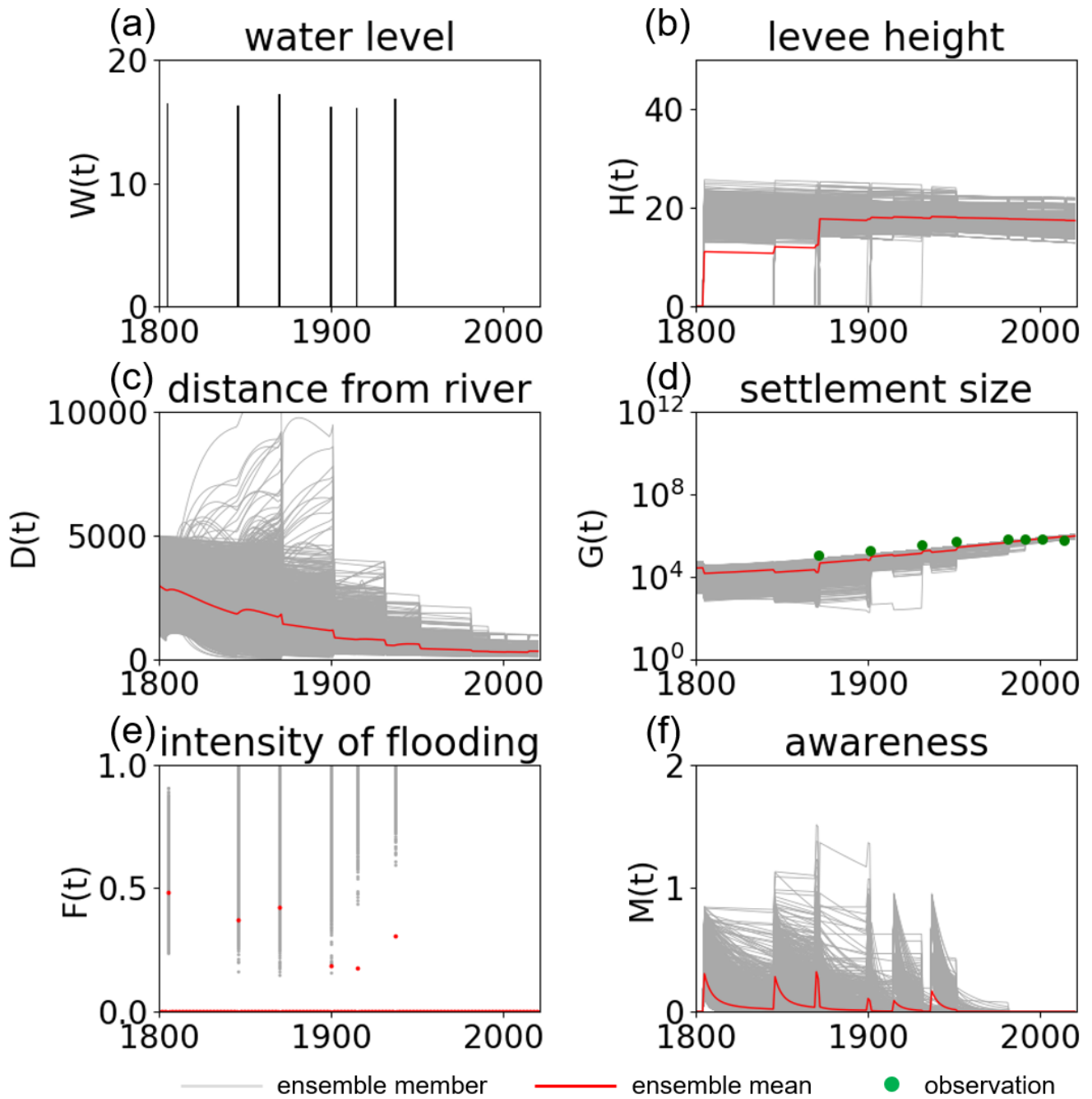
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the data assimilation experiment in which the real-world observations of  $G$  and  $H$  (green dots) are assimilated

860 into the model with 5000 ensembles in the real-world experiment in the city of Rome. The time step is annual.

861 Grey, and red lines are the ensemble members and their mean, respectively.

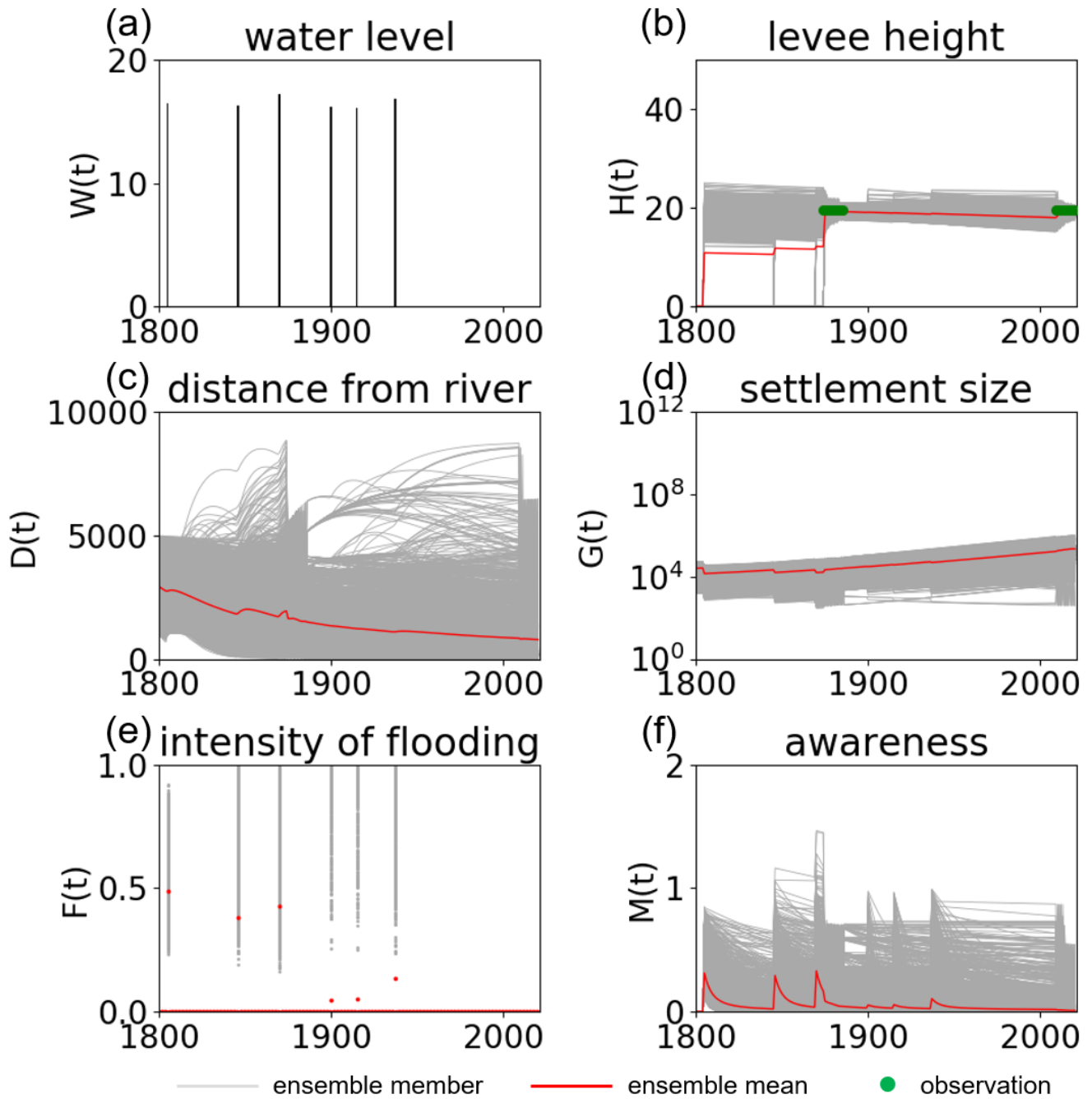
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864 **Figure 14.** Same as Figure 13 but only real data of  $G$  are assimilated.

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867 **Figure 15.** Same as Figure 13 but only real data of H are assimilated.

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