



Bedrock river incision from the ground

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Recent advances in our understanding of how rivers erode bedrock have provided a research platform that brings those engaged in channel-scale geomorphic processes alongside those examining landscapes at the orogen-scale and beyond. Yet, this rich convergence of effort has also brought with it some imbalances. This preface to the session “The Bedrock Incision Problem” examines some central issues from a predominantly field perspective. Drawing on examples from cratonic landscapes (central Australia), active orogens (Andalucia and Crete), and landscapes undergoing post-glacial isostatic rebound (Scotland), some key aspects of bedrock incision are discussed including: 1) channel-forming discharge and the effects of partial sedimentary cover, and 2) transient response in rivers and the controls on knickpoint initiation and propagation.