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Why should we bother about hyporheic zone?

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Several definitions and a lot of attention, i.e. other 800 publications since 1970, have been devoted to this particular volume of the hydrosystems where potential interaction between surface and ground water can occur. Yet, mostly mono disciplinary researches have been developed so far, starting with invertebrate community dynamics in the early 70, bio and geochemistry in the 80 and hydrology more recently. A recurrent theme developed by all these approaches is the highly spatial and temporal variability of the importance of hyporheic zone in the functioning of river systems. In this paper we will illustrate why we think that we should still bother about hyporheic zones, but with an interdisciplinary approach, and discuss the relevance and of a unifying model.