

The interactive public discussion

Every registered member of the scientific community, including referees, may publish comments online (free registration is accessible via the login link). They are restricted to a maximum length of five standard pages (10,000 spaces) and have to be submitted within three months after the publication of the discussion paper.

The authors of the discussed paper have the option (but no obligation) to reply by publishing their own comments individually or collectively on behalf of all co-authors. The authors of any discussed paper are automatically informed by email about the publication of comments of their paper. Publication alert services will also be available to other members of the scientific community.

Authors are advised to follow the discussion of their paper and to notify the editor in case of abusive commentary. The publication of interactive comments is supervised by the editorial team, who have the option of censoring comments that are not of a substantial nature and of direct relevance to the issues raised in the discussed paper. They will also censor personal insults. The *PS/SS* editorial team reserves the right to exclude abusive commentators.

After the open discussion is closed no more online comments are accepted, but the contact author and the editor of the discussed paper have the opportunity to publish final comments and the editor's comments, respectively. The final response phase is generally limited to three months.

If you would like to contribute a peer-reviewed comment or reply, which continues the discussion of a scientific paper beyond the limits of the immediate interactive discussion, please be aware of the manuscript preparation regulations. Such commentaries and replies undergo the same process of peer-review and publication as full articles. They may achieve publication in *PS/SS* if sufficiently substantial.