Water seeks its own level ...

... Solvent may dramatically affect heterogeneously catalyzed processes. In their Communication on page 3327 ff., D. Muñoz-Santiburcio et al. use advanced ab initio simulations to explore the effect of water on methanol oxidation over titania-supported gold nanoparticles. The liquid- and gas-phase reaction mechanisms are distinctly different because water molecules actively participate in oxidation and alter charge-transfer steps in the reaction.