

Looking for ‘Local Community’: understanding the social processes involved in coping with and adapting to floods, in urban and rural context



**Seminar presented by
Centre for the Study of Floods and Communities
and the
Countryside and Community Research Institute**

Speaker: Tracey Coates, Flood Hazard Research Centre, Middlesex University

Venue: FW015A, Fullwood, Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire,
Cheltenham GL50 2RH

Date: Tuesday March 9th 2010 **Time:** 12.15 – 1.15pm

One response to the increasing incidence of flooding in the UK has been to shift more responsibility towards local communities, and to suggest that they become increasingly involved in the Flood Risk Management process and do more to help themselves. Whilst the more recent vulnerability perspective highlights the importance of understanding the social aspects of disasters, relatively little is yet known about responses and impacts within the local community. The term ‘community’ is itself highly contested within the social sciences and there are claims by some that the ‘local’ is being lost to the ‘global’. Qualitative research with urban and rural flooded communities in northern England found that the majority of the residents interviewed identified with their locality and articulated a sense of belonging or attachment. However this could be expressed in a number of different ways and was no longer necessarily tied into the idea of the local community. The presentation focuses on the explorations of community, shared identities and discourses of community, and reflects on the role of local community in helping residents to cope more effectively with flooding and other disasters.

All welcome! Please email jharper@glos.ac.uk to reserve a place.

The **Centre for the Study of Floods and Communities** at the University of Gloucestershire is an interdisciplinary research centre that focuses on key issues in building sustainable and resilient communities in a changing flood risk context

The **Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)** is a collaboration between the University of Gloucestershire, the University of the West of England, Royal Agricultural College and Hartpury College. It is one of the leading specialist rural research centres in the country with programmes of research in rural community development, rural poverty, agri-environment policies, agri-tourism, local sustainability, local economic development, EU and UK rural development, and the planning system in the countryside. See www.ccri.ac.uk for more information.