

Activating the gap between knowledge and imagination:

Exploring the scope for partnership between the arts and sciences towards more inclusive environmental change policy development

This three-day workshop event is an enquiry into the efficacy of current climate and environmental change policy and reflects upon the need for a broader disciplinary spectrum in the policy development process.

The intention is to scrutinise identifiable gaps in the generation, consultation and implementation of environmental policy, one example of this is where it applies to water and flood risk management. However whatever the manifestation of change may be, it is frequently stated that policy fails at the governance stage due to resistance at a societal level, the reasons for which are many and varied, but indicate that the challenges we are facing at present are far too complex to account for through a pragmatic problem and solution process.

It has long been a matter of frustration for the arts community that a cultural perception of the value conferred upon place and belonging by communities has not been considered to be a necessary component in the governance process where it most certainly can become an impediment to implementation.

This partnership does not set out to answer questions but more to explore with the wider scientific and policy development communities the issues that exist, where they are managed satisfactorily through existing mechanisms and how the arts might serve to enhance understanding and widen the scope and efficacy of environmental change policy.

We are inviting specialists from the arts, social sciences, the physical and cultural geography communities and the policy generation sector, to reflect upon the wealth of arts initiatives that already exist and have been applied in ad hoc fashion across the globe, and to discuss other areas where similar or differing initiatives could be considered. Ultimately, we would like to forge new research partnerships fostering a more effective sense of public ownership of policy into the future with the aim of raising levels of both understanding and engagement.

Through three distinct workshops we intend to explore the potential for the arts to enter into partnerships with scientists and flood risk and environmental management communities, social science and cultural geography communities, local, regional and national governmental organisations towards the development of both sustainable policy and practical application.

These workshops are the result of a partnership between Simon Read and Ralf Nuhn of the Department of Fine Art, Middlesex University, Sue Tapsell and Simon McCarthy of Flood Hazard Research Centre, Middlesex University and Professor Chris Wainwright of Chelsea

College of Art, University of the Arts London and chair of the arts and environmental organisation “Cape Farewell”. Our intention is to explore the mutual benefits that may be derived from collaboration between the environmental sciences and the arts with particular emphasis upon how this may factor into the generation of policy on environmental change and the recognition of its implications at a public level.

Each workshop will occupy a single day over three consecutive days and in order to reflect more fully upon the complexity and scope of the discussion, each day will be the initiative of one of the partner institutions:

Day 1

Monday 24 June

The Day 1 workshop will be hosted Simon Read and Ralf Nuhn of the Fine Arts Department of Middlesex University in the Grove Building on the Hendon Campus.

Day 2

Tuesday 25 June

The Day 2 workshop will be at Chelsea College of Art and Design, Millbank where the host will be Professor Chris Wainwright.

Day 3

Tuesday 25 June

The Day 3 workshop will be in the Grove Building at the Hendon Campus of Middlesex University and will be hosted by Sue Tapsell and Simon McCarthy of Flood Hazard Research Centre.



Project endorsed by the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, in the context of CIWEM's vision for arts and the environment

Day 1, June 24

Implementation



The first workshop will be hosted by Simon Read and Ralf Nunn. The day will continue to take the potential of partnership at the level of policy implementation as its theme. We wish to engage the policy development and environmental management communities on the principle of embedding artists directly in the planning and execution of infrastructure projects. For this we will draw directly upon our own experience and upon other successful urban water remediation initiatives carried out by artists including at sites in the UK and USA.

Programme - Day 1

Middlesex University, Hendon Campus, Grove Building

10.00 **Welcome and introduction**

Simon Read

10.15 **Keynote speaker**

"Imagining future coastlines and then doing something about it"

Prof Tim O'Riordan

10.45 **Case Study**

"WATERWASHing the Bronx River"

Lillian Ball

11.15 **Refreshment Break**

11.30 **Case Study**

*"Art and Environment in a Post Industrial Context: Pittsburgh Pennsylvania
1996-2006"*

Tim Collins, Reiko Goto

Programme - Day 1 *continued*

-
- 12.00 **Case Study**
“Authorship and Ownership”
Simon Read
-
- 12.30 **Case Study**
“Anticipatory History”
Caitlin Desilvey
-
- 13.00 **Lunch**
-
- 14.00 **Keynote speaker**
“Broadening the implementation repertoire-artists and environmental institutions”
Dave Pritchard
-
- 14.30 **Workshop sessions:**
“Managing immediacy, the familiar as a point of departure”
facilitated by Iain Biggs and Simon McCarthy
“Relationships with corporations, institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations”
facilitated by James Marriott and Graeme Evans
-
- 15.15 **Workshop sessions:**
“Fostering community partnership”
facilitated by Loraine Leeson and Veronica Sekules
“Science, Policy and the Arts”
facilitated by Tim O’Riordan and Dave Pritchard
-
- 16.00 **Refreshment Break**
-
- 16.30 **Plenary**
Chaired by Lindsey McEwen
-
- 17.30 **Drinks and view exhibition**
-

Venue Information - Day 1

Rooms G229, G230
Block A, Grove Building
Hendon Campus
Middlesex University
The Burroughs
London
NW4 4BT

Tel: 020 8411 5000
Venue website: www.mdx.ac.uk

Location

Directions to Middlesex University, Hendon campus

In the interests of sustainability, we would like to encourage all delegates to use public or shared transport where possible.

Please find below directions and a map to the campus:

By rail

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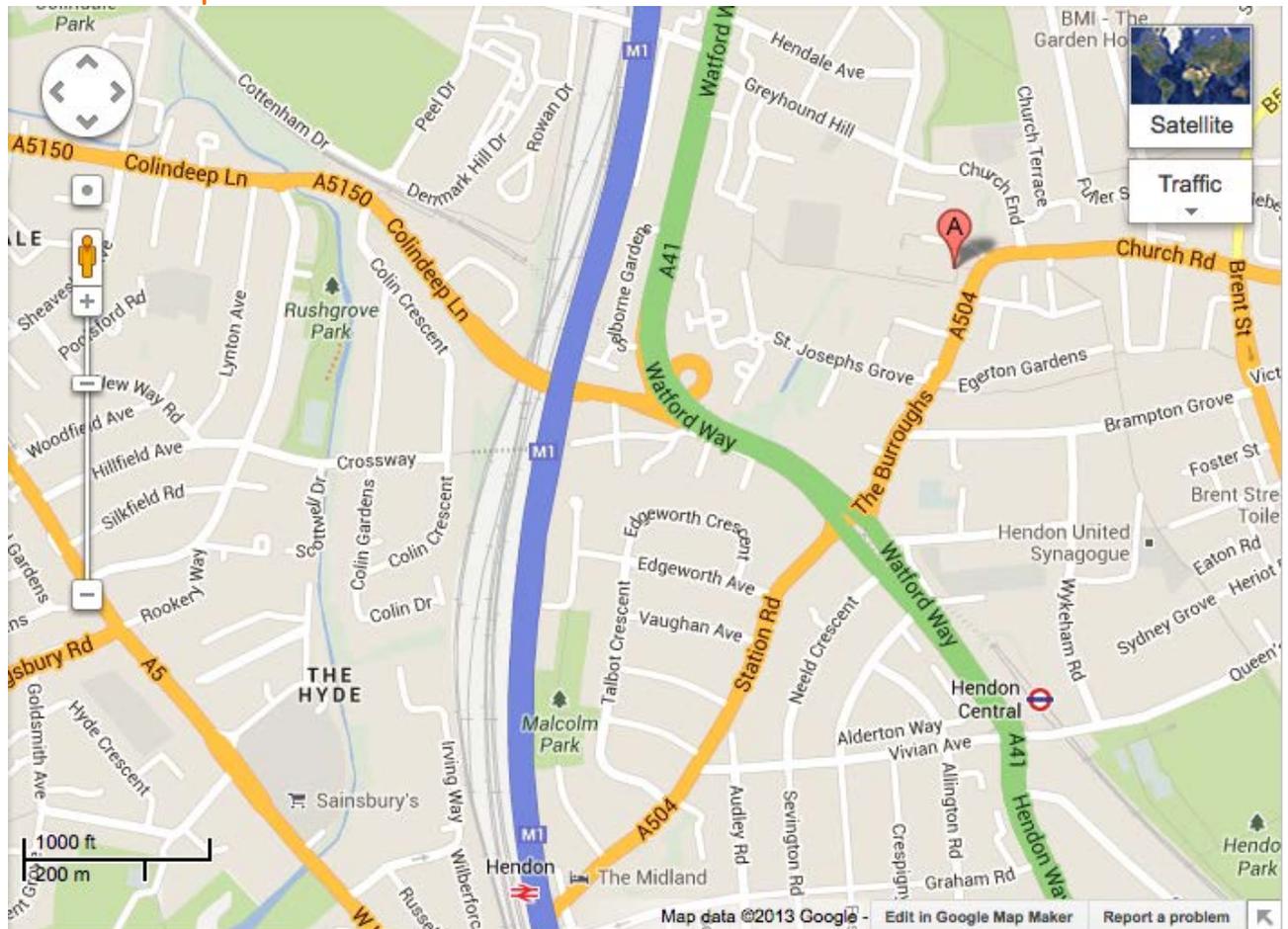
By road

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Location Map



Venue Facilities

Internet/WiFi Access

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Registration and Catering

Registration will take place from 09:30-10:00 on the 2nd Floor Mezzanine in Block A of the Grove. The main rooms for the day will be the Atrium of the Grove, rooms G229 and G230

Teas and coffees will be served on arrival and throughout the day.

Lunch will be served in the Grove Atrium.

Day 2, June 25

Cultural Response and its Impact on Change



Professor Chris Wainwright of The University of the Arts London will host this workshop. It will explore the role of the artist as a bridge between science and public comprehension and the degree that the scientific community perceive the problem to reside in accessibility and interpretation, and the extent that the arts can raise the visibility and profile of problems in a cultural environment that science cannot easily reach, whilst at the same time avoiding the arts being perceived simply a means of illustration. Partners here could range from physical scientists to scientific institutions such as the British Geological Survey and the arts organisation Cape Farewell, which is very active in this arena and will be a key reference point in the workshop.

The main focus of the day will be on processes and strategies leading to greater engagement and awareness of environmental issues amongst various publics. A key aspect will be to propose positive and empowering action and to investigate new ways of addressing issues where conventional methods and constituencies have failed to make an impact. A cornerstone of the day will be to fully interrogate the claim that cultural engagement, the role of artists and those broadly in the creative sector, have the ability to respond to and shift agendas, where simply continuing with mainstream political approaches and prescribed processes of lobbying, pre determined report driven investigations, remote and internalised committee focused discourses etc, will have little impact on addressing increasingly urgent environmental issues of our time.

There will also be a focus on the role of creative art education and how environmental issues are being explored as core aspects of curriculum, subject development and learning and teaching strategies. A series of case studies and profiles will be presented from within education and cultural bodies such as Cape Farewell.

The day will finish with a visit to The Daiwa Foundation to see Chris Wainwright's exhibition 'A Catalogue of Errors' based on the aftermath of the 2011 great north eastern earthquake in Japan. A private gallery tour will be followed by an in conversation event with Yusaku Imamura, Director of Tokyo Wondersite and will discuss the benefits of cross-cultural partnerships in relation to addressing environmental projects. A number of seats have been reserved for this event for workshop participants.

Programme - Day 2

Chelsea College of Art and Design, Millbank

9.30	Refreshments
10.00	Welcome and Introduction <i>Chris Wainwright</i>
10.15	Case Study <i>David Cross</i>
10.45	Round table response discussion, all participants
11.15	Refreshments
11.30	Case Study <i>Becky Early</i>
12.00	Round table response discussion
12.30	Round table feedback and panel discussion
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Introduction to afternoon session
14.15	Case study <i>David Buckland</i>
14.45	Round table response discussions
15.15	Refreshments
15.30	Plenary session
16.00	Leave for Diawa Foundation
17.00	Private tour of 'A Catalogue of Errors' Exhibition
18.00	In Conversation <i>Chris Wainwright and Yusaku Imamura</i>

Venue Information - Day 2

Chelsea College of Art and Design is situated in Pimlico, opposite Tate Britain and next to the River Thames. Use the Atterbury Street entrance for Millbank.

Venue:

Boardroom, Millbank
Chelsea College of Art and Design
16 John Islip Street
London SW1P 4JU

T: +44 (0)20 7514 7751

E: info@chelsea.arts.ac.uk

How to get to Chelsea:

By Tube: Chelsea College is a 5 minute walk from Pimlico tube station and 10 minutes from Vauxhall tube.

By Bus: 2, C10, 36, 87, 88, 185, 436 all stop nearby.

By Train: The nearest train stations are Vauxhall and Victoria.

Parking: There is no parking available on the Millbank site however there is limited car parking in streets alongside the College on Atterbury St and John Islip St: metered Monday - Friday 8.30 - 18.30 (Pay and Display, 2 hours max), free 18.30 onwards, weekends and Bank Holidays. Please note that Chelsea College is situated within London's Congestion Charge Zone.

Shop: sells a wide range of art and design materials. The shop is open during term time: Monday - Friday, 10.00 - 17.15.

Café: located opposite Chelsea Space, it sells soft and hot drinks as well as snacks. The café is open Monday - Friday, 8.30 - 15.45.

Day 3, June 26

Stimulating community-led action to flood risk



This day comprises the final workshop in our three-day event *Activating the gap between knowledge and imagination*. It will be hosted by Sue Tapsell and Simon McCarthy of the Flood Hazard Research Centre and will focus more on the viewpoint from the social and physical science communities. The focus of the workshop will be the challenge of flood risk management. Flooding has been identified by the National Security Review (2010) as one of the significant risks to the UK in terms of economic, social and environmental consequences. Sir David King (ex Government Chief Scientist) has stated that scientists cannot work on issues such as these alone. One particular challenge is in raising awareness and understanding of flood risk, engaging individuals and communities (and maintaining that engagement), encouraging behavioural change and eliciting individual and community response to flood events. This can be particularly difficult when there has not been a recent local flood for focus attention on the risks. On the level of stakeholder engagement, this therefore demands an integrated approach where the cultural implications are certain to feature strongly.

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) has developed a Vision for promoting more creativity at the heart of environmental policy and action. CIWEM understands that people do not always respond positively to dire messages about changing climate and that an unremitting focus on crisis can produce a negative mind-set. In the Environment Agency's 'Artist Residency' programme (2007-2010) one aim was to develop innovative ways of engaging local communities with issues of flooding and climate change. The programme produced some very positive results but also highlighted some of the challenges in involving artists in the core processes of flood risk management policy and practice, such as the perceived need to align activities with team priorities, national strategy and the localism agenda.

With recent changes in funding arrangements, the involvement of local authorities, the local private sector and increasingly voluntary community groups, has become far more important. Can we therefore identify points at which the arts can be an effective partner with science in the comprehension of the range and impact of environmental change, the necessary societal adaptation and how this might be factored into the development of robust policy and implementation? We would like to explore how a creative attitude can bring opportunities for new ways of thinking and what partnership or internal support

structures and resources are required to deliver and sustain future arts and science collaboration. The day will therefore explore the *contributions* that the arts can bring to meet the current challenges of engaging communities as well as the *process* of how better to engage input from arts practitioners in solution-finding for these challenges.

The day will finish with a plenary session and wrap-up for the whole event followed by a post-event reception. Participants are also invited to provide some artwork, posters or other visual material highlighting their own experiences, which will be exhibited throughout the day.

Programme - Day 3

Middlesex University, Hendon Campus, Grove Building

9.30	Refreshments
10.00	Welcome and Introduction <i>Sue Tapsell</i>
10.10	Feedback from workshops on previous two days
10.30	Keynote speaker <i>Learning to live with floods: reflections on a 'Living Flood Histories' approach to resilience building in communities</i> <i>Prof Lindsey McEwen</i>
11.15	Case Study 1 <i>The arts in a hydro-social approach to flood risk management: some observations</i> <i>Dr Iain Biggs</i>
11.45	Refreshments
12.00	Case Study 2 <i>Active Energy</i> <i>Dr Loraine Leeson</i>
12.30	Plenary Discussion
13.00	Lunch and view exhibition
14.00	Case study 3 <i>Mapping and Researching Conflict: Managed Retreat of Farlington Marshes, Portsmouth</i> <i>Prof. Graeme Evans</i>

Programme - Day 3 *continued*

14.30	Workshop session (1) <i>Exploring the <u>contributions</u> that the arts can bring to meet the current challenges of engaging communities</i>
15.30	Refreshments
15.45	Workshop session (2) <i>Exploring the <u>process</u> of how better to engage input from arts practitioners in solution-finding for stimulating community-led action to flood risk</i>
16.45	Report back and plenary discussion
17.15	Final wrap-up for all three workshops
17.30	Drinks and view exhibition

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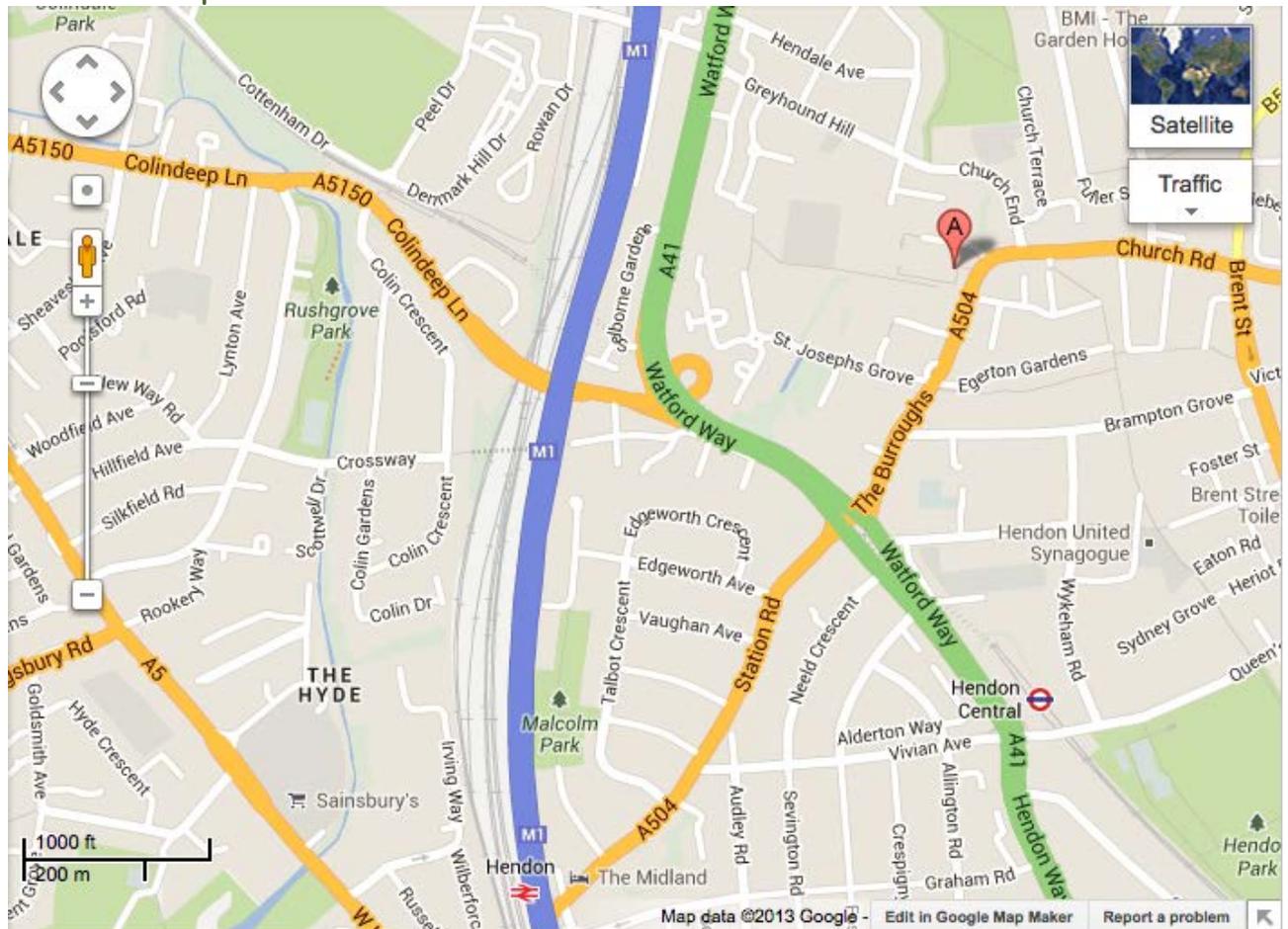
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