BACKGROUND

Hydrocitizenship is a three year (2014-2017) AHRC funded project which investigates and makes creative contributions to the ways in which citizens and communities, in a range of UK urban and rural neighbourhoods, live with each other and their environment in relation to water. The project will generate a series of initiatives and outputs which will range from practical interventions in local landscapes, to new art works, citizen’s science and academic reflection on the nature of citizenship and community when they are re-imagined from an ecological perspective.

CASE STUDIES

The case study teams (Shipley; Borth; Bristol; and Lee Valley) exchange and integrate skills, methods, experiences and findings into an overarching synthesis. This synthesis will address the questions set out above and provide a reflexive analysis of how creative and participatory arts and humanities-centred interdisciplinary research can be done effectively and with a clear legacy for the future.

SHIPLEY sits at the axis of a complex of waterways linking the cities of Bradford and Leeds.
- Rich water-dependent industrialisation history (Saltaire World Heritage Site)
- Diverse contemporary waterscape.

BORTH is a designated high risk flood zone and at risk of long-term sea-level rise.
- On-going flood mitigation measures and public consultation.

BRISTOL connects three central water courses with associated communities: The New Cut, Frome River and Brislington Brook.
- Diverse inner city housing and industrial areas which face a series of both water related and social challenges.

LEE VALLEY is a densely populated and socially diverse area which is subject to extensive planning and development of/in the River Lee catchment.
- The cultural diversity of the area will provide insights into the interactions between identities, territories and sense of place.
- Working with major stakeholders and community groups (LLDC, LVRPA, Thames 21, HWFI-CIG and more).
- Investigating the value of water via cultural mapping, user surveys, walking narratives, citizen’s science, festivals and more.

Case Studies

Keep in touch and Join the Community
Lee Valley Hydrocitizenship is part of the Hydrocitizenship project that combines academic research with community participation and creative activities, reflecting on the notion of citizenship in relation to environmental concerns and how this can move us towards a more sustainable society.

In particular, we aim to investigate and contribute to understanding the diverse relationships between people and water in the Lee Valley through creative conversations with community partners and individuals, and by facilitating, encouraging and producing creative interventions and outputs that help explore these complex inter-relationships.

Visits & Walking Narratives
- The Hydrocitizenship Lee Valley team have walked the length of the Lee, in stages between May 2014 and June 2015, documenting its characteristics and adding to the rich history of this changing environment (Walking Narratives of the River Lee report by Simon Read).

Cycle Survey
- The Lee Valley Hydrocitizenship team joined the cycle ride event that the LVRPA organised on the World Water Day, Sunday 22nd March 2015. Cyclists were asked to complete a short survey about their experience and reflections on the cycle ride along the Lee River/Canal and the importance of water to them as an urban amenity (Cycling the Lower Lee Valley report).

Cultural Ecosystems Mapping
- The study is based on a pilot workshop held in Hackney Wick, east London in June 2014.
- Participants were asked to identify recreational uses, cultural uses and problem areas using large scale maps, stickers and post-its.
- The findings of the workshop is published in the Cultural Ecosystems Mapping Pilot report.

Visit Our Website to Keep in Touch and Access the Documents/Reports
www.leevalley.org