Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 11th March 2024

Can natural flood management deliver what it promises?

By: Megan Klaar

Outline: Natural Flood Management (NFM) is the use of natural features and processes to slow and store flood water to reduce flood peaks to downstream areas. By promoting, restoring and enhancing landscape features flood managers have begun to implement these more 'natural' approaches rather than more traditional 'hard' engineering features, such as flood walls and barriers to reduce flood risk. However, despite the increase of NFM schemes, our understanding of the effectiveness of these interventions in mitigating flood impacts is limited. Indeed, despite £40M in recent funding by the UK Govt for NFM research, some data suggests that NFM measures may even have the potential to increase flood risk. This leads to questioning the role of NFM in catchment management, and whether it should play a role in our future response to increasing flood events.

Speaker*: Megan Klaar is an Associate Professor at the School of Geography. She is an interdisciplinary scientist interested in the linkages between ecology, geomorphology and hydrology to understand how ecosystems can be managed to provide wider ecosystem benefits. Her research aims to help environmental managers and policy makers to make informed decisions regarding sustainable use of natural resources. Prior to embarking on a career in academia, Megan worked in the water (water company), charity (fisheries trust) and regulatory (Environment Agency) sectors.*

Venue: The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michaels Road, LS6 3BG
Time: Room opens 7:30pm, Talk begins promptly at 7:45pm
Entry: Donation please for room hire and expenses: £4 at the door