



Sharing findings from the ESRC Global Uncertainties project: *Living with Uncertainty*

11 June 2012, 1000 - 1700
Royal Institute of British Architects
Portland Place
London

Researching Empathy

An academic conference

Empathy -- understanding another person's emotions and perspective -- plays a vital role in social life affected by conflict, reducing the probability of violence and offering the potential for reconciling differences. Empathy research is vibrant across multiple disciplines, from neuroscience to political science, from poetry to medicine.

The **Living with Uncertainty** project, led by Professor Lynne Cameron at the Open University, takes an applied linguistic approach, focusing on empathy in dialogue and interaction. A new multilevel model of empathy dynamics has been constructed, that pulls together findings from multidisciplinary research with the results of empirical studies of empathy in dialogue from conflict transformation in Kenya and N Ireland, from US police-community interaction, and from focus group responses to human rights abuses, to terrorism in UK and to urban violence in Brazil. Particular attention is paid to metaphor and how it contributes to understanding or blocking the Other.



The academic conference will bring together empathy researchers to discuss the new model of empathy dynamics in dialogue, and findings from the studies that support it, in the light of their own work. Speakers include Professor Lynne Cameron (Open University), Professor Nick Wheeler (Birmingham), Dr Bruna Seu (Birkbeck), Dr David Ritchie (Portland, Oregon), Dr Naomi Head (Glasgow). A lively debate across disciplines is promised!

To book your place, please email: c.l.johns-mackenzie@open.ac.uk

If you would like to contribute a paper, please email a 200 word abstract.

Fee: £90, to include coffee, lunch and tea. Student rate £50.

Two PhD bursaries are available - please enquire by email as above.