**Social Science of water Network Day 2018**

**19th April 2018**

**Venue: Hilton Manchester,**303 Deansgate, Manchester City Centre, Manchester, M3 4LQ UK

**Agenda**

**Welcome and purpose of meeting: Liz Sharp**

**Session 1**: **Beyond Behaviour Change: Using Social Practices to Reflect Upon New Spaces for Change in the UK Water Sector**

**Convenors: Alison Browne and Claire Hoolohan**

This session will address how social practice theory can help address water problems. Three short papers will introduce the use of social practice theory in water management: these address the essentials of social practice theory (Browne); its use to imagine water futures (Hoolohan) and its application to understanding the problem of Fats Oils and Grease in sewers (Sharp). Informed by the audiences’ own experience of using social practice theory, a general discussion on when, where and how this approach can be applied within the water sector in the future will follow.

**Break for coffee**

**Session 2: Reflecting on the role of civil society in water risk management**

**Convenor: Martina McGuinness and Lindsey McEwen**

Impacts from climate change can be seen in more frequent extreme weather events which affect the water continuum. These can range from a surfeit of water (flooding) to a sustained lack of water (drought). These are socially constructed risks in which actors from civil society play important roles across the risk cycle; mitigation, preparation, response and recovery. This session shall provide insights from social science research into the different aspects of flood and drought risk. It will include some short presentations and discussion/ contributions from the floor.

**Break for lunch**

**Session 3: Staying critical in applied water research**

**Convenors: Emma Westling and Liz Sharp**

The social sciences have strong critical traditions drawn from political ecology, feminism and other progressive research traditions. But how can social scientists’ critical edge be maintained in the context of the scientific/engineering norms of water research partners, and the deliverable, output and impact focus of contemporary water research? This workshop session asks participants to prepare to speak for 3 minutes about an anecdote from their research experience when they have needed to negotiate to maintain their criticality.

**Please note:**

* if you have material which you feel would make an especially pertinent contribution to sessions 1 or 2, please e-mail the session convenors to discuss whether / how your contribution can be incorporated into the session plans.

(e-mail [a.browne@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:a.browne@manchester.ac.uk); [m.mcguiness@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:m.mcguiness@sheffield.ac.uk) or  [l.sharp@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:l.sharp@sheffield.ac.uk)).

* All participants are asked to contribute briefly in Session 3.

**Times to be confirmed shortly.**