Planning Research conference September 12-14th Special Relu session

This session was organised to promote how research within the RELU programme might inform spatial planning practice. There were two sessions involving the following papers

**Session 1**

Where Are We Going? Combining Local and Scientific Knowledge to Plan For the Future in UK Uplands – Reed, M.

Participatory Adaptive Flood Management: A UK Borders Case Study – Cinderby, S., Forrester, J. and Oughton, L.

Gentrification, Nature and Spatial Planning In the English Countryside – Phillips, M

**Session 2**

The Potential of the Ecosystem Approach and Spatial (Landscape- Scale) Planning to Transform Planning Culture And Practice – Carter, C. and Schiessel, N.

Learning Through Practice: Improving Sustainability Assessment Of Plans – Bond, A.

Exploring The Relationship Between Research And Practise: Reflections of a Relu Visiting Fellow – Hewitt, S.

Each session involved a 15 minute presentation with planner discussants (Mark Tewdwr-Jones from UCL Bartlett and Joe Ravetz from CURS University of Manchester). The sessions revealed an important gap in some Relu projects in connecting with the planning profession and whilst this was happening in some projects explicitly Phillipps and Carter) this was the exception rather than the rule.

Discussion also highlighted the importance of effective communication of research using diverse methods to maximise impact amongst different audiences . There was concern that policy makers needed to engage more directly with the research process but this was problematic given time commitments. The session was seen as an important first step of bringing spatial planning into the fold of Relu work and given the contemporary media furore over planning reforms was opportune.