TITLE: Floods, rivers and identity

DESCRIPTION : We have lost an important connection with the landscape, a way of seeing and understanding its profound significance in our everyday life and culture. This gap in our knowledge is a conceptual void that threatens the landscape in the face of 21st century challenges and is undermining regional aspirations given increasing recognition of the value of the metropolitan landscape in the global battle for talent.

This PHD will contribute to an emerging and significant body of work that hopes to address this crisis by refocusing attention on materiality, re-evaluating the relationship communities have with the land and developing landscape led holistic and integrated approaches to planning, development and change.

Having a particular focus on water as the commodity that will be under more pressure than any other in the future, this PHD will investigate the large scale hydrological possibilities relating to climate change, increasing urbanisation and an ever growing population in order to more effectively plan now to protect its future (see Water for Life)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/waterlife.pdf>

AIMS

To develop scholarly research that connects images to words, facts to values, ideas to materiality, science to art and nature to culture, the PhD will:

* Contribute to projects crossing professional, administrative and disciplinary boundaries to make visible through mapping, topographical and digital studies the massive, powerful and hidden hydrological regional landscape and its rich history and culture.
* Establish ways to embed this new physicality and identity within the planning and development process, regional governance as well as local community perceptions, lives and histories.
* Critically appraise the suitability of various eco system services, natural capital and other models to operate at a regional scale from a natural, cultural and economic perspective, proposing if necessary, a new mechanism to ensure the river valley systems, tributaries, floods and tides are recognized throughout the conurbation as the ecological muscle of the region.

Nature of Cross Faculty supervision

**DIRECTOR OF STUDIES**: **Kathryn Moore**

**Second supervisor: David Proverbs,** Associate Dean (International) Faculty of  
**Computing, Engineering and The Built Environment**

**Third supervisor**: **Peter Larkham (see attached sheet)**

**Collaborators** will include the Environment Agency and Severn Trent (TBC)