

Learning from arts and humanities approaches to building climate resilience in the UK

Ed Brookes, Briony McDonagh & Corinna Wagner
Jenna Ashton, Alice Harvey-Fishenden, Alan Kennedy-Asser,
Neil Macdonald, Kate Smith



UK Research
and Innovation



Arts and humanities within climate resilience

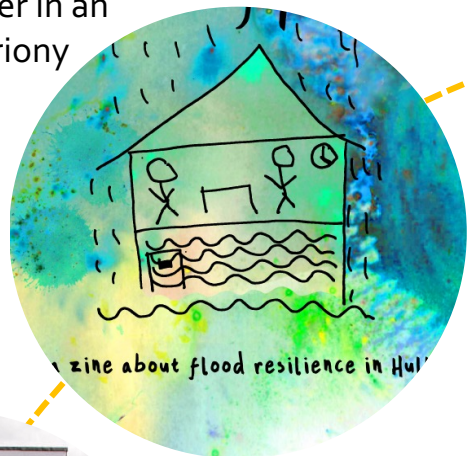


- The arts bring meaning to people's lives. They are a crucial tool within resilience building – they can make big scientific ideas and global narratives meaningful for people in their daily lives
- The humanities provide models for using history, literature, language and expressive culture to help people make sense of complex and uncertain climate futures
- Together, arts and humanities approaches push us to ask what effective resilience building looks like
- Arts and humanities research provides tools for understanding the qualitative impacts of our work

Arts and humanities insight paper projects



Risky Cities: Living with water in an uncertain climate future - Briony McDonagh



zine about flood resilience in Hull

CLandage: building climate resilience through community landscapes and cultural heritage – Neil Macdonald



Once upon a time in a heatwave – Alan Kennedy-Asser



Tide and Time – Corinna Wagner



Community climate resilience through folk pageantry – Jenna Ashton



Working with communities using place-based arts and humanities



Local lenses let us **magnify climate issues**, linking questions about community resilience to wider global challenges.

Connecting **past, present and future** drives anticipatory action and **empowers people to make changes** both as individuals and as communities.

In 'Creative Climate Resilience', explorations of folklore and mythological storytelling helped transform the way that place and culture are perceived in the areas of Miles Platting and Newton Heath. Personal connections to our changing climate have stimulated awareness, action and resilience.

Memory and story add personal meaning to impersonal data



The 'Time and Tide' bells are **catalysts for sharing memories** about climate change in coastal communities. By **making coastal climate impacts visible and audible**, the project has translated place-based story into plans of action on climate change.



Creative storytelling in 'Once Upon a Time in a Heatwave' gave a way for the climate research community to explore **place-based data** at more **human, intimate and emotional scales** than those which result from climate risk modelling.

Genuine dialogue, knowledge exchange and co-creation



Projects went beyond addressing specific knowledge deficits, working instead to **foster dialogue, knowledge exchange and co-creation between academics, practitioners and community members.**

Especially important when working with communities who've experienced research being 'done to' rather than 'done with' them, these **projects embody commitment to equity and social justice as part of the work of climate science and climate communication.**



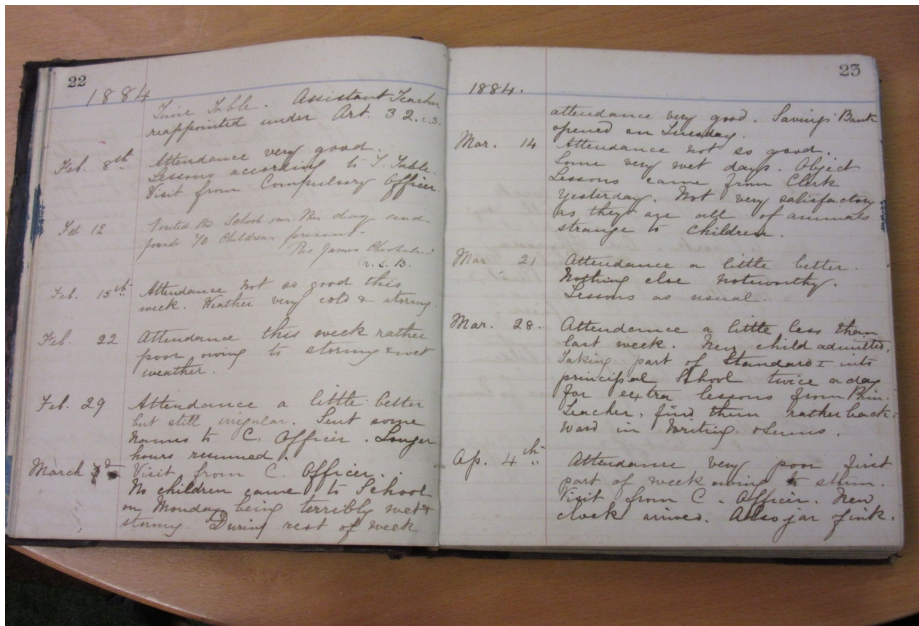
The **hands-on methods** used by Risky Cities offer space for people to **confront challenges and start difficult conversations** about sea-level rise, coastal loss and increasing flood hazard and risk. Drawing on **historical maps and archive material**, participants wove their own experience into histories of living with water.

Archival recovery as a pathway to future resilience



Giving participants access to archival records about weather and climate experiences in the past has helped them **imagine their own response to future climate challenges.**

Oral histories inspired by archival materials **unlock stories of hardship but also of past resilience,** reminding communities of their **tenacity and resourcefulness.**



Clandage developed workshops and exhibitions using cultural heritage materials to generate dialogue around climate and extreme weather. Participants responded to archival material with their own memories and creative writing.



Understanding what has worked



Qualitative methodologies are a crucial part of understanding the impact of this work.

Each project included **measures for assessing effectiveness**, working to ensure that these reflected what was **important to participants** and not just what mattered for academics.

Being able to **demonstrate impacts is important** for persuading policy audiences of the value of this work – yet we know there is work still to do in **making arts and humanities impacts legible** to some ‘scientific’ approaches.

Working together to integrate climate/arts/cultural policy is imperative in supporting future climate resilience.



Contact details

Website: www.ukclimateresilience.org

Twitter: @UKCRP_SPF

YouTube: UK Climate Resilience programme



**UK Research
and Innovation**



The UK Climate Resilience programme is supported by the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund.
The programme is co-delivered by the Met Office and NERC on behalf of UKRI partners AHRC, EPSRC, ESRC.