



## **YCCSA Seminar Series Spring 2016**

### **Complex relations: interdisciplinary collaboration and bioethics in river catchment research**

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Ron Cooke Hub, RCH/204 at 13:30

#### **Abstract:**

Drawing on long-term research exploring human-environmental relations in river catchment areas, this paper considers the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration to contribute to debates about bioethics. Based on the premise that there is a recursive relationship between theory and method, it suggests that collaborative research projects enacting principles of equality between diverse disciplinary areas have a strong capacity to support the development of more egalitarian (and less anthropocentric) perspectives in relation to their objects of study. Taking as an example a river catchment project currently in development at Durham University's Institute of Advanced Study, it considers how bringing disciplines together on equal terms can provide both theoretical and practical opportunities to promote bioethical principles in considering the relative value of human and non-human interests. Such repositioning is fundamental to the development of more sustainable societal engagements with ecosystems and their non-human inhabitants.

