



Sharing findings from Global Uncertainties project: *Living with Uncertainty*

12 June 2012, 1000 - 1700  
Royal Institute of British Architects  
Portland Place  
London

# Empathy: Dynamics, dialogue, conflict

Empathy -- understanding another person's emotions and perspective -- plays a vital role in societies affected by conflict, reducing the probability of violence and offering the potential for reconciling differences.

This conference will present new research into empathy in dialogue from the Global Uncertainties project *Living with Uncertainty*, led by Professor Lynne Cameron at the Open University.

Examining empathy across international contexts (responses to terrorism in UK and to urban violence in Brazil, police-community interactions in USA, conflict transformation in Northern Ireland and Kenya) has revealed how people block empathy through the interaction of emotions, moral reasoning and social dynamics. If these blocks can be dismantled, then empathy with others is made more possible. Tracking successful empathy has identified strategies that can support better understanding of others through dialogue, even in times of increasing uncertainty.

The conference will present the new model of empathy dynamics, a framework for analysing what prevents empathy, and empathy-building strategies derived from international collaborations, paying attention to the special role of metaphor. Each session will apply the ideas and discuss implications for important areas of social life, including:

- conflict transformation: e.g. reconciliation and peace building;
- official communications: e.g. police-community; government-public;
- dialogue across difference: e.g. international negotiations.

To book your place please email:  
[c.l.johns-mackenzie@open.ac.uk](mailto:c.l.johns-mackenzie@open.ac.uk)

**Fee:** £250, including lunch, coffee and tea.  
(NGO, academic rate £90).

