

## **Research Rivers: Creative Methods, Research Strategy, and Uncertainties in Times of Crisis**

### **Abstract**

Social researchers are typically taught to build flexibility into their research designs. And we tend to accommodate uncertainties - participants do not turn up; we cannot negotiate access to an important site. These are generally anticipated. However, the global pandemic disrupted research in sudden, unexpected, and chronic ways. This seminar will draw on workshops and writings from a project examining changing research practices in the wake of the national lockdowns and ongoing responses with the social researchers from academia, industry, government and charity sectors. They drew sketches of their research experiences as a river from the creative workshops. The seminar will chart the emergence of uncertainty as a significant theme in the project and how uncertainties were articulated by researchers. It argues for greater awareness and ongoing appreciation of uncertainty in research practices and, along with insights from participants, offers some practical possibilities to consider throughout the research process.