

Encounters with the volcano: Community knowledge exchange on responses to impacts to volcanic ash in Ecuador and Peru

Maria Teresa Armijos¹, Nélida Manrique²

¹*School of International Development, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK*

²*Observatorio Vulcanológico del INGEMMET, Arequipa, Peru*

In recent years, innovative methodologies to communicate volcanic hazards and risk have been developed through film, art and past narratives of volcanic eruptions. At the same time, it has been recognised that understanding hazards, managing risk and building resilience requires transdisciplinary research that engages with communities at risk. Despite this, more attention needs to be paid to how different types of knowledges, including non-scientific forms of understanding and experiencing volcanic hazards can help people respond to them in the long term. This presentation will explore the results of a knowledge exchange workshop where farmers, scientist and local authorities from Ecuador and Peru shared their experiences and responses to volcanic ash impacts. The workshop was designed as a medium of knowledge exchange and learning using different methodologies and approaches from the social and physical sciences complemented with art.

Specifically, the presentation considers the transfer of knowledge and experience gained through long term exposure to volcanic ash that allowed people to adapt and transform their livelihoods at Volcán Tungurahua, Ecuador. Adaptation measures included, changes in types of crops farmed locally and the development of a range of measures to protect livestock. During the workshop carried out in the surrounding communities of Sabancaya volcano, Peru, Ecuadorian farmers and scientist shared their knowledge with their Peruvian counterparts through presentations, video, conversation, storytelling and visits to farms. Art, including drawing and painting was used to generate spaces for dialogue and knowledge exchange between the different participants.