

Spatial perception of flood hazard in the urban area of Selfoss

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A survey on flood risk perception was conducted in the town of Selfoss from May to August 2009 among the residents aged above 18. The respondents were proposed to draw the boundaries of areas flooded from the beginning of the 20th century on an orthophotograph of Selfoss at scale 1:10.000. The spatial representations of the flood area were processed with a regulated grid of 10 x 10 metres squares and results compared with a flood hazard map from the Icelandic Meteorological Office. In contrast with methods relying on the raw superposition of drawings, the use of grid allows the constitution of choropleth maps where spatial representations are adjusted for a great variety of predictors and displayed as frequencies of citations. Results indicate a poor spatial perception of historical inundations, in a context where experience of past floods is the best predictor of awareness.