

## EINLADUNG ZUM GASTVORTRAG

im Rahmen des Forschungsseminars (Doktoratsstudium) WS 2010/11

**am MONTAG, 29. NOVEMBER 2010, 17.00 UHR**

INSTITUT FÜR GEOGRAPHIE UND REGIONALFORSCHUNG  
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Dr.

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## **MITIGATING THE RISK FROM LAHARS ON RUAPEHU VOLCANO, NEW ZEALAND**

Hazardous lahars occur about every decade on average on the active glacierised Ruapehu Volcano (2797m, winter snowline 1600-1700m) in New Zealand. It is the nation's singly largest centre for mountain recreation, particularly skiing and snowboarding. Therefore lahars threaten people in New Zealand's largest ski areas as well as nationally important infrastructure around the mountain. Most people have some awareness of lahars. Infrastructure location and design, technology-based warning systems, public consultation and political decision-making have occurred to address the risks and scientific input is ongoing. Public safety has been the main consideration but the need for long-term risk mitigation and reducing impacts on the national park have also been important.

Harry Keys is a scientist with the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy of the New Zealand Department of Conservation where he is responsible for volcanic risk management and geothermal and biodiversity advice. Most of his work is focused on the active volcanoes of the Tongariro National Park World Heritage Area. In 2008 he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his leading role in the successful management of a major lahar hazard created by a significant eruption in 1995-1996. Harry's research interests are in the fields of glaciology, volcanology, climate and recreation, plus management publications on a range of conservation issues such as protected areas and species, and Antarctica. He started work as a mountain guide in the 1970s but since 1983 has worked in the fields of environmental protection and conservation with periods in Antarctica.