



SEMINAR SERIES



Focussing in on Rural Scotland: Digital Initiatives in the Context of Places, People and Paradigms

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Wednesday 24th February 2010

3.30 – 4.30 pm, followed by refreshments

MacRobert MR051

“Rural Scotland” covers 90% of Scotland’s land mass, and is made up of approximately one million people. It covers a varied landscape – socially, economically and environmentally.

The *Rural Scotland in Focus Report 2010* has sought to look into demographics, population structures and trends, the “rural economy”, infrastructure and services (how these are defined and experienced), and the extent to which rural communities are engaging in their own futures. The focus is on variability, and on policy initiatives alongside people’s experiences and action on the ground.

During the seminar, Sarah will outline the Report, and then shift the focus to infrastructure and services in rural Scotland, and particularly on digital aspects of these. This will include looking descriptively, at what has been done, but also at people’s experiences in their places in rural Scotland. Sarah will conclude by asking (and suggesting) “where next?” and “who next?” and “if not...”.

Sarah Skerratt has been researching rural community development for the past two decades. She is particularly interested in the interface between policy and practice and in how people experience policy on the ground. She has carried out research in the areas of capacity-building and leadership in rural communities, as well as extensive research into the role of digital technologies in rural development. Sarah is editor of the *Rural Scotland in Focus Report*.

www.digital-rural.org