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**Título:**

Use of a novel visual metaphor measure (PRISM) to evaluate changes in school children's perceptions of multiple hazards in Dominica, Caribbean: impact of education programs upon hazard awareness before and after local natural disasters.

**Simposio/Sesión:**

Levantado conciencia sobre peligros volcánicos con niños

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**Palabras claves:**

Hazard perception, PRISM, education, children,

**Texto principal (máximo 300 palabras):**

This project aims to assess the development of understanding of both volcanic and other natural hazards of secondary school children aged 13-14 from 4 geographically and socially different schools on the island of Dominica, through use of the PRISM interviews. The PRISM interviews in this study are part of a 5 year longitudinal study to understand the changing hazard perception of geography students, with non-geography students forming a control. These interviews are coupled with the development of a structured educational course over a 5 year period to improve awareness. The PRISM tool is adapted from one used in clinical practice to assess patient perceptions of illness and treatment (Buchi and Sensky 1999). This novel measure is essentially non-verbal and uses spatial positions of movable markers ("object") on a board, relative to a fixed marker that represents the subject ("self") as a visual metaphor for the importance of the object to the subject. Subjects explain their reasons for placing markers as well as giving qualitative socio-economic information about themselves. The PRISM data produces statistical data on perceptions and qualitative data about each subject. This study looks at changing perceptions of different hazards over time, collected before and after Tropical Storm Erica in September 2015. It compares perceptions of hazard before and after a taught lesson on global generic hazards to assess the effectiveness of the teaching to improve understanding. The results form part of a wider assessment of educational program, including teaching about local hazards using fieldwork to raise awareness. The occurrence of Tropical Storm Erica has allowed us to address the question of how such a natural disaster can be used as a reference point to enhance efforts to educate about less frequent hazards, such as volcanic eruptions.