



# EGU Media Tips

24 April 2005

EGU General Assembly 2005

*What:*

***Flood risks have not increased in central Europe***

*Where:*

***Wednesday, 27 April 2005 , 17:30 - 19:00, Poster Area: Hall Y***

*Who:*

***Manfred Mudelsee\****



Manfred Mudelsee

The Elbe flood in August 2002 raised concerns that such types of climate extremes are becoming more frequent owing to global warming. New research at the University of Leipzig shows that, at least in the case of extreme floods in central Europe, this is not the case.

Manfred Mudelsee (Institute of Meteorology) and his team analysed measurements and documentary data such as town chronicles to reconstruct a flood database that goes back to AD 1021.

Analysed with a new statistical method developed by Mudelsee, these data show unambiguously that flood risk has not increased. While summer flood risk remained constant, winter flood risk has decreased. This is explained by a reduced rate of river freezing. Breaking river ice in spring acts as water barrier and may enhance a water stage severely. This demonstrates that global warming effects may show deviations from what is currently believed.

## ***links***

POSTER: [EGU05-A-07949](#); M. Mudelsee, **Weather extremes and global change: estimating time-dependent climate risk.** 27 April 2005 , 17:30 - 19:00, Poster Area: Hall Y

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