

Abstract for Oral Presentation

3rd Energy and Society Conference: Transforming Energy for Society

Leipzig, Germany

12-14 September 2016

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Title: Exploring what 'socio-technical research' for energy means for energy research practice: towards integrated designs

Abstract: Understanding energy for society requires an interdisciplinary approach. Energy systems are both fundamentally physical systems (in that they comprise elements best understood via physical and engineering sciences) and social systems (in that they comprise elements best understood via social sciences). However, to date, research on energy systems is divided between these two perspectives, presenting only partial understandings. This is a core challenge for policy-making which needs to understand how to transform energy for people and society. I present recent research by (Love & Cooper, 2015) which explores what it might mean to undertake energy research that integrates both social and physical science approaches and I explore the implications for research practice in both the physical and social sciences. This includes exploring recent developments in the UK towards the creation of integrated socio-technical longitudinal survey of energy across thousands of homes. I highlight particular novel design and methodological approaches that mark out an integrated socio-technical research design from energy

References

Love, J., & Cooper, A. C. G. (2015). From social and technical to socio-technical: Designing integrated research on domestic energy use. *Indoor and Built Environment*.
<http://doi.org/10.1177/1420326X15601722>