

Noisy Engagements

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Abstract

In its endeavours towards tackling climate change, energy security and fuel poverty the UK Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has mobilised 'energy communities' as another instrument, alongside the rational energy consumer, to localise the issue of energy sustainability in the UK. In this presentation I will reflect on the interdisciplinary project 'Energy and Co-Designing Communities', that combines STS inflected design research and ethnographic methodologies to explore the meanings and practices of energy demand reduction. In doing so I will report on the key engagements with the volunteer energy communities including field visits, a design research workshop, the deployment of 'Energy Probes' and the production of design workbooks. With these engagements in mind, and drawing on Fraser's notion of 'event' and Serres notion of 'noise', I will provide theoretical reflection on how such STS and design collaborations with energy communities and energy demand reduction, seek to explore and disrupt what Barry, Born & Weszkalnys characterise as the 'ontological logic' of the ethnographic imagination at play in interdisciplinary engagements.