

Possible topics for exchange and interaction

Re-tread Pred

One idea was to read some more of Pred's early (1980s) writings and see how these ideas might apply to cases other than showering. Cycling is one possible example. – possible output: review notes and thought experiments.

Cycle-path-life-path : what does it mean to go beyond the ABC in practice?

A related option would be to review some current practical initiative to promote cycling (of which there are many - Geoff Gardner could no doubt help identify relevant cases) in order to consider and compare the relevance of ABC type approaches and alternative theories of transitions, practices and social change. – possible output; case study and two or three different analyses of it.

Space, time and pictures

A third possibility is to return to the graphic and other representational methods of time-geography, and blend these both with Pred's own work and with diagrams like those generated by Frank Geels (transitions and innovation studies). Possible output – an exhibition of diagrams depicting innovation and transformation in practice over space and time.

The kitchen as a case study-site for practice theory

There are different avenues to explore – seasonality; diversity; complexity and environmental impact. The challenge is to turn this idea into a small enough topic for an exchange. Could this involve a limited exercise in gathering secondary data on seasonal foods and their consumption – e.g. focus on three or four foods (strawberries; apples; milk – which used to be seasonal and isn't now); might there be a reading group on convenience foods; freezing; .. are there ways of relating social change to climate change and culinary know-how? Since the working parties take place in summer and winter, there might be some specific seasonal opportunities to be developed here.

Tuning up for the big conference on practice theory

As part of the transitions in practice fellowship I also promised to organise a (fairly) big conference on practice theory, almost certain to be on the 6th and 7th July 2010 (just before the third working party). It would be good to have a practice-practice band definitely to review some of the relevant literature but also to think about the design of this conference, and to generate challenging contributions. – possible output – contributions to the conference; working paperettes and practice-performances. This could be a context in which to develop another suggested theme: where is 'the environment in practice theory and systems in transition?

Collaboration and community

It is possible that efforts to adapt to or mitigate climate change at *community* level do not fall headlong into the ABC. It could be useful to review a range of such initiatives to see what models of social change they embody. E.g. ideas about initiation, lead users, catalysis and the conditions under which this works. What concepts of 'community' find their way into community based initiatives and could these be enhanced, developed, enriched or simply improved? How to evaluate efforts like GAP?

Adaptation and social science

What new and distinctive problems do the challenges of 'adapting' to climate change present, and what kinds of social science can be adapted to this task? This could be the focus for an agenda-setting sub-group. It might be handy if this was narrowed down to a specific topic area – perhaps water?

Temporalitea

Taking tea as an empirical site around which to integrate many lines of enquiry – this **team** was well on course for major project funding: connecting materialitea; complexitea; diversitea; anteaoxidants; seasonalitea; conventionalitea, ritualitea and no doubt more. Their research questions included: what's involved in changing practices of tea drinking; how do the three T's of materiality; complexity and temporality relate; how does tea drinking intersect with other practices; what are the energy and water implications of changing tea practices? What can tea practices tell us about a range of social issues – gender, globalisation, colonisation? Methods: study tea drinking across age cohorts; trips to tea rooms etc.

Power, politics and practice

From reading between the lines of the postcards it is clear that a number of working party members are interested in thinking about power and the politics of everyday practice and climate change. What does it mean to 'govern' practice; to wage 'war' on environmentally problematic ways of life, - how to think about democracy, legitimacy and intervention? Again a rather large subject for a very small working party but such an issue could provide the focus for some interdisciplinary reading and debate.

Practice theory, foresight and future fiction

Can theories of practice be used to think about and perhaps steer 'the future'? Could we imagine designing an exercise that plotted the circulation of 'elements' of practice (and their disappearance); and that provided some empirically grounded method of generating plausible practice-future-fiction? - possible output: an exercise to do just that.