

Dear

I am delighted to say that you've been selected to join the "Social Change Climate Change Working Party" series, the first event of which will be held in Meeting room 2 of the IAS building, Lancaster University, starting at 11.00 am on the 9th July 2009 and finishing at 4.00pm on the 10th July.

The nineteen selected partygoers include people with academic backgrounds in geography, philosophy, physics, photography, anthropology, sociology, design, literature, marketing, environmental science and more. Some are PhD students, others work in business or in policy-related jobs – altogether we have a fantastic mix.

The party is designed to inspire fresh ways of thinking and working and to promote intellectual interaction and practical exchange between those who take part. Along with the necessarily unpredictable benefits of participation, there will be subsequent opportunities for working party members to arrange mini-exchanges between each other and to collaborate in the production of pictures, papers, short comments and other familiar and unusual forms of 'output' during the course of the working party series.

The first event focuses on theories and concepts of social change. The challenges of mitigating and adapting to climate change require some understanding of how routines and habits of daily life are formed and how they change. What is it that keeps social arrangements the same and that keeps them in motion? Does it make sense to identify factors and 'drivers' of change – and if so, how and what kinds of analytic and political work does this involve? What ideas are useful in understanding the relation between individual lives and living arrangements and social trends? Changing scale again, what is involved in taking 'social practices' as the central unit of analysis and enquiry? The plan is to address these questions through a series of episodes/events relating the practical example of taking a shower.

Since we had more applicants than we could accommodate we are hoping to develop a 'postcard' methodology which can be adapted and used during the course of the party itself, and as a means of involving other 'corresponding' members.

This note includes some information on the first working party: a list of things to bring; a bit of homework; a draft programme and a list of participants.

By way of reminder: the ESRC will cover the costs of second class travel in the UK, accommodation on the 9th July and lunch, dinner, etc. during the working party. Keep all receipts and you'll get an expenses form to complete.

Things to do

By way of preparation we would like you to **do** the following:

1. Identify a favourite article/book that is interesting, revealing or controversial on the topic of social change and climate change. Please send the reference of this document to Nicola Spurling (n.spurling@lancaster.ac.uk) by the 1st July, and please be prepared to talk for five minutes about why you have chosen it.

2. Please look at all the background reading.

A) Wallenborn, G. (2007) How to attribute power to consumers? When epistemology and politics converge, p. 57-69 in Edwin Zaccaï (Ed) *Sustainable Consumption, Ecology and Fair Trade*, Routledge: London & NewYork.

Bi) Sofoulis, Z. (2005) Changing Water Cultures in Probyn, E. Muecke, S., and Shoemaker, A.(Eds) *Creating Value: The Humanities and their Publics*, Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Bii) Shove, E. (2009) Habits and their Creatures, short paper at:
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/staff/shove/transitionsinpractice/tip.htm>

C) Pred, A. (1981) Social Reproduction and the Time-Geography of Everyday Life, *Geografiska Annaler, Series B, Human Geography*, v.63(1):5-22

D) Hand, M., Shove, E. and Southerton, D. (2005) Explaining Showering: a Discussion of the Material, Conventional, and Temporal Dimensions of Practice, *Sociological Research Online*, v.10(2) <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/10/2/hand.html>

E) Geels, F. (2005) Co-evolution of technology and society: The transition in water supply and personal hygiene in the Netherlands (1850-1930) - a case study in multi-level perspective, *Technology in Society*, v.27:363-397

Things to bring

Please **bring** with you:

1 Some trainers/gym shoes that you can run around in – for those who want to have a go at playing floorball (it is like indoor ice hockey but without the ice, and almost no rules – it is great fun).

2 Swimming gear for those who want to swim instead of playing floorball.

3 Towel and showering stuff

4. An A4 sized image/photo of your bathroom – preferably in colour.

Draft programme

9th July 2009

- 10.30 Arrive, coffee
11.00 Introduction and explanation (Elizabeth Shove)
- 11.20 Social change and showering – in which we'll provide some basic data on getting wet and on social change behind the bathroom door. We'll use this case in different ways through much of the first working party.
- Exhibition of participants' bathroom photographs and showering products, brief explanations and introductions from all participants.
- 12.30-1.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Articulation 1: In which three participants each briefly introduce a favourite article/book that is interesting, revealing or controversial on the topic of social change and climate change.
- 1.45 Habits and histories – in which participants interview each other to discover the range of normal showering habits and how these came to be so, and in which we reveal the 'results' of the instant showering survey.
- 2.30 Articulation 2: In which three participants each briefly introduce a favourite article/book that is interesting, revealing or controversial on the topic of social change and climate change.
- 2.45 Concept break: discussion and presentation of Allen Pred's notions of path and project; and ideas about the careers of practices and those who do them. (introduced by Nicola Spurling)
- Postcard pause: writing postcards – showering ideas; comments and quotations.
- 3.30 Tea
- 4.00 Articulation 3: In which three participants each briefly introduce a favourite article/book that is interesting, revealing or controversial on the topic of social change and climate change
- 4.15 Concepts of social change – in which participants compare and discuss theories of social change that inform their own work – tacitly or otherwise.
- Theoretical exhibition – models, drawings and references.
- 5.30 Floorball or swimming and showering
- 6.30 Drinks in the Sociology Department, bus to town and dinner

10th July 2009

- 9.30 Everyday water: supply, demand and policy (Glenn Watts)
- 9.45 Concept break: systems in transition (introduced by Elizabeth Shove)
- 10.00 Ideas about institutions, infrastructures and social change - in which participants work in groups to re-arrange, revise and introduce a set of images that summarise and/or critique the core ideas of one of the working party readings.
- 11.00 Exhibition and explanation
- 11.45 Articulation 4: In which three participants each briefly introduce a favourite article/book that is interesting, revealing or controversial on the topic of social change and climate change
- 12.00 Concept break: ABC and STRIPED (introduced by Elizabeth Shove)
- 12.30-1.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Postcard pause – in which participants write postcards to themselves and others, capturing intriguing and new thoughts.
- Revisiting theoretical models – the ABC and beyond. In which we consider and compare these postcards to self.
- 2.30 Exchange topics and proposals – in which participants consider possible themes for micro-collaboration and make postcard sized proposals for future interaction.
- Finale including feed back, feed forward and finalisation
- 4.00 End, tea, rounders or croquet (depending on train times, weather, energy and enthusiasm).

List of working party members

Tim Baker	Touchstone
Sam Brown	Lancaster University
Alexia Coke	University of Surrey
Berry D'Arcy	Hive
Andrew Darnton	AD Research & Analysis Ltd
Sergio Fava	Lancaster University
Geoff Gardner	ATKINS
Andrew Glover	University of Technology, Sydney
Martin Green	Lancaster University
Tom Hargreaves	University of East Anglia
Rachel Howell	University of Edinburgh
Svenja Jaffari	University of Southern Denmark
Claire May	Kent Business School
Julien McHardy	Lancaster University
Jessica Paddock	Cardiff University
Louise Reid	University of Aberdeen
Elizabeth Shove	Lancaster University
Nicola Spurling	Lancaster University
Gregoire Wallenborn	Free University of Brussels
Glenn Watts	Environment Agency
Stanley Webster	Lancaster University