

A short list of BIG questions....

In no order:

- What is policy – in relation to climate change, social change and everyday life – and how does it work.
- What is the relation between policy and politics, at different scales
- Should we also turn our attention to policy as practice?
- There are some big issues of scale: we are often changing spatial and temporal scale without recognising it. A related point is that it is not clear if the simple ideas of practice with which we have been working are useful across many ‘scales’ at once, e.g. from individual lives through to global transitions across centuries. More precisely, how are these issues folded into the ideas we have been using?
- Should we pay more attention to differences between practices, and to the variable roles of different institutions in making, reproducing and transforming them.
- In terms of future images of climate change and practice there is a problem in that ‘good’ models tend to be drawn from the past. Idealised visions of a low carbon future are typically infused with nostalgia for community, locality, slow living etc.
- Given various forms of path dependency everyday practices cannot be simply re-wound back to the forms that characterised a lower carbon way of life. So how to go forward without going back, how to avoid regression and yet move toward more sustainable arrangements? There might be options for looking ‘sideways’ not forward and back.
- Do questions about transitions in practice differ if we focus on adaptation as distinct from mitigation? What would this difference be?
- How to relate transitions in everyday practice to those of mega systems and infrastructures of provision, for instance in transitions away from coal-based and oil-based societies?
- How do democracy and power figure in discussions of transitions in practice?