

WEF@HOME

RESEARCHING THE DOMESTIC NEXUS



WEFWEBS

EPSRC: EP/N005600/1

THE BRIEF

- To explore, locate, map and analyse resource nexus(es) in domestic contexts
- To consider how understandings of the domestic nexus support pathways to sustainable household resource consumption
- To understand how smart homes, the Internet of Things and embedded and ambient digital technologies might support sustainable alternatives to local domestic resource practices
- To consider how qualitative methodologies for understanding home resource use might integrate with more established methods in the Nexus space.

RESEARCH

- Newcastle + London
- @20 households, sampled by location and type
 - Sensors + Meter Readings
 - 4-5 weeks, 3x Interviews
 - Maps + Audio-visual House Tour + Photographic Documentation
 - Meal Observation
 - Food Receipts + Intake 24
 - Travel/ Transport Diaries
 - Water Diaries



PROJECT INSIGHTS

- The household is not a single nexus
 - Multiple nexi, resources as (geophysical/ecological, economic, social, cultural) FLOWS, located within and beyond a dwelling
 - Circular Economy (?)(Production + Consumption) [Household as NODE]
- Domestic nexi consist of more than ‘use’ or ‘consumption’ of resources
 - Household processes and practices involving humans, non-humans, technologies, infrastructures, organisations, policies, governance... etc.
- Relevant considerations include:
 - [Household, Domestic, Dwelling, Home – Verb], [Times, Spaces], [Infrastructures, Actors, Networks], [Knowledge, Skills, Histories, Experiences], [Values, Lifestyles, Ideologies, Politics, Power], [Activities, Practices (Do-ings), Routines, Habits, Convenience, Cleanliness, Comfort, ‘Security’], [Disruption, Challenge, Change, ‘Resilience’]

WEF FUTURES?

- RESEARCH

- Domestic WEF/Thinking Spaces for Security and Resilience
 - Domestic Studies as starting point rather than endpoint
 - Consumption + Production (Circular Analysis)
- Water and Travel/Transport conspicuously absent
 - Consideration + Measurement
- Combined/Mixed Methodologies and Methods
 - Role/Value of Qualitative methods ++ for understanding sustainable domestic practices

- POLICY

- 'Empowerment' rather than 'Behaviour Change'
- Policy and Public Awareness as crucial linkage point between actors



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