



Book of Participants,
PhD Workshop,
12th-13th April

Practices, Mobility, Energy: Book of Participants

Researchers:

Elizabeth Shove

Director DEMAND Centre, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University. Elizabeth's research on energy spans 25 years during which time she has held research awards from BRE, EU, EPSRC, ESF, ESRC, DoE, DETR, TfL, and Unilever. She is author/co-author of 9 books, including Sustainable Practice (2013: Routledge) The Dynamics of Social Practice (2012: Sage), and Comfort, Cleanliness and Convenience (2003: Berg).

Sarah Royston

Sarah works on the DEMAND centre project "Invisible Energy Policy" with Jan Selby and Elizabeth Shove, and is based at the University of Sussex. This project (running from October 2015 to October 2017) explores how policies that are not explicitly about energy (such as policies on liberalisation, growth or austerity) steer patterns of energy demand in the public sector. Specifically, it looks at the Higher Education and defence sectors, to see how policies at various levels, from the national to the institutional, are shaping energy demand. Sarah is conducting a review of energy and non-energy policies in each sector, and then using in-depth institutional case studies, interviews and expert workshops to see how these play out in practice. A key question is how certain forms of energy demand are understood as inevitable, necessary or taken-for-granted, and the boundaries and tensions this creates.

Sarah studied Geography (Cambridge), before doing a Masters in Sustainable Development (Leeds) and PhD in Social Policy (York). Her thesis was entitled "Careers of action on climate change: the evolution of practices across the life-course" and explored the biographical narratives of people trying to address climate change through their lifestyles and activism. She then worked on the ESRC/EPSRC project "Reducing energy consumption through community knowledge networks" (Keele University) which looked at the role of social networks in negotiating and sharing knowledge about energy. From 2012 to 2015 Sarah was a researcher at the Association for the Conservation of Energy, conducting policy-focused research on fuel poverty, energy efficiency and demand reduction programmes in the UK and internationally. Her other research interests include the role of sensory experience, know-how and everyday adaptations in practices that use energy, especially those around thermal comfort.

Jan Baastians

Energy Manager, Lancaster University, Manages energy on campus, which includes liaising with stakeholders, energy procurement, management of the Energy Centre, energy efficiency, the Building Management System and the energy monitoring system.

Nicola Spurling

Researcher at Lancaster University examining the role of professions in shaping infrastructures of practice, and the implications for transitions in energy demand. Previously, she was a researcher in the Sustainable Practices Research Group (SPRG). Working on Project 3.1 & Theme 5.

Janine Morley

Janine is a Senior Research Associate in the DEMAND Centre and the School of Computing and Communications at Lancaster University. Prior to her PhD, she worked as a sustainable development officer at a national park authority, and prior to that as a researcher in a large technology company. She has an undergraduate degree in psychology.

Her doctoral research, undertaken at Lancaster, explored how theories of practice transform understandings of energy-use variation, and whether detailed knowledge of such variations speak to the dynamics of particular practices. It combined a variety of methods for conducting fine-grained comparisons in three areas of practice in student residences – ICT use, cooking and thermal comfort. Current work focuses on domestic IT use, an area of growing energy demand. It investigates the roles of digital devices and services in everyday life, the nature of “technologically-led” social change, and relations to patterns of energy demand. One part of this explores the spread of wi-fi connectivity through interviews, industry/government surveys and historical accounts. Another part entails detailed household studies that combine energy monitoring and qualitative techniques to explore the energy- and data- intensity of internet-dependent services and how they are positioned in relation to a variety of practices.

Ian Jones

Ian is less interested in making a better light bulb and more about understanding and examining the processes, decisions and actions for why we need the light bulb in the first place. Light bulb referring here to professional urban planning practice. The path taken to understand and investigate the daily practices of such professionals was not clear or straight as demonstrated by Ian’s Twitter profile: A social scientist with a North American accent, educated in Australia, examining mobility in the UK. The research interest is a composite of traditional urban planning, human geography and social science academic programmes, from four different universities, in three different countries. Ian’s two current DEMAND projects include exploring how procuring and arranging work help generate demand for business travel, and investigating online retail trends from both demand and supply perspectives with an eye towards the future carbon and mobility implications. When not working on DEMAND, Ian combs through the science, technology and society literature to draw from history and the sociology of scientific knowledge to understand how urban planning practice is constrained and constituted. Though Ian’s days of a racing triathlons have been curtailed due to health reasons and the arrival of his two sons, when Ian is not working, he is perhaps happiest drinking craft beer and trail running; irrespective of sequence or weather.

Giulio Mattioli

I am Research Fellow at the Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds and I have been working on projects that are part of (or linked to) DEMAND since 2013. I have a background in Sociology, which I studied at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy). I graduated in 2009 with a Master thesis on social attitudes and modal choice - a very 'ABC' topic. In 2009, I started a PhD in European Urban Studies that was based in Milan, even though I spent much of the time in Germany as a visiting PhD student to the Berlin Institute of Technology. Partly out of dissatisfaction with my the approach adopted in the Master's thesis, my PhD thesis focused on car dependence as a macro-social process, on transport-related social exclusion and on households without cars. A meeting with Elizabeth Shove at a British Sociological Association Conference session on climate change in 2011 led to 3-months a visit at Lancaster university in 2012. In 2013-2014, I have been Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, working with Jillian Anable on DEMAND Theme 1. My work there has focused on a meso-social understanding of car dependence, i.e. those (complex of) practices that are inherently more difficult to shift away from car use. My proposal for a 18-months research project on transport and energy-related economic stress was one of the two funded by the EPSRC as part of the 'Working with DEMAND' call. This has led to a position as Research Fellow at the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds. My current research interests include: car dependence; sustainable transport & transport-related social exclusion; transport affordability and its relationships with domestic energy and housing affordability; the mobility and energy intensity of social practices. Most of my work to date has consisted of secondary quantitative analysis of existing data sets, although I enjoy collaborating with qualitative researchers and social theorists.

Louise Reardon

Since my A-levels I have been interested in how politics affects society; in particular how and on what basis policy is made and the theoretical and ideological ideas that underpin policy decisions. Because of this I studied for a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at the University of Durham, before going on to do a Masters in Governance and Public Policy at the University of Sheffield. My PhD entitled 'Quality of Life and Transport Policy' sought to understand how notions of quality of life and wellbeing were represented in UK local transport planning and whether these notions affected policy choices and outcomes. During my PhD I also researched the rise of the wellbeing agenda and its political and policy significance, and also the complexity of working towards climate change targets within the transport sector. I am currently Research Fellow in Governance and Transport Policy at the Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds; working on the governance questions and challenges that surround changing transport policy in order to tackle climate change and improve wellbeing. I bring these interests to my work within DEMAND, which in particular focuses on how government could steer the demand for energy and mobility, and the barriers and opportunities for government to do so in practice.

Jenny Rinkenen

Senior Research Associate at Lancaster University in the Department of Sociology. Jenny is engaged in the DEMAND linked project 'Convergence and divergence in energy-related practices: Understanding demand in the Global South'. The project involves studying the processes of convergence and standardisation in energy demand and patterns of consumption. The project takes her to study household energy demand of the urban middle class in Thailand and Vietnam.

Jenny did her PhD in the Department of Management Studies at Aalto University School of Business (Helsinki, Finland) between 2011 and 2015. Her thesis was not a typical management thesis, as it dealt with the temporal and material dynamics of social practices drawing from domestic heating practices. Jenny draw inspiration from theories of practice and studies on everyday life, material culture, and science and technology, and her empirical material consisted of diary texts and household interviews. Jenny's 5-month visit to DEMAND center as a PhD student was very useful for her, as it helped explore outside her own disciplinary boundaries.

Stanley Blue

My research is concerned with the social routines and practices that make up everyday life. My work draws on ideas from theories of practice to explore how certain ways of living and consuming take hold, how they become re-produced and how they change. In particular I focus on the spatial and temporal qualities of patterns of doing, living and consuming that impact on environmental sustainability and public health. I am currently leading a project on Institutional Rhythms based in and linked to the DEMAND Research Centre. This project examines the role that institutions play in shaping temporal and spatial patterns of energy and mobility demand.

Participants:

Mike Allen

As an undergraduate I studied Politics and International Relations before completing a Masters' degree in European Union Governance, both at The University of Hull. I also pursued a Post-Graduate Diploma in Sustainability (Transport) at Leeds University before coming to Lancaster for my present course of study, a PhD in Sociology. My research concerns the energy use of live music events. Focusing on Greenfield music festivals and, eventually, also pub gigs, my research starts from the quintessentially DEMAND Centre premise that energy is used not for its own sake, but in the course of the performance of social practices. My aim is to better understand how practices at live music events use energy and how this has changed over the history of such events. I have also recently become interested in how practices and energy use at events is influenced by the infrastructural and material arrangements.

Julian Burkinshaw

Final year PhD Researcher in the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds, and am affiliated with the DEMAND research centre at Lancaster University. My project is focusing upon the interactions between (flexible) working practices and travel demand. More specifically, I am looking at how working practices and household responsibilities impact upon how people travel, in the hope of finding ways in which flexible working can reduce the need to travel or spread the burden of the peak commute. I am interested in how the temporal and spatial constraints of working practices and the household are configured and synchronised, and how travel interacts with this. In addition, I am curious to find if access to and use of flexible working can lead to a reconfiguration of practices and what effect this might have on travel demand. I have a background in Geography, which I read at the University of Salford. My undergraduate dissertation centred on the travel to work choices of employees working in an out of city Business Park recently accessible by the Manchester Metrolink. It is from here that my interest in travel demand and working practices was found. My wider interests include; working practices and flexibility, travel demand, the future of the commute, and the influences of household responsibilities.

Johnna Cressica Brazier

I am a 5th year PhD candidate in the City Design and Development group in the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning. Until recently I have focused on urban China, with research interests in energy efficiency of real estate development, urban design regulation and politics, urban energy systems, and participatory urban technology. For my dissertation research, I am exploring how individuals, communities, and local governments are using digital technologies to understand and communicate their energy use and emissions in urban environments. In collaboration with the Future Urban Mobility group at the Singapore-MIT Alliance (SMART) and the MIT Mobility Futures Collaborative led by Professor Chris Zegras, my dissertation research now focuses on Singapore and Boston.

My current work draws from academic and practical experiences in design and engineering fields, first in architecture, civil engineering, and computer science programs at Princeton University, UC Berkeley, and Columbia University GSAPP, and later as a leader of an urban design studio in Shenzhen and a prefabricated housing startup based in Shanghai. My most rewarding research has been helping to

develop participatory technology projects with labs at MIT and GSAPP, including citizen sensing of local pollution, online neighborhood energy assessment, and a crowdsourced feedback system for urban design ideas. And personally, I continue to struggle to reconcile my own practices with my research objectives--my dedication to staying car- and meat-free still barely offsets my dependence on air travel to research sites, much less to conferences!

Mitchell Curtis

Mitchell Curtis is studying towards a Doctorate of Engineering at the University of Reading under the supervision of Dr Jacopo Torriti and Dr Stefan Smith. His research focuses on identifying strategies for overcoming the challenges of Demand Response uptake by medium-sized businesses. This study is being undertaken in conjunction with KiWi Power Limited, a UK-based demand response aggregator. He is interested in understanding how smart grids and demand response can help promote a sustainable future, through enabling better management of energy and support for renewable energy. Prior to embarking on his current research, Mitchell has acquired over a decade of project management and analyst experience in the ICT sector. He holds a B.Com, MComm, and MSc in Renewable Energy.

Jane Daly

My name is Jane Daly and I am a PhD candidate in the Beyond Behaviour Change Research Program, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University. My PhD supervisors are Dr Yolande Strengers and Dr Cecily Maller, co-leaders of the Beyond Behaviour Change Research Program. My research examines intervention strategies aimed at reducing meat consumption and their relationship to shifting food practices. In working through a practice-oriented approach to understanding dietary change, my research aims to inform the design of policies and programs aimed at re-orienting diets in more sustainable directions. My past research and writing at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney has been multidisciplinary covering issues relating to energy, food and resource governance. My research interests include social theories of practice, the role of policy and intervention in changing social practices, food practices, dietary change and steering energy demand. For my PhD research I have studied the food practices carried and performed by Australian meat-reducing households alongside professionals attempting to steer diets away from meat via meat free initiatives and meat substitute products. Stemming from my PhD findings, I have a growing interest in the dynamic relationship between meaty meals and the energy intensive refrigeration and freezing technologies that supply them. Refrigeration dependence is an understudied topic, and while it isn't the main focus of my PhD, I have grown an interest in understanding how refrigeration and freezing technologies interact and co-evolve with food practices to enable or restrict resource intensive ways of eating, storing and provisioning food. I will be presenting to the conference Workshop 11, Entitlement, expectation and excess in energy demand, my paper titled: Mealing practices, meaty meals and the (un)making of energy demand.

Katherine Ellsworth-Krebs

I am a final year doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography and Sustainable Development. Prior to this I received my BSc (Hons) in Sustainable Development from the University of St Andrews in 2012. I am also currently a Research Assistant at the Centre for Housing Research at the University of St Andrews, supporting research on energy prosumption and 'smart homes'.

My principal research interests are in sustainable development and energy systems. Recent, current and emerging research follows four main themes:

Change: considering different conceptualizations of change (eg. behaviour, practice, socio-technical transitions); moving beyond pro-environmental theories that define particular activities as environmental and overlook the influence of wider socio-technical systems; contributing to the development of practice theories

Energy: understanding the complexity of the energy system, how past infrastructures shape current practices; studying the implications to daily life of living with microgeneration technologies (prosumption)

Home: introducing and exploring the idea of the home and homemaking as a way to discuss the interaction between the physical and social; offering a more nuanced understanding of households, including interaction between householders

Comfort: developing a framework of home comfort; contributing to the agenda arguing that comfort cannot be simply defined by building scientists; linking expectations of 'normal' comforts to understanding domestic energy demand

Frank de Feijter

My PhD-research is about smart retrofit of urban housing in Amsterdam and Mianyang (China) under the supervision of Prof. dr. Gert Spaargaren and dr. Bas van Vliet at the Wageningen University in the Netherlands. I am educated as human geographer and spatial planner and have before I start working at Wageningen University being involved as a junior researcher in Geography, Planning and Environment at Radboud University Nijmegen.

Urban retrofitting, the redesign of buildings to increase energy performance, is key policy for global energy transition. My research project aims to presents a conceptual framework for analysing retrofit drawing on social practice theory to analyse the interplay between domestic practices and the institutional, cultural, and technological arrangements endorsed and enforced by the urban retrofitting projects. The success of smart retrofit is conditioned by the explicit inclusion of residents in retrofit processes and focus on their domestic energy practices. The choices of technology intervention must be connected to daily life's of residents and towards user's needs. Resident's access to knowledge and skills, training and post evaluation is key to ensure the quality of technology intervention.

By exchanging ideas with fellow researchers at the Pre-Conference PhD Workshop and Conference I hope to expand my practices 'toolbox' in terms of theory, methodology, and more. I am interested in different conceptualisation of 'steering' social practices by intervening in systems of provision or complexes of practice and the cross-cultural interaction between social practice, innovations, institutional arrangements and the material, cultural and social nature of a given society.

Joe Gillett

Third year sociology PhD student from Lancaster University and am based in the DEMAND Centre. I'm interested in sustainability issues and enjoy hiking.

Prior to moving to Lancaster, I completed a Masters in environmental social science at King's College London in 2011 and, before that, an economics degree at Reading University. Either side of these courses, I worked for a couple of organisations that fund and manage social science research.

In my PhD, I'm researching how indoor and outdoor forms of running and swimming have changed in two exemplar English cities in recent decades, and how this relates to patterns of commitment and energy demand. I'm interested in how theories of practice and materiality can help with these questions, and am undertaking some interviews at the moment with everyday runners and swimmers.

Iain Goddard

PhD student at the Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC), based here at the DEMAND Centre. I joined DEMAND in October 2015 having previously completed a Masters in Environmental Science at the University of East Anglia. During this time I developed an interest in the social dimensions of Transport and Mobility, conducting a qualitative analysis of the university rideshare scheme for my dissertation. In my final year I was elected Environment Officer at the student union, which presented an opportunity to engage with the university on a wide range of environmental issues from campus energy policy to the promotion of sustainable domestic practices in a campus setting.

My research at Lancaster has continued to examine the development of shared private vehicle use, focusing on car sharing and ride sharing schemes. Imagined scenarios of future mobility systems often integrate expansion of shared vehicle use as a means of maintaining individualised mobility provision while challenging the need for private ownership. I have engaged with theories of social practices and mobilities to consider the broader impacts of mobility in relation to energy use. In doing so I am applying concepts of recruitment and defection, coordination in time and space, and overall trajectories and evolution of practice to compare and contrast contemporary and historical examples of private vehicle sharing. My overall intention is to critically examine emerging concepts of sharing and collaboration and their relation to energy use in wider society.

James Graham

Having initially gone to Keele University to study Biochemistry after a year I found myself veering back towards a lifelong interest in the environment and sustainability. When I say life-long, I mean it, I'm told I used to put up anti-whaling posters in the playground at school. Specifically, this interest manifested as a split subject degree in Applied environmental science and International relations. This split interest between environmental issues and governance continued into postgrad work with an MSc in Sustainability and Green Technology which, despite its title, feathered a strong focus on politics.

While I remain interested in the potential of green technology advances I feel strongly that we have reached a technological level to support ourselves sustainably and that further advances in that area could be left to 'better men'. The focus of my MSc thesis was the link between awareness, action and apathy, mostly because I was amazed at how little my cohort seemed to actually care about the environment. Having graduated I moved onto my current PGR position at UEA studying social practice theory and its governance towards sustainability goals. This has evolved into network mapping through

systems of governance practices. My primary interest is, if thinking about governance as a social practice in itself, can the intentions, or effects of those practices of governance be traced through the system of practice, ideally, to the 'ground' of everyday life.

Mary Greene

PhD candidate at the School of Geography and Archaeology and the Institute for Lifecourse & Society (ILAS) at the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway), where my research is exploring dynamics in social practices throughout the lifecourse. I grew up in the West of Ireland and obtained a first class undergraduate degree in Geography and Psychology Studies from NUI Galway, followed by an MSc degree in Environment, Science and Society from University College London. Succeeding this I worked as a research associate at the Irish Centre of Social Gerontology of the ILAS before returning to the discipline of Geography at NUI Galway to commence my doctoral study in 2012.

My current PhD research interests focus on understanding everyday practices and their dynamics over time and space and can be situated at the interface between human geography, environmental sociology, environmental psychology, lifecourse studies and science and technology studies. I am especially interested in the inter-relationships between socio, cultural and technological change and evolution of social practices in peoples' everyday lives (such as food and mobility). My current work seeks to situate these dynamics biographically to explore how practices change over peoples' life courses within a changing Irish society.

In addition to my work as an academic researcher, I dedicate much of my time to community engagement initiatives. I helped to set up Transition Galway in 2011 and have been on the coordinating team since. I also enjoy yoga, meditation, cooking, socialising and travelling.

Sam Hampton

DPhil student in the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford. My PhD project aims to contribute to understanding energy demand, with a focus on the business practices of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). In seeking to support policies designed to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures or promote sustainable behaviours, the research places everyday business practices at the heart of enquiry, asking 'what is energy for?'. I will work alongside publicly funded projects offering advice and grants to SMEs, seeking to understand how energy is consumed, managed and conserved in the everyday conduct of business. My research follows the tradition of energy sociology in drawing on practice theory, but also aims to gather insights from conceptual frameworks developed in geography, such as non-representational theory and affect.

Prior to starting the PhD and after graduating from Oxford with a Geography degree, I worked in environmental consulting. For 5 years I worked on projects for large corporate clients such as Tesco, John Lewis and Suzuki on packaging waste and carbon footprinting. More recently, I oversaw three European funded grant programmes targeted at reducing SME emissions through behaviour change and energy efficiency measures. My research builds on this experience and aims to contribute to the success of similar policy instruments in future.

Torik Holmes

I started my PhD in Demand in September 2015. My project concerns the relationship between gentrification and energy demand. I'm particularly interested in practices affecting the production of place and associated techniques of spatial valorisation and evaluation. Since beginning my research I've been building a solid theoretical grounding and enjoying the opportunity to partake in Demand reading groups and seminars. In the not too distant future, I hope to have specified the place I will be conducting my fieldwork.

Before starting my PhD I conducted my MA in Sociology at the University of Manchester. Before that, I completed my Sociology, Journalism and Media BA at Cardiff University.

Claire Hoolohan

Researcher at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of Manchester, presently in the final year of a PhD and working as a part time RA. The PhD aims to understand the collective context in which domestic water demand arises to inform demand management in the UK water industry. Working alongside Thames Water the research explores consumers' everyday water use and interaction with water efficiency initiatives in two case studies in a water-stressed region in South England. Using the insights from this research, stakeholder workshops are used to develop practical examples of how the findings might be applied in water company activities. Further the research explores how the landscape in which water efficiency is situated shapes managerial outcomes in order to identify how the industry may support innovative activities going forward. Alongside the PhD Claire is a contributor one of the RCUK Centres for End Use Energy Demand, using a multidisciplinary approach to understand the consumer context of energy demand in food supply changes as part of research project at CSEF (Centre for Sustainable Energy in Food supply chains). Prior to this position Claire worked as a sustainability consultant specialising in greenhouse gas mitigation and sustainability management. Her specialisms included developing city and regional scale greenhouse gas estimates and mitigation strategies; modelling the impacts of global food supply chains at a supermarket level; developing management strategies including how to engage consumers in greenhouse gas mitigation with a focus on diet and nutrition.

Carolynne Lord

Second year PhD student funded and situated in the DEMAND Centre at Lancaster University. I have been at Lancaster University since 2009 where I undertook a combined Spanish with Computing degree. In 2012 I began my Masters in Sociological Research in preparation for my PhD, which I began the following year.

Broadly, my research interests centre on the effects of technology on social practices and how this can in turn be seen to influence energy demand. More specifically, I am interested in developing a vocabulary of integration to capture and describe the way in which complex and multiple materials can be seen to affect social practices, and their enactment in time and space. It has been common in social practice theory analyses to mobilise concepts from other parts of Sociology, and Science and Technology Studies (STS) in particular, to describe and analyse the role of materials in social practices. Using the tablet computer as a lens, I hope to critique some of these for their inflexibility and presumed stability which synthesises poorly with the approach of practice theory. In place of these, I would like to put forward a family of concepts to better describe the effect of technologies on the

practices into which they are integrated, and the configurations that previously supported these. The tablet computer is of interest given the way in which it has no one specific role nor one inscribed user. Further to this, its functions appear to converge much of the functionalities of our other technologies. What is the tablet computer? What is it for? How does its integration into social practices affect the uses of other technologies, and how is its role supported by other technologies (apps, cables, Smartphones, laptops, infrastructures)?

Bhavna Middha

PhD candidate associated with the Beyond Behaviour Change (BBC) research group in the Centre for Urban Research (CUR) at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. My primary interest is urban sustainability and energy demand in food practices and in the process exploring the spatial processes that are involved in managing or steering resource and energy demand and how they are organized. My PhD research, Embedding sustainability in food practices at universities in urban settings is concerned with how the eating practices of students may be shaped by the food provisioning and consumption spaces provided by the university and whether these practices can be steered towards more sustainable directions. Taking RMIT University, Melbourne as a case study, my doctoral study draws on social practice theories and explores universities in urban settings and the formal and informal spaces of food consumption and provisioning on campus, using ethnographic and visual methods.

My undergraduate degree is in Architecture and I have experience in architectural drafting and designing including interior designing. My architectural thesis was the design of a 'Solar Energy Centre' in Delhi. I completed my Masters in Environment and Urban Planning from RMIT University in June 2014. My Masters' thesis was related to energy demand and sustainable kitchen practices of Indian households taking cooking with pressure cookers as a case study and using social practice theories as the theoretical framework.

Rachel Preston

Second year PhD student studying within the sociology department at Lancaster University, in association with the Demand Research Centre. My PhD is supervised by Professor Elizabeth Shove and Dr. Stanley Blue. Before I began my doctoral research, I completed a Masters in Sociological Research at Lancaster University; prior to that I studied for a BSc Economics degree, again at Lancaster. I was awarded ESRC NWDTA 1+3 (Masters + PhD) funding in Sociology in April 2012, and am on the ESRC Science, Technology, Innovation and Social Practice Pathway. My PhD is titled 'Discovering diversity in domestic patterns of sharing, sequencing and synchronisation'. My research explores the different ways in which energy is shared in the home, and investigates variation in the timing of when energy-using activities happen. It does so by studying various forms of co-participation in domestic energy-demanding practices such as laundering, cooking and heating. It focuses on the spatial, temporal and material arrangements of these practices within the home and examines how they vary across households of differing material circumstances. The overall aim of the project is to discover what consequences these arrangements have for the timing of energy-using practices and for the different ways in which energy is used and shared in the home.

Merlin Rehema

First year Cultural Ph.D. student at Tallinn University School of Humanities specializing in cultural geography. After graduating from high school she attained a MSc in Environmental protection from Estonian University of Life Sciences with the focus on character and management of Estonian valuable landscapes. After a longer break in the academic world, she decided to shift her focus more on urban environments and obtained a MA in Urban management in Tallinn University. Her research interests include walkability, pedestrian environments and transport planning. More specifically, her current work focuses on urban walking, pedestrian environments and cultures and their regulations. She has participated in projects like analysis of possible suitable destinations for a park sharing product or Analysis of Public Transit Station Usage for New Tallinn "Main Street".

In addition to her studies as a doctoral student, Rehema works as a busyness analyst in Information Technology Centre of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment. But she aspires to keep on enhancing mobility and walkability research in Estonia both through her research and work.

Caitlin Robinson

PhD student from the Geography department at the University of Manchester, having previously completed a Masters in Geographical Science. My research is part of the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Power Networks. As part of the centre I completed 9 months of multi-disciplinary, energy-related research training before beginning my own PhD research in May.

My project is titled 'Mapping Vulnerability to Fuel Poverty in England: Implications for Future Energy Demand and Sector Governance'. The research aims to build upon existing understanding of the spatial distribution of fuel poverty with the notion of vulnerability as spatially variable. In comparison to theorising fuel poverty as a combination of high energy prices, low income and household inefficiency, a vulnerability framework allows for a more explicit focus upon the unique, and often complex, spatial patterns associated with domestic energy deprivation. The framing draws attention to how vulnerability dimensions, including access to energy, energy efficiency, needs and the flexibility to meet these needs, are unevenly distributed across space.

My research will use GIS methodologies (lots of maps!) to analyse the spatial distribution of fuel poverty using existing 10% and LIHC measures produced by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. This will provide inspiration for how vulnerability to fuel poverty can be mapped in a way that better captures the complexity of domestic energy deprivation. Consideration will be made of the implications of the findings for future energy demand and the governance of the power networks sector. Research interest: Fuel poverty, energy vulnerability, GIS, mapping

Katie Sumner

I initially studied Biology at the University of Sheffield, where I discovered that I was particularly interested in sustainability – related topics, and so chose to pursue this further through an MSc in Resource and Environmental Management, within Lancaster University's Environment Centre. My time in LEC enabled me to really pinpoint my research interests and, although I had not carried out this type of work before, I found that I have a real passion for social research. I am particularly interested in the gap between the social and natural sciences, and enjoy researching community – environment relations. My key areas of interest are alternative methods of food production and sustainable energy use. I am currently in my first year of an interdisciplinary PhD programme with the University of

Sheffield's Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures. My research will explore energy demand in the face of disruption, with the key focus being on how certain practices become more or less important, or are adapted, during periods of intermittent power. This will provide information on the flexibility of practices and give an insight into shifting demand during peak times.

Ben Twist

Researching very part-time for a PhD in the Sociology department at the University of Edinburgh with supervisors Dr Claire Hagggett and Dr Nick Prior. Most of the time I run a charity, Creative Carbon Scotland, which makes connections between the arts and cultural sectors and sustainability, on the grounds that climate change is a problem related to the wider culture that is the way in which we live. This wider culture is expressed, reflected and shaped by the narrower culture of the arts, media etc. and so working through this narrower culture is useful if not essential if we want to address climate change.

My research interests reflect the work of Creative Carbon Scotland. How can the arts and culture contribute to facilitating the social transition that is implied by an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050? Art has played a significant role in two previous transformations of European understanding of humanity's relationship with the environment: the Renaissance and Modernism. What role can art play in a third as we grasp that we have entered the Anthropocene? My PhD uses a cultural venue as a site for exploring the value of complexity theory in understanding and influencing the complex social systems that lead to unsustainable behaviours and practices.

Prior to this I worked for over 25 years as a theatre director and producer and generally in the arts as a manager and strategist. I have a long history of working on capital building projects in the arts and distributed over £100m of National Lottery funds to building and development projects within the arts in Scotland as a member and then Chair of the Scottish Arts Council's National Lottery Committee. I have an MA in Mental Philosophy and an MSc in Carbon Management, both from the University of Edinburgh.

Flavia Vintila

Second year PhD candidate in the Sociology Department at Lancaster University, in association with the DEMAND Research Centre. Prior to starting my PhD, I completed a Masters in E-Business and Innovation, and before that a Bachelors in Marketing with a Minor in Sociology, both at Lancaster University. I was also a participant in the Masters Aboard Programme, through which I studied for a term in Vienna at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. My doctoral research focuses on the role the service of laundry plays in organizing the practice of sleep in hotel service-scapes. My exploration starts with the material element of the sheet and follows it through its cycle of usage and re-usage. It does so by investigating the systems of provision that organize the end-service in the hotel environment, by engaging with different types of hotels (both with in-house laundry provision and outsourced laundry suppliers) and third party service providers.

