

# TRANSITIONS IN PRACTICE

Elizabeth Shove, ESRC climate change leadership fellowship  
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## WORKING PARTY

If there is to be any effective response to climate change, substantially new ways of living are urgently required. Forms of intervention based on theories of rational action, lifestyle choice and human behaviour are unlikely to catalyse entrenched habits and practices at the rate required to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The “social change, climate change working party” aims to develop, debate and disseminate significantly new ways of conceptualising and promoting transitions in ordinary but environmentally significant routines like those of heating, cooling, washing, eating, lighting and moving around.

Working party meetings will consist of presentations and critiques from participants and invited speakers and will be combined with a programme of mini-secondments and practical research collaborations between working party members. The series will conclude with an interactive conference-exhibition in London.

**Concepts of change:** 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Lancaster

How is social change conceptualised in climate change policy? This first session deals with ideas about attitudes, behaviour, choice, dynamics, practices, systems and transitions.

**Examples of change:** 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Lancaster

The second event focuses on cases and examples of transitions in practice: how did they come about and what lessons do they hold for now and for the future?

**Strategies and interventions:** 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July 2010, Lancaster.

The third event provides an opportunity to review, analyse and fantasise about climate change policy and everyday life.

**Conference-exhibition:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011, London.

The finale of the series takes the form of a conference/exhibition including provocative posters, mini-presentations and challenging suggestions.

### The invitation

Applications to join the working party are invited from PhD students in the social sciences dealing with topics of consumption, theories of practice and environmental change and from people involved in developing and implementing technologies, products and policies for climate change in government, NGOs and business. If you would like to join the working party please unfold this leaflet for further details.

An invitation  
To join the social change, climate change working party

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## Joining the working party

The “social change, climate change working party” is organised by Professor Elizabeth Shove as part of an Economic and Social Research Council climate change leadership fellowship on ‘Transitions in Practice: climate change and everyday life’. Funding from the fellowship is available to cover the costs of travel *within* the UK and accommodation for all events for a total of twelve working party members.

Applications to join the working party and to take part in all four events are invited from social science PhD students dealing with topics of consumption, social theories of practice and environmental change, and from people involved in developing and implementing technologies, products and policies for climate change in government, NGOs and business. Non UK applicants are welcome but will have to fund their own travel to the UK.

### Concepts of change: 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Lancaster

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If you would like to apply, please send a letter explaining how membership of the climate change working party” would relate to your current role, responsibility or research, along with a two page CV to:

Professor Elizabeth Shove, Department of Sociology, Bowland North, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YT (tel. 01524 594610);

E.Shove@lancaster.ac.uk by the closing date of **29<sup>th</sup> April 2009**.

## More about the transitions in practice fellowship

The ‘transitions in practice’ fellowship addresses the need for new ways of framing problems of climate change, consumption and demand. To date, governments have sought to improve the efficiency with which contemporary ‘standards’ of everyday life are maintained. It is now clear that policy and governance actors have to go further and that systemic transitions in practice - in patterns of sociability and mobility, and of comfort, cleanliness, food provisioning and leisure - are also required. The fellowship aims to:

1. Develop understanding of how complex systems of practice and consumption emerge, persist and disappear - and with what consequence for the spatial and temporal ordering of daily life and the potential for mitigating or adapting to climate change.
2. Extend the range of social theoretical input to climate change policy by generating and encouraging new forms of academic and non-academic interaction.

3. Discover how social scientific analyses of systemic transitions in practice have shaped climate change policy and governance in other countries and contexts - and what lessons can be learned for the UK.

Designed around a programme of research and writing, the fellowship involves running conferences, setting up a social-change climate-change working party and supervising two fully funded 1+3 PhD studentships for which applications are currently invited.

### Two Linked PhD projects: applications invited to start in October 2009

*‘Habits, time and leisure’* is designed to discover how more and less environmentally resource intensive practices ‘capture’ the time and commitment of those who do them. This PhD project will involve empirical studies of popular leisure pursuits (gardening, walking), and of instances in which people switch to lower carbon routines (for example cycling)

*‘Everyday climate change: seasonality, adaptation and demand’*, addresses future options for mitigating and adapting to climate change by learning from existing seasonal variation in patterns of everyday consumption and practice. This PhD project will involve empirical studies of seasonal change in a range of routines and habits and in related demand for key resources including energy and water.

For more information on the fellowship or the associated studentships, see <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/staff/shove/transitionsinpractice/tip.htm>