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Social practices, energy demand and time use data: *methodological lessons* & *challenges*

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DEMAND'S Starting Point

WHAT IS ENERGY USED FOR?

- Energy 'demands' are emergent from co-evolving infrastructures and what people do (<u>social practices</u>)
- Wrong sorts of questions:
 - Who uses the most energy and when?
 - Which social groups do/don't adopt efficient technologies
- **Right** sorts of questions:
 - What are people doing when, where and for how long?
 - Which bundles of practices contribute to peaks (& troughs)
 - Which kinds of people do similar social practices?
 - Which bundles of practices are currently energy intensive?







The Challenge

WHERE IS THE DATA TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ENERGY IS USED FOR?

- This is an appliance level view & tells us very little about:
 - what people do
 - variation over time and people
 - temporal and causal relationships across domains
 - the evolution of these activities over time



Graph 7a: HES average 24-hour electricity use profile for owner-occupied homes, England 2010-11







The Challenge

WHERE IS THE DATA TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ENERGY IS USED FOR?

- This is journey purpose level view & tells us very little about:
 - What leads to the trip?
 - Where does mobility come in the sequence of other activities?







Why do we need to know more?

If we want to tackle 'peaks' – two inter-linked approaches':

- Demand Reduction
 - Just reducing it per se
- Demand Response
 - Shifting it somewhere else in time (or space and time)

This raises the crucial question:

• What can shift and where can it shift to?

In DEMAND terms:

- What are people doing, when and where?
- In what **sequence**?
- How **synchronised**?
- With what **variation**?
- How has this changed over time?
- What **flexibility**?
- What does this imply for shifting?





Time Use Data

- Representative activity diaries
- Two days by household (Week, Week-End)
- 10 minutes steps primary and secondary activities
- Waves every 10 years
- Individual + household level information
- Link across different energy 'domains' (household and mobility)
- International standardisation (MTUS)



Time Use Data

MTUS UK time use surveys

Survey	Sample	Sample size	Time interval	Notes
1974	All 5+ in representative household sample	2,598	30 minutes	7 diary days, primary & secondary activities (73 codes), location known
1983	Representative sample 14+	1,350	15 minutes	7 diary days, primary & secondary activities (188 codes), location known
1987	Representative sample 14+	1,586	15 minutes	7 diary days, primary & secondary activities (190 codes), location known
1995	Representative sample 16+	1,962	15 minutes	1 diary day, primary activities only (31 codes), location unknown
2000	All 8+ in representative household sample	8,688	10 minutes	7 diary days (weekday & weekend), primary & secondary activities (265 codes), location known
2005	Representative sample 16+	4,854	10 minutes	1 diary day, primary & secondary activities (30 codes), location known

So what constitutes peak?



ONS 2005 Time Use Survey Data (UK, weekdays) % of persons reporting





The 'average day' is not that helpful



ONS 2005 Time Use Survey Data (UK) n people in category – half hour summaries





Whose 'peak' is it ...?



ONS 2005 Time Use Survey Data (UK, all days) n people in category – half hour summaries





A quantitative approach to practices

- Practices as group of activities held together by meanings and relying on competences and products (Shove & Pantzar, 2005)
 - Definition of clearly delimited entities
 - Describing their relation to other practices, needs for energy, and peak demand
 - Tracking alternative practices in the geographical and social space







How do we..

Go from this



To this



Graph 7a: HES average 24-hour electricity use profile for owner-occupied homes, England 2010-11

To this ?



Proportion of final energy consumption by 'Energy Users', UK 2012 (Source: (Palmer and Cooper 2013), Table 1a)



'Theme 1' questions (& q's for today!)

- **1.** Is sequence analysis a way to detect traces of practices in Tud? What methods can be used?
- 2. How does TUd allow the link between mobility and domestic energy use to be made?
- **3.** How can we understand time *pressure* and identify those activities responsible for structuring time?
- 4. How far can the data to be used to detect co-doing as well as copresence?
- 5. Can the combination of TUd and GPS data allow analysis of in-home and out-of home activity?
- 6. When is variation important?
- 7. Is the data sufficient to detect change over time?
- 8. How do we assign metrics of energy intensity or energy use to time use data?





