

ESRC RESEARCH SEMINAR 2

Complexity Theory as a Framework for Management and Public Policy

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE – CONTRIBUTION OF COMPLEXITY SCIENCE

24th March 2009

Afternoon workshop: Community Engagement & Energy Use

People who took part in the group discussion, or registered interest afterwards for exchanging ideas in follow-up are:

Eileen Conn	Living Systems Research
Tim Foxon	University of Leeds
Nikos Karadimitrou	UCL
Jack Kelly	Peckham Power Co
Diana Mangalagiu	Reims Management School, France
Anna Plodowski	Peckham Power Co
Noah Rford	LSE Complexity Programme
Eve Mitleton-Kelly	LSE Complexity Programme

We each described very briefly aspects of community and energy use that we had an interest in. The main common interest was the need to understand more clearly the relationship between energy use and the behaviour of individuals in community and neighbourhoods. We all agreed that complexity science has a real contribution to make. This brief exchange showed a number of overlapping interests for potential research and worth further discussion. These included:

- The need for and the way to involve all different housing tenures in neighbourhood communities in sustainable energy use
- Attitudes & behaviour gap – using experimental psychology to explore and analyse this.
- Exploring transition pathways from high to low energy use
- Exploring the role of ITC in achieving change in neighbourhoods
- Using an action research approach
- Scaling out horizontally i.e. what is replicable and when? (by systematizing knowledge and concrete evidence from cases in various contexts)
- Scaling up i.e. local – city – regional – national – continental – global
- The forms and processes for *effective* community engagement, and not just as a response to top-down initiatives – what are they?
- Relationships between community, development processes & the structures through which the transformations of space are mediated e.g. Planning system, IPC etc.

Contact Eileen Conn at e.conn@nutbrook.demon.co.uk if you are interested to contribute.

Eileen Conn
8th April 2009