



Zurich Human Geography Colloquium

The Zurich Human Geography Colloquium is jointly organised by the units of Economic Geography, Political Geography and Human Geography at the Department of Geography, Zurich University. All interested are cordially invited.

Tuesday, 14th of May 2019, 4 p.m.

Room Y25H79

Irchel Campus, Winterthurerstrasse 190, Zurich

Prof. Dr Elizabeth Shove

Department of Sociology, Lancaster University

Conceptualising connections in practice

This presentation is about how social practices connect, and how such connections change and form. The *Nexus of Practices* (Routledge: 2017) made a start in this direction. In taking some of these ideas forward, and doing so with reference to recent research from the DEMAND Centre, my aim is to explore the relevance of social practice theory for 'big' questions about materiality, time and economy. Revealing and analyzing connections in these terms calls for some methodological ingenuity and in this talk I discuss a selection of examples relating to energy demand; plastic waste; obesity and trade as a means of examining processes of accumulation; amplification; flexibility and circulation/flow.



Prof. Dr Elizabeth Shove is a sociologist who has been much involved in developing ideas about social practice, consumption and everyday life. The DEMAND Centre – Dynamics of Energy, Mobility and Demand – which Elizabeth Shove led from 2013-2018 – was founded on the idea that people use energy not for its own sake but in the course of accomplishing social practices at home, at work and in moving around. In developing this approach the Centre brought a strong and distinctive social scientific approach to bear on fundamental questions about the constitution and also the dynamics of demand.

Some of this work is represented in Elizabeth Shove's recent publications, including *Infrastructures in Practice* (Routledge 2018) edited with Frank Trentmann, and *Energy Fables: Challenging ideas in the energy sector* edited with Jenny Rinkinen and Jacopo Torriti (Routledge: May 2019), and in *The Nexus of Practices* edited with Allison Hui and Theodore Schatzki (Routledge: 2017).

See www.demand.ac.uk/videos/ for a series of five short videos that introduce some of these abstract ideas.