

Gender, Energy and the Framing of new Energy Pathways

Felicia Söderqvist, Martin Hultman & Anna Åberg Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden



Research problem

• Energy use and access is unevenly distributed across the globe, both socioeconomically and geographically.



Gendered dimensions





Research problem

- One major obstacle for transition is the inertia of
 - large socio-technical systems
 - our values and behaviours



Gendered dimensions







Aim of research

 Study how gendered value patterns and socioeconomic contexts influence the technological and behavioural choices made by individuals, companies and large institutions.

Identify

- how energy policies impact genders
- how equality policies impact energy behaviours in users and producers.
 - Bridge the gap between energy policy and gender policy.



Pathways to impact

- Provide data to designers and companies on:
 - contextual gendered use and production of energy technology.
 - value-based decision-making of users.

- Create a broader base of assessment for new energy technology production and implementation.
 - Knowledge sharing, Workshops, etc.



Pathways to impact

- Develop tools to help policy makers combine energy and gender policies in a way that leads to a more equal, efficient and socially sustainable energy system, in different national contexts.
- Current examples from Chalmers
 - Inform decision making processes through knowledge sharing: work with energy advisors
 - Create education material to inform governmental bodies such as the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, and Swedish Energy Agency.
 - A handbook in gender equality and energy issues. In collaboration with stakeholders.



Relation to DSM goals

- Help technology designers and policy makers properly understand how people permit, adopt and use new energy technologies.
 - Gendered dimensions are crucial to reach this aim.
 - Plus: Why resistance?



Relation to other DSM tasks/TCP's

- Task 24 on Behavioural change: Delve deeper into the gender aspect of value guided behaviour.
- Hard to Reach Energy Users: Gender one central aspect to socioeconomic patterns of use.
- Energy Services Supporting Business Models and Systems: Gender as one aspect of understanding the "mismatch" between energy business solutions and the market?
- C3E- Our case will support the relevance of this work.
 - Not focus on women in the industry or empowerment
 - Broader understanding of energy behavioural patterns by applying a gender perspective.

Organisation

- Task sharing
- Swedish Energy Agency
- Chalmers University of Technology, STS Division
 - Anna Åberg (Operating agent)
 - Martin Hultman
 - Felicia Söderqvist



Organisation

Interested in the task so far:

Prof. Joy Clancy, Twente University

Ass. Prof. Johanna Höffken, Technical University of Eindhoven

Dr. Cara Daggett, Energy Humanities, Virginia Tech

Prof. Nathan Young, Faculty of Social Sciences University of Ottawa

Other possible collaborators:

Prof. Håvard Haarstad, Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation, University of Bergen

Ass. Prof. Janet Stephenson, Centre for Sustainability, Otago University Dr Sherilyn MacGregor, Sustainable Consumption Institute (Core)Sustainable Consumption Institute School of Social Sciences, Manchester University



Thank you for your attention!

Any Questions?

anna.aberg@chalmers.se

