

New directions in research on energy consumption and reduction

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Lecture at the Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University, Denmark

13. November 2015

Abstract:

The urgency of climate change and the need for substantial reductions in energy use is challenging rather entrenched research and policy agendas on household energy consumption. The social science contributions have long been limited to fine tuning models that center on economic and technical efficiency. Over the past decade new theoretical perspectives that accommodate the importance of social practices, material agency and embodied knowledge in consumption are getting greater purchase in mainstream energy research and policy. The presentation will address new research and policy frontiers on reducing energy consumption, highlighting the need for greater interdisciplinary collaboration.