

## Post-It Questions from the Audience

BSA Climate Change Study Group Launch – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011

- What will your low carbon future look, feel and smell like?
- How can we deal with the fact that sociology's solutions point to a complete reconfiguring of social structures that are power structures. It is inherently far too radical for policy makers.
- How do we move beyond a policy deadlock in which individuals think government should be responsible for climate change and government seeks to shift the burden on to individuals. How do we fill the individual institution-gap?
- What can sociology do in this space that economics can't?
- What is your theory of social change?
- How can sociology be 'sold' to policymakers? i.e. how can theories-research into climate change be demonstrated to be relevant to policy?
- Post Copenhagen, isn't it sensible to focus much more on adaptation than mitigation?
- Shouldn't the group help to revise/rewrite the very outdated IPCC social scenarios?
- Is it our duty to put on 'compulsory' courses in climate change debates in every degree?
- What *is* a social practice? How can they be delineated from each other?
- Do people have practices? Or do they just behave?
- What does sociological scenario analysis of futures look like?
- Can we please have a show of hands on how many people here are not sociologists? – cross-disciplinary research?!
- How can sociology now contribute to issues around economic growth vis-à-vis the emergence of more sustainable socio-technical systems?
- Is the use of the term 'climate change' as opposed to 'environment' (or alternative) for the study group significant in terms of what the group will focus on and how?
- The crisis of climate change is also the crisis of capitalism. Discuss.
- Process and 'fast' food is more valorized than fresh food, therefore food producers and supermarkets make greater profit. Should sociologists focus on this? I think we should.
- 3-4 cars per house in Essex...What a horror-vision of having yet more types of vehicles (motor-scooters) on the road. How do we tackle the sanctity of the car? Boys and their toys? Gender and class...
- Which kind of research should this group focus on (engaged, policy oriented, or critical, disengaged?) How should the group tackle these different kinds of research?
- How can you bring in more non-sociologists?
- How can we get the social change of making sociologists answer practical questions instead of asking them?

- What do social science researchers need from government in order to ensure research is used to inform policy, and what can we as researchers do to encourage or elicit this engagement?
- Is the role of the study group to change or to study climate change?
- How not to be constrained by 'study group' practices?
- A central challenge for the study group is not only to think about what we know or need to know, but how we know it and how sociological research on climate change is produced and for whom. Can the panel comment on what the challenges are for our research practices as sociologists if we are to make broader, interdisciplinary contributions?
- Can the panel comment on Elizabeth's question this morning that we need to understand the contributions of different kinds of social science? The terms 'social science' and 'sociology' have been used interchangeably this morning.
- Are there any key areas of practice (or life domains) that are relevant to climate change and haven't yet been studied? (these could help us write research proposals!)
- Individuals: Are we neglecting them? How do they fit into theories of social practice?
- Are there any good ideas within psychology and economics that we could borrow and use?
- What role does psychology play in the individuals food consumption?
- What geographical scales are appropriate for the work of the study group? Global? Western? EU?