BSA Study Group Launch Event – Feedback Forms – Suggestions for Developing the Study Group

QUESTION 1A: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY GROUPS MAIN CONTRIBUTION COULD BE TO SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE?



- Relationship between institutions and social practice (regulatory, market, legal mechanisms)
- To reassure that complexity (of practices, systems) does not mean that nothing can be done
- Tell us why it would be better if sociologies were involve work on the dissemination / more user-friendly presentation of research results – understandable stories
- Research into: rather than individuals, communities sharing resources, such as energy, and how that affects daily life
- Conceptual and cross-cutting themes i.e. everyday / exceptional systematic / piecemeal, knowledge / informational
- Acting as a hub to draw together the multiple existing strands of work that already exist. Efficient linking up / sharing knowledge / resources is especially important in light of budget cuts!
- Themes / links in wider sociological research e.g. policy critique in health / economic development
- Changing attitudes across class / gender / ethnicity / religion to climate change / authority / direct action / individual contribution

- IPCC process understanding the scenarios of climate change, impacts on society
- Thinking beyond the individual, understanding structural impacts
- Make explicit and relevant to decision makers and industry the
 implications of sustainability-focussed policy that fails to consider
 sociological impacts and the radical contributions of sociology in the past
 50 years e.g. contribute in other domains, health / local economy /
 religion / labour movements
- Consumer preferences and how these are shaped in relation to sustainability – produce acceptance (re-used products / packaging); role of the media
- Increasing awareness of diverse strands of relevant research and links between researchers
- Work with non-sociologies get out more
- Think up some practical solutions (I agree with this less navel gazing)
- Agitate to abandon methodological individualism
- Studying cultural variation religion, ideology, beyond social class other dimensions of cultural variations within countries (and between)
- Moving more towards actual policy applications
- Linking theoretically informed policy work to policy applications
- Developing conceptual approaches as a basis for substantive research e.g. around food, energy etc (maybe not only conceptual but also theoretical approaches)
- Interdisciplinary research that links different theoretical approaches
- More work that links different 'silos' of analysts e.g. energy, food, travel to reveal complexity of the day to day
- Reconciling / exploring boundaries between practice / infrastructure and individualist approaches (e.g. what about choice between different practices)
- Clarifying practice theory; moving focus from individual
- Consolidation and interpretation of existing work
- A serious contribution to understanding how interdisciplinary research can be produced and be better used to inform policy / practice / societal change
- Avoid ghettoising this work with other 'study groups' e.g. health, ageing, body and society, ethnicity etc – lots of mutual learning
- Other topic for study group focus could be practice theory critiques and alternatives?
- Moments of change
- Making links with other disciplines while challenging assumptions of those (and our own!) disciplines
- Agenda-setting for sociologists engaging in climate change but also for sociologists engaging with sustainable consumption – agenda setting with caution! Not overly prescriptive, and exclusive – need to be creating a space for new debate and agendas of climate change
- Look at how the concept of the 'individual' itself has contributed to the problem – yes and add a classic sociological focus on gender, class, race / ethnicity
- Networking facilitate communication among researchers in the field

- Visibility make sociological perspectives / understandings of climate change visible as 'sociological' (not to conflate with economics, psychology, geography etc)
- Making links between research on different relevant themes (food, energy, mobility etc) and between academic and other policy research
- Crucible for innovative sociological thinking and inquiry on climate change
- Not all just 'climate change' but about sustainable production and consumption
- Establish climate change as a key research area in the discipline
- Chance to draw in other discourses, research arenas, alternative futures not first associated with climate change
- A problem that they are conflated in research and policy areas CC agenda has absorbed other environmental framings e,g. biodiversity, e.g. oil running out and the need to reduce resource and energy consumption framed as CC. Sometimes they overlap but not always. Thus study group could be the way that these diverse threads (some interweaving and some not) could be pulled apart)
- E.g. research about what sustainability actually ism drawing on this capturing the diversity of alternative futures not just one definition of sustainability
- Conceptualisation of publics in anticipation of reaching them, communicating with them and understanding behaviours
- Inter-generational relations
- Coordination of ongoing work? literature reviews of what do we know already
- Collaboration?
- Invent 'prospective sociology' how sociology can look forwards instead of back
- Lav understandings of climate change issues across social groupings
- How is the debate around climate change mediated among policy circles?
- Socially embedded causes of CC as well as the responses to it
- Questions relating to the sociology of climate science
- Framing agendas
- Suggest ways forward
- Building research capacity
- Assert sociologies voice (perspectives)
- Challenge orthodoxy (e.g. individualisation of solutions and causes)
- Demonstrate plural approaches how to learn across them
- Practices
- Raise awareness of CC as an issue for all sociologies make it mainstream
- Identify challenges re: structures of inequality (including everyday and social movement cultures) impacting on social change potential, and explore solutions
- Impact of international migration
- Thinking about scale expanding the local-global relationships

QUESTION 1B: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY GROUPS MAIN CONTRIBUTION COULD BE TO WIDER DEBATE AND POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE?



- Bring people together who have never heard of society
- Re-emphasis on complexity
- By developing agendas that foreground sociological perspectives without excluding non-sociologies from participating, listening, collaborating
- Proactively engage policy-makers and lobbyists in order to push research into government where it can be effectively used
- Sociological debate around how to engage / transform policy
- Inform education on all levels (including schools); support activists and direct action (as well as other movements)
- Locating the social sciences with the discourse around climate change
- Developing qualitative research methods to better understand societal shifts
- Making social theory policy-relevant
- Critical engagement including not just academics also government, policy-makers, private and third sector / social economy actors and campaigners
- Engage with society; engage with government engage with community groups more than just 'the message'
- Where do opportunities lie with policy-makers for a more sociologically informed approach?
- Media / policy correspondent within the group to create a unified outlet to media, government etc
- Role of social scientist objective or engaged...
- Continue to critique individualistic behavioural approaches
- · Focus on class issues
- Highlighting role of institutions technologies, the social

- Critical approach deconstructive and reconstructive
- Sociological approach to public and policy engagement
- Help to make it clear the massive societal changes necessary to oppose
 the concept of 'low carbon business as usual' so true, but: how to
 achieve radical change? Alliances across spheres are needed, while critical
 function of social science maintained
- More explicit emphasis on temporality
- Raising awareness / promoting sociological thinking(s) on climate change to policy-makers and media
- Incorporating sociological research into the debate
- Mediating between different disciplines
- Do we want to widen the debate? Isn't clarification more relevant?
- Connecting energy and economic claims, aims, discourses
- Connecting to policy less jargon, more exciting ideas and evidence
- Advice on policy communication with members and stakeholders
- Making more noise for the importance of understanding social aspects of climate change
- Interdisciplinary approach discuss, work with social movements and activists
- Critical but in constructive ways i.e. by providing arenas for discussion for civil servants etc to open up
- Alternative economic and social spaces
- To make social issues (e.g. social class) understood / known a) to make people think of / remember b) to explain social phenomena
- Introduce core sociological themes e.g. scales of relationships, structures, practices into policy debate to complement approaches such as behaviour change / nudge etc dominant discourses
- Communicate a louder social science voice the need to look towards structural, integrated and radical strategies of change

QUESTION 2: WHAT ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE ORGANISED IN SUPPORT OF THESE AIMS?



- Seminars and workshops
- Informal networking e.g. through websites / blogs etc
- Away days
- Policy-maker buddy system (building relationships between research and policy from the ground up)
- · Collaboration with arts / humanities on presentation of results
- Develop tools / approaches
- Policy / topic specific workshops but cross-cutting themes
- Ensuring we don't replicate the piecemeal nature of policy on climate change in our own research
- Share academic policymaker events / workshops
- Thematic but interdisciplinary (including outside the social sciences where relevant, e.g. engineering)
- Working groups with their own events
- Better (some?!) media engagement
- Debate with activists
- Debate with pressure groups from all corners of the argument
- Workshops / fieldwork with people working to change practices to learn from their experiences
- Regular network meetings
- Position papers / sessions with policy-makers
- Camping is a great idea to escape the spaces of sociotechnical regimes of academia
- Events that link different perspectives / disciplines e.g. from innovation / social entrepreneurship (business studies and marketing) to more sociological perspectives on behaviour change
- Pub crawls
- Unconferences (?)
- Cross-sector events (e.g. community groups, policy-makers)
- Multidisciplinary workshops
- Workshops / events with policy-makers: providing a different framework for sociology – policy interaction
- Dinner party
- Challenging why sociologists struggle to make their research inform policy vs. why policy-makers don't use sociological approaches
- Policy events to promote / present sociological research
- Interdisciplinary policy events
- Workshops / annual meetings
- Blog for the group and website
- Challenge the dominant academic regime
- Regional groups
- Conferences
- Workshops
- Online networking
- Streams at conferences
- Dissemination to policy and industry
- Funded seminar series

- Organise some events where people come together not all of whom are explicitly studying climate change
- Engagement with policy-makers
- Starting and maintaining academic debates with other disciplines through conferences and publications in non-sociological journals?
- Conferences
- Focus groups
- Seminars for policymakers
- Thematic working groups bringing university researchers together with other people engaging with human dimensions of climate change
- Clarity about themes
- Spread the dialogue in different directions who, where, how?
- Workshops / conferences aimed at policy-makers
- Themes seminars
- Presentations of work / research
- Streams at conferences BSA posters / website
- Multiple locations i.e. not just London
- Invite policy-makers as speakers
- Journal special issue encompassing a range of themes and theories
- Conference sessions
- Journal special issue
- Webpage and discussion form online
- Creating more opportunities for communication among social scientists (sociologists) e.g. workshops (small, themed), web forums (interactive); get-togethers of all kinds (bowling etc)
- Invite speakers from other disciplines especially ecology, economics, philosophy, geography, ethics, policy, NGOs
- A day for policy of different areas / sectors
- More one-day workshops with keynote speakers talking about their research - People could suggest themes for these days so that you can find out who is interested in your area. Hold them at different universities where several people are working on these issues e.g. Southampton
- Organise events and exchange with e.g. NGOs Greenpeace / WWF etc
- Involve other study groups e.g. Food Studies Group
- Parliamentary events with / for select committees, devolved administrations, Westminster
- Workshops and sharing ongoing research
- Thinking about joining together to shape research funding agenda
- Bidding for research funding
- Establish study groups in England, Scotland and Wales
- Foster / establish links to study groups in other social science disciplines
- (Direct) action on climate change
- Engagement with politicians, scientists, economists, activists, social movements
- Camping yes!
- Walking why not?
- Where other people gather definitely work, shops, pubs, parks etc
- Publications
- More focused sub-groups

- An 'outreach' event / publication e.g. policy-makers
- Engage with practitioners share research, develop joint research
- Work with practitioners e.g. appropriate NGOs / charities, to join up thinking and ensure academic research is used in frontline engagement
- Research
- Networking across disciplines
- Liaison with NGOs and social movements, government organisations
- Engaging with international governance structures