

2 min:

Energy poverty and recognizing it. Energy demand matters just as much as energy supply. Moved away from notion it is all about energy supply, energy demand is a key to how we live our everyday lives. How we organize our cities. We have also had a complimentary process of energy equity (justice) matters. The maturity of the public debates is not the same everywhere. In the UK, there has been recognition for a while. In other areas of the world, different levels of recognition. There is a parallel process of recognition in different areas.

4 m need to understand energy is consumed, lived and consumed unequally.

5 minutes: we pushed for energy poverty to enter the third energy package in 2009. That phrase has created a level of discomfort that has to be addressed. France has made amazing strides with a multifaceted energy poverty, with housing.. If you think of Poland, there is a lot of recognition happening as well. It isn't really a top-down movement, there is a lot happening across countries.

6:45 we are becoming up against resistance that energy poverty is a social issue. One of my main points, energy poverty is not a subset of income poverty. If you look at energy poor households. There is a group of energy poor, but are not considered income poor. Energy poverty is the product of living in an inefficient home. Households with greater energy needs, pensioners, households with children will have higher needs. They will be recognized in a social support scheme, like renters. 8:45, I think what we really need to understand, what you focus on depends on what you think matters.

9:40 Role as an activists, when I do my academic research, it results in certain recommendations. But one of my key points is always, energy poverty is underpinned by political choices and decisions.

10:15 there is no one universal poverty policy, there are some claims out there.. No we can't we can only drive policy makers towards that. In the UK, there was a definition change a few years ago. And that shifted the focus away.. Primarily away from older people to families in cities. You could say that is objective, but you could also say that is a political choice, because you prioritize someone else in your definition.

12:18 a project on urban households in Budapest. There we did look at.. We did surveys in cities. We investigated everyday behaviors. So that for example told us.. What drives and who are vulnerable in that urban context. What also showed was a lot of urban households that are not identified. So to tell policy makers these policies are not doing this but are doing this. But the price subsidization doesn't really help the deep structural issues.. In inner city Budapest. What was interesting they had a lot of problems in summer.

14:00 Urban planning, one thing that came out, not just about the house and the home, people could have decent living conditions, but if there house gets really hot in the summer.

14: 48, energy poverty observatory. When it was announced that the European commission would fund an energy poverty observatory. There were a lot of efforts to see this materialize. There are a consortium of companies. The lead partner, is University of Manchester.

15:50, plug for energy poverty book. See <http://energypoverty.info/>. In the book there is a chapter I explore the energy poverty /policy issue. There was a recognition... there needed to be a common EU energy poverty policy. And in that you needed to have equity issues in there. The observatory helps that

making the equity issues more visible. What is important there is now a polity, there is a public awareness, and people working on this from all walks of life. I think through the observatory, there is one knowledge resource. What all of this does is provide a decision support tool. The observatory is not going to give the answers, it is just there to catalyze things further.

19:10, the website has lots of information that wasn't there before. I hope it will continue into the future, the European Commission makes a decision. The issue now is only beginning to matter, in actions now and the politics. A lot of this information was not out there. The data there is really unique. Based on very detailed surveys. Great visualizations. Can create charts.

21:00, there is a repository of policies. I don't think there is anything else anywhere else.

21:50, Glad to see so many geographers getting involved in energy research. Geographers can bring to the debate, this is now just about the 'where' or the 'why there', but about the 'how' and 'why'. Can explain the implications for future developments, the deep political forces that drive them. The tensions and resolutions around the issues. We can formulate theories that are at the core of geography, not just borrowing theories from other fields. So we don't become just the decoration. There's amazing stuff developed over the years. Geography is dominated by three or four theoretical approaches.

26:00, if we are academics we are placed in a unique place, which is to be thinkers, to be the place where new ideas, new ideas get generated, and where critical evaluation happens, nowhere else in society does that happen. But with applied research, are they in a position to assess power relations and be critical? I think if we do the research and address the big pressing political and social issues of our time, we are already doing a lot. There's a questions around the relevance and significance of what we do, and we need to do that in mind. And research needs .. About social emancipation, and aim to lead to progressive outcomes, that ethos needs to be embedded in research. A key responsibility to open our research. Our research is behind paywalls. We shouldn't underestimate the impact that the research can do, if our research enters the policy debate, there can be a discursive shift. There is nothing wrong with being activities and translating our research. But doesn't have to be a defining characteristic. In the UK, there is a movement to constantly demonstrate our relevance. 29:30 I would like research funders to make sure our research is out there. And part of the informed polity. And that is our role in that polity, not part of academics.