



## Colloquium on the Biographies of Artifacts and Practices

Dear colleagues,

we cordially invite you to our new event series, the Biographies of Artifacts and Practices (BOAP) Research Colloquium. Based on a collaboration of researchers from the University of Edinburgh, Aalto University, and the Technical University of Berlin, this bi-monthly colloquium provides an open platform for an international network of researchers interested in BOAP and related methodological and analytical approaches. Its main goal is to contribute to strengthening the robustness of research designs in STS and the sociology of technology and innovation. Each event features the presentation and discussion of one research project that traces the biographies of complex sociotechnical systems across multiple locales and extended timeframes, often linking multiple studies and scales of analysis.

The BOAP colloquium will be kicked off on **July 5<sup>th</sup>, 4pm**, with a presentation by **Sampsa Hyysalo**, one of the pioneers behind the approach. Sampsa will present insights from his recent book '**Citizen Activities in Energy Transition: User Innovation, new Communities and the Shaping of Sustainable Future**', in which he employs and further develops the BOAP framework.

### About the talk:

In this talk, Sampsa Hyysalo addresses the rapidly changing citizen roles in innovation, technology adoption, intermediation, market creation, and legitimacy building for low-carbon solutions. The talk critically links research in innovation studies, sustainability transitions, and science and technology studies, and builds a new approach for the study of user contributions to innovation and sociotechnical change, premised on the biographies of artifacts and practices framework. Drawing on insights from Hyysalo's recent book, *Citizen Activities in Energy Transition*, it gives a detailed and empirically grounded overall appraisal of citizens' active technological engagement in the current energy transition, in an era when internet connectivity has given rise to important new forms of citizen communities and interactions. It elaborates a new way to study users in sociotechnical change through long-term ethnographic and historical research and reports its deployment in a major, decade-long line of investigation on user activities in small-scale renewables, addressing user contributions from the early years to the late proliferation stages of small-scale renewable energy technologies (S-RETs). Hyysalo offers a much needed empirical and theoretical understanding of the dynamics and activities in which users are engaged over the course of sociotechnical change, including innovation, adoption, adjustment, intermediation, community building, market creation, and legitimacy creation. Academics, policymakers, and managers are given a new resource to understand the "demand side" of sociotechnical change beyond the patterns of investment, adoption, and social acceptance that have traditionally occupied their attention – the role of users in innovation, energy systems change and the significance of new digital communities in present and future sociotechnical change.



### About the speaker:

Sampsa Hyysalo is Professor of Co-Design at the Aalto University School of Art, Design and Architecture in Helsinki, Finland. His research focuses on designer-user relations in sociotechnical change. This includes engagement in participatory design, co-design, open and user innovation, open design, peer knowledge creation, user communities, citizen science, and user knowledge in organizations. His research orientation is multidisciplinary with science and technology studies, innovation studies, and collaborative design being his main fields. He has authored several books, including *The New Production of Users: Changing Innovation Communities and Involvement Strategies* (written with Elgaard Jensen and Oudshoorn), which won the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology's Freeman Award, and *Health Technology Development and Use: From Practice-Bound Imagination to Evolving Impacts* (2010). Sampsa has published 75 full-length articles and book chapters, including over ten publications in field-leading journals such as *Research Policy*, *MIS Quarterly*, *Design Studies*, and *Social Studies of Science*. He was the Chief Editor of *Science & Technology Studies* journal 2007–2016 and was awarded the Academy of Finland Award for Social Impact in 2010.

### Zoom link and contact:

<https://tu-berlin.zoom.us/j/64173890604?pwd=NVI5ai9LY04vNGGg3d2U0eDAvQUk1UT09>

Zoom PW: 859114

If you are interested in the activities of the research network, or would like to present at the colloquium, get in touch at [david.seibt@tu-berlin.de](mailto:david.seibt@tu-berlin.de).

### Next dates in the BOAP Colloquium

*(all colloquium sessions start at 4 pm, Berlin time)*

05.07.2021, **Sampsa Hyysalo** (Aalto University): Citizen Activities in Energy Transition: User Innovation, new Communities and the Shaping of Sustainable Future

06.09.2021, **Ole Pütz** (Bielefeld University): How Artefacts Discipline Social Interactions: The Case of Computer Scientist Working on Prototypes

6-9.10.2021, **BOAP panel at 4s conference**: Robustness in STS Research Designs and Methods – Making a Difference in Uncertain Worlds?

01.11.2021, **Dzifa Ametowobla** (Technische Universität Berlin): Organizations, Software Components, and Performative Models of Organizing