

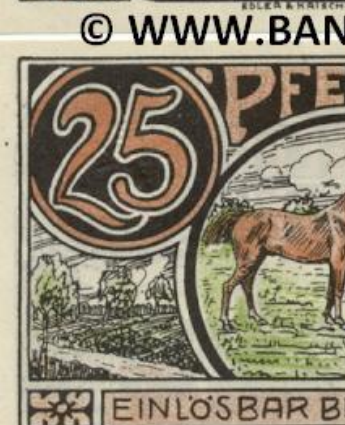


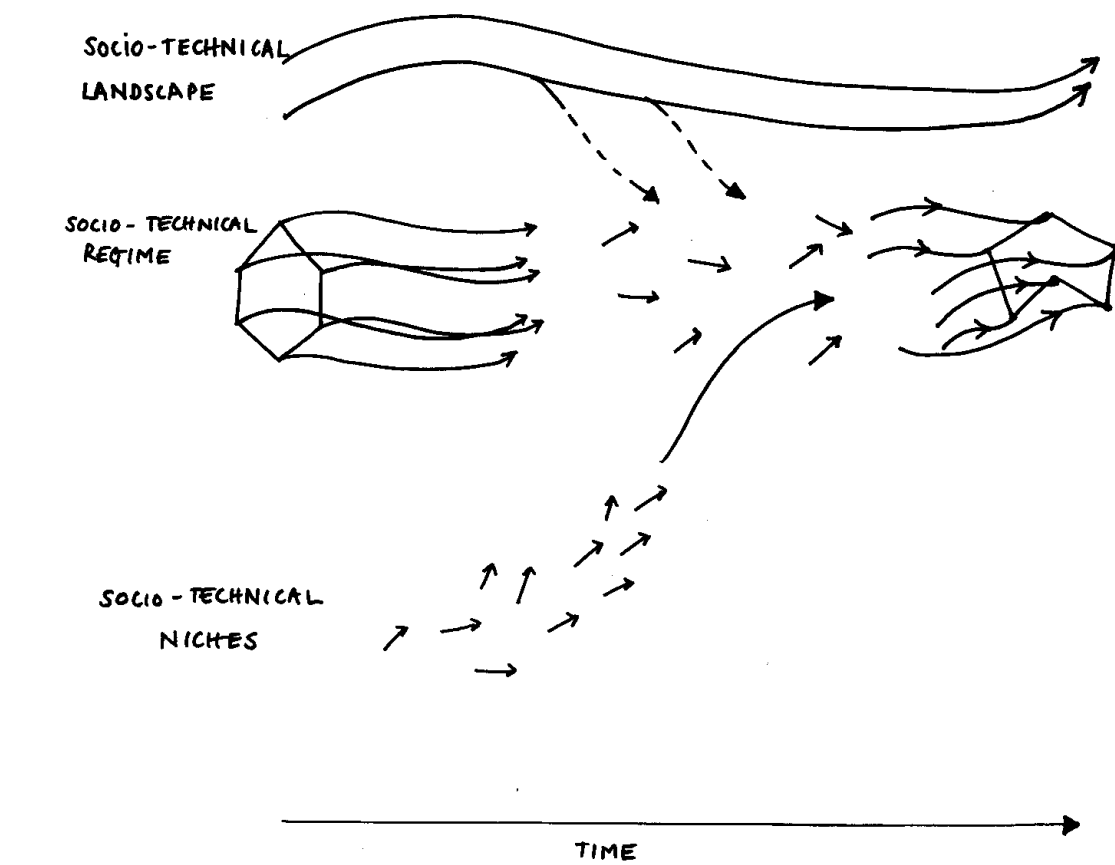
Sustainable Lifestyles Research Group

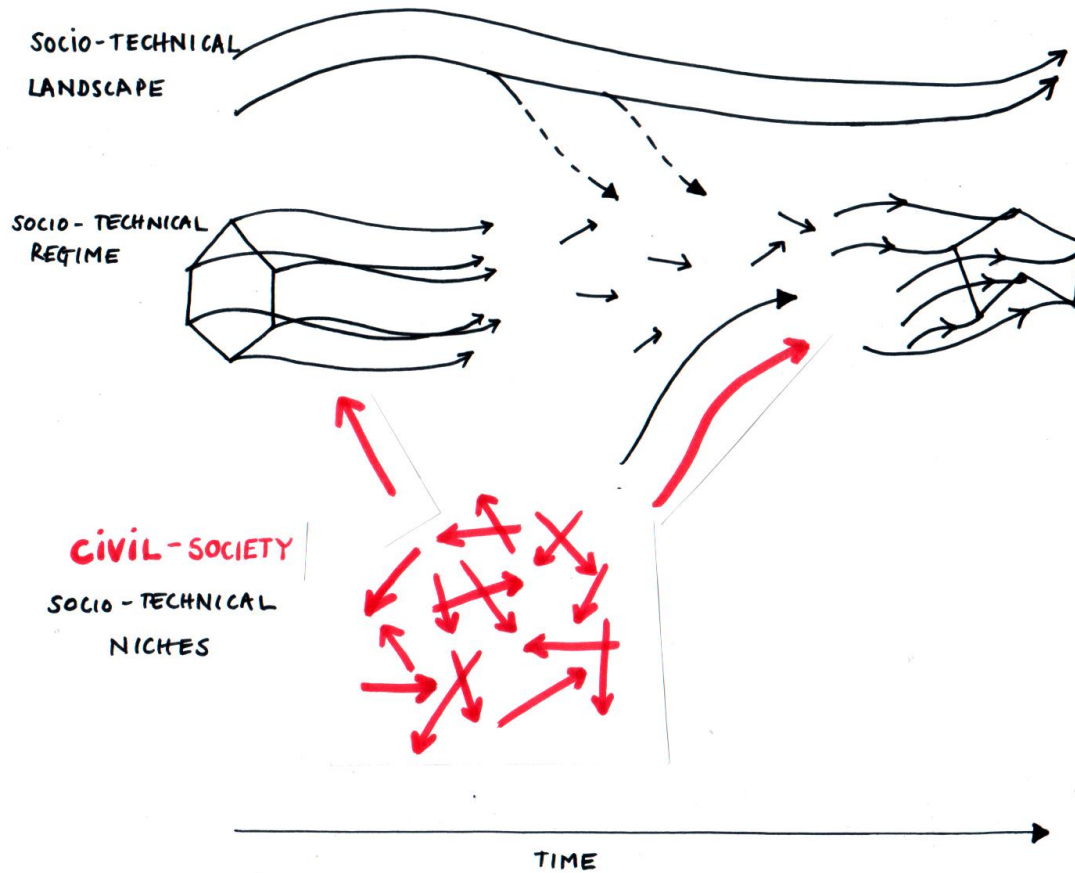
RESILIENCE IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD STRATEGIES

DR REBECCA WHITE
SPRU – SUSSEX UNIVERSITY









RESEARCH AIMS

1. HOW IS THE ACTIVITY OF GROWING FOOD COMMUNALLY MADE RESILIENT?
2. IS THERE A POLITICS TO RESILIENCE BUILDING AND HOW DOES THIS PLAY OUT WITH REGARDS TRANSITIONS TO SUSTAINABILITY?

METHODS

- Semi-structured interviews with growing groups & network organisations (n=35)
- Participant observation in growing spaces (~30hours)
- Multi-Criteria Mapping (MCM) interviews with people involved in community food growing in Brighton and Hove (n=15)

How is the activity of growing food communally, made resilient?

Local councils

- A stable and supportive planning framework
- Recognition
- Economic or in-kind support

Projects

- Allowing diverse ends through growing
- Not having too strong an emphasis on any one outcome in the garden or across them
- Having a range of funding streams often including service delivery, but not exclusively

Local intermediary organisation

- Linking and development of collective identity
- Attend to local systemic barriers to growing projects; groups can deal with day to day issues

Is there a politics to resilience building? How does this play out with regards transitions to sustainability?

There are different ends to which communal food growing is seen as a means:

- reducing inequalities
- community level benefits
- food system sustainability

Growing spaces are a critical part of the ecology of organisations working locally to push for more Sustainable food systems. The Food Partnership is the key organisation here:

- Linked with a large number of community growing spaces
- Clear mandate to help develop a more sustainable food system in Brighton and Hove
- Some funding for service delivery, but a flexible organisational structure

Implications for policy:

- Communal food growing is a great ‘way in’ for people on issues of food, waste and related to this environment.
- Specialisation risks cutting this off.
- It is the network of organisations around communal food growing in Brighton that enable this activity to become part of a push for more sustainable food systems.
- Government and funding organisations, and associated policy, needs to be supportive of intermediary organisations with multiple roles, rather than pushing specialisation.
- Intermediary organisations with a broad remit, but working at the local scale, can be an important part of civil society based innovation systems.



Sustainable Lifestyles Research Group

Thank you

Rebecca White – r.white@sussex.ac.uk

<http://www.sustainablelifestyles.ac.uk/>

+44 (0) 1483 68 6689