

## A socio-technical perspective on energy modelling Dr. Georg Holtz

WholeSEM Conference Cambridge July 4th 2016



- > Society matters for the Energiewende: Examples
- Conceptual work from transitions research
- > Strategies for including society in energy models
- > An example: a model of homeowners' insulation activity

#### Societal influence on the energy system Phasing out nuclear energy





Gesetz über die friedliche Verwendung der Kernenergie und den Schutz gegen ihre Gefahren (Atomgesetz)

#### **Atomic law** Amendment 2002



Gesetz über die friedliche Verwendung der Kernenergie und den Schutz gegen ihre Gefahren (Atomgesetz)

Runtime extension schnitt ne Vorschrifter

2010

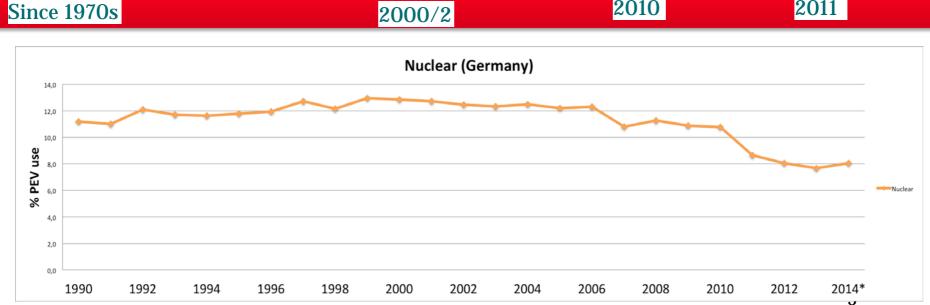


Gesetz über die friedliche Verwendung der Kernenergie und den Schutz gegen ihre Gefahren (Atomgesetz)

#### **Atomic law** Amendment Allgameine Verschriften 11 Zweitersenung ist Osetze

Ander

2011







#### Societal influence on the energy system Controlling RE expansion





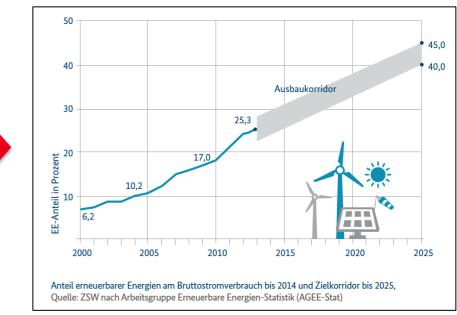




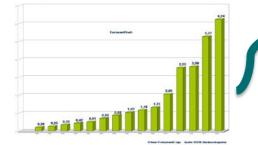
Delay







Entwicklung der EEG-Umlage für Privathaushalte (3.500 kwh Jahresverbrauch)

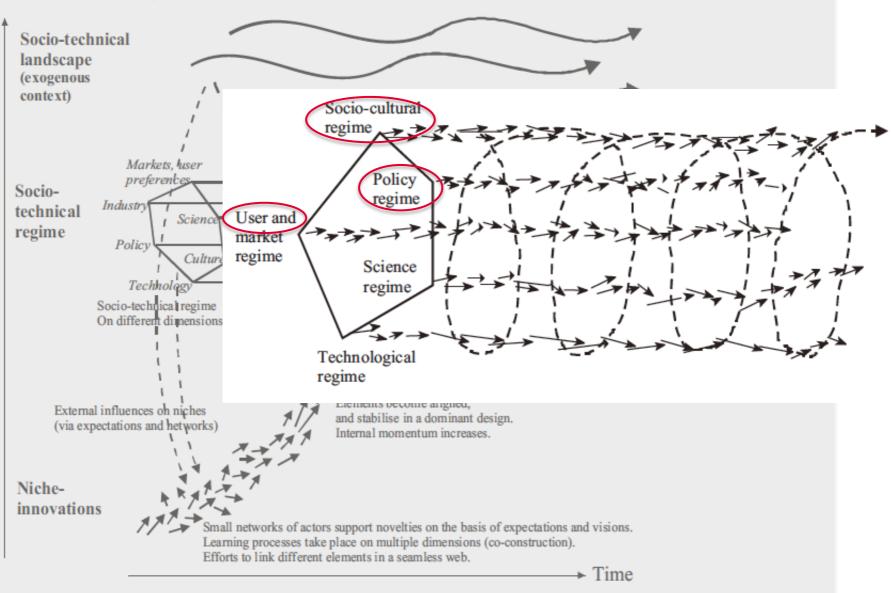


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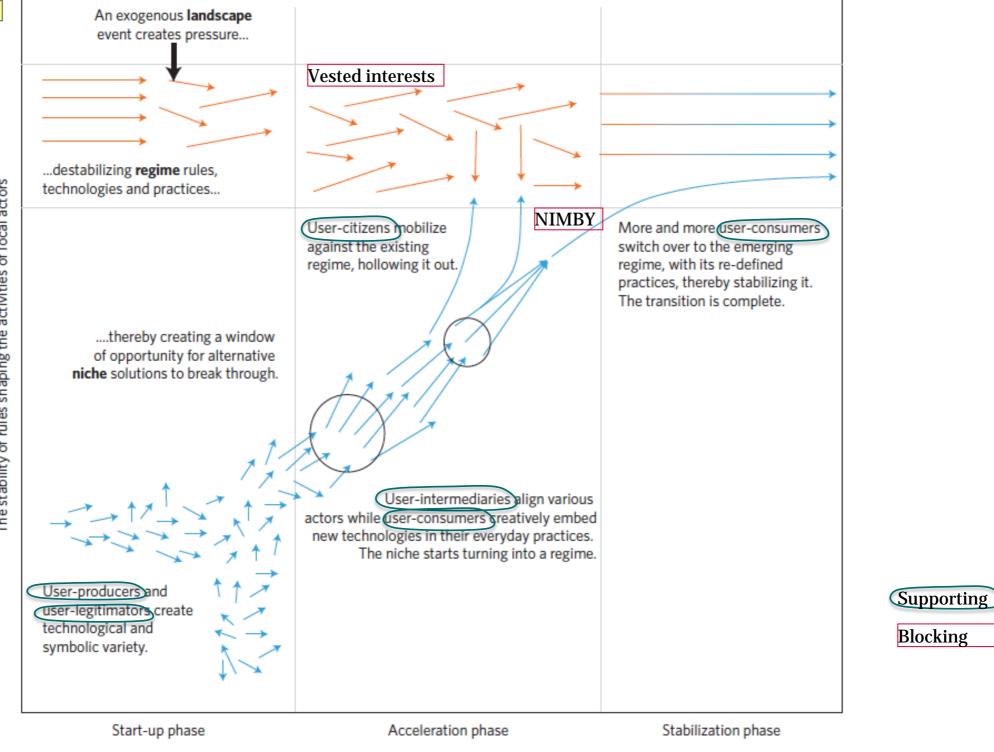
#### **Transitions research The Multi-Level Perspective**



Increasing structuration of activities in local practices



Geels, F. "The multi-level perspective on sustainability transitions: Responses to seven criticisms". EIST (2011)

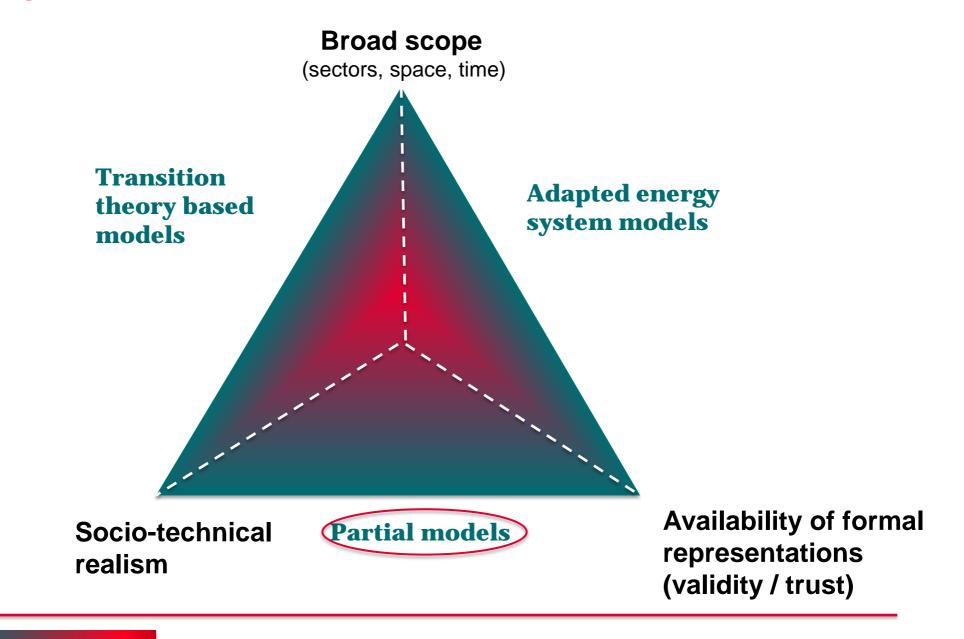


Time Adapted from Schot, et al. (2016) "The roles of users in shaping transitions to new energy systems." Nature Energy 1(5)16054.

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Energy modelling Strategies to include the "social"

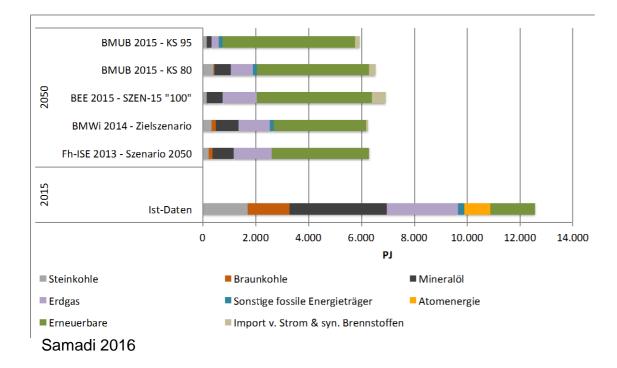




**Complexity and uncertainty** 

#### Partial model: background

#### **German government – Climate protection scenarios**

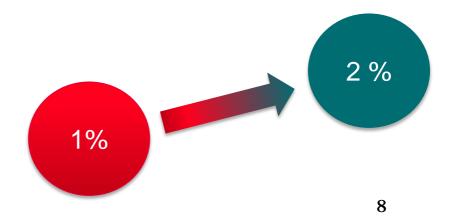


# $\begin{array}{c} \text{Reduction of } \text{CO}_2 \\ \text{emissions by 2050} \\ \text{min} & \color{red}{80\%} \end{array}$

Wuppertal

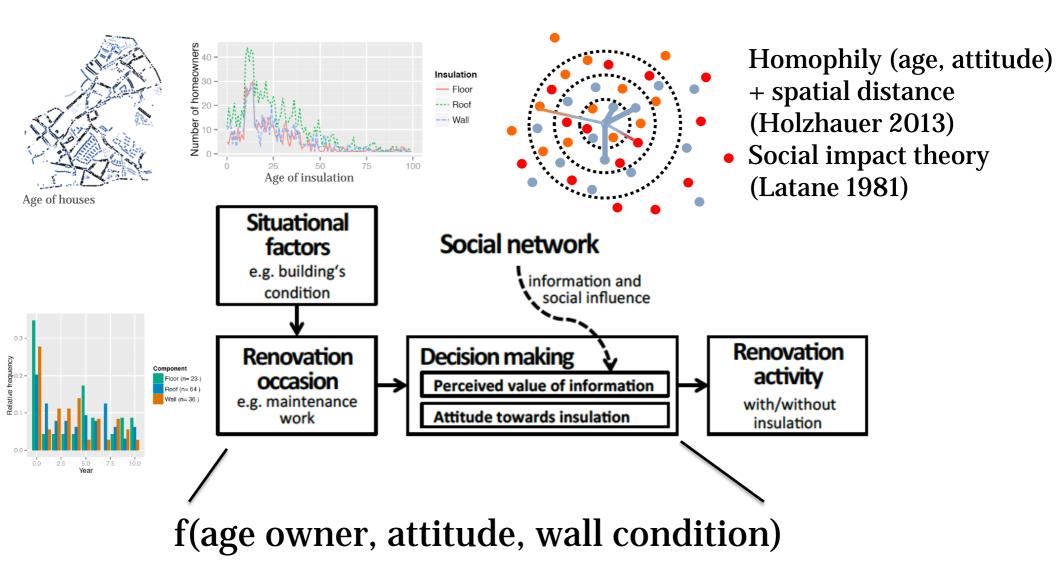
Institut

## Annual rate of insulating existing buildings



#### Agent-based modelling Insulation of owner-occupied houses (walls)





Friege, J.; Holtz, G.; Chappin, É. J. L. (2016): Exploring Homeowners' Insulation Activity. Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation 19(1). / Friege (submitted).

ABM of insulation of owner-occupied houses Simulation results



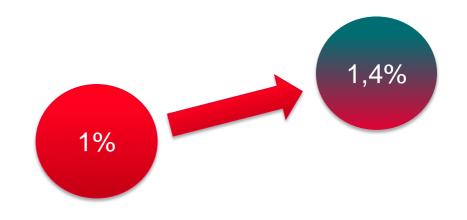
#### Massive information campaign

Attitude set to maximum for most agents



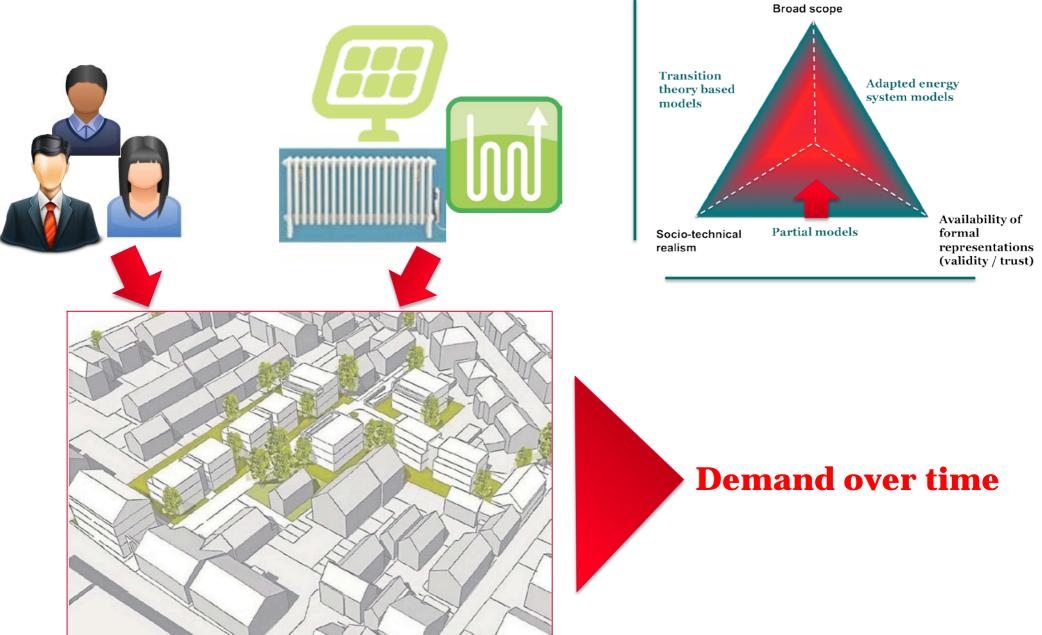
### **Obligation to insulate walls**

Wall has to be insulated if moving to new house without wall insulation



#### Ambition Integrating and scaling up partial models





Virtual quarters / city



- , The social" is important for understanding transition dynamics of the energy system
- > "The social" includes a variety of actors, and roles
- > Agent-based, partial models are one strategy to achieve socio-technical realism of energy models