



# Outline

- **'On-line Participation and Climate Action'**
- **Conceptualising the role of ICT in socio-technical transitions**
- **Developing the role(s) of ICT for evolving social relations**
- **ICT and Climate-Smart Development**
- **Future research**

# Background

- Mediating Participation and Climate Action:  
Online participation strategies for transition to low carbon future, Ireland, 2012'
- **Project investigates:**
  - Key actors, dominant discourses & discursive practices
  - Rationale & manifestations of online participation
  - Reflexivity in conceptualising online engagement

# Conceptualising the role of ICT

- **Why reinvigorate thinking about ICT and its role(s)?**
  - Environmental Governance (Regulatory v Informational)
  - Climate Governance (Wicked Problems)
  - Socio-technical Transition ('creative destruction' )
  - New mediation ecology
    - unanticipated modes of adoption & use of info
- **Reductive, linear model inappropriate for problem & context**

# Developing the role(s) for ICT

- **Implications for public involvement**
  - Publics expect more dialogue, they do not see themselves as passive receivers/consumers of info
  - Participation priority, but participation in what & how?
- **Assessing effectiveness of ICT as strategic tools**
  - shift focus from measuring *what* → *how & why*
  - How do orgs 'translate' participation strategies online
  - How/why do public(s) engage with ICTs

# Climate-Smart Development

- Beyond behaviour change and instrumental rationale(s):  
ICT for evolving social relationships & new partnerships,  
collaboration among stakeholders
- **Alternative approaches**
  - Social Practices: culturally based ideas about everyday life  
and everyday lived experiences (Hargreaves 2011, Shove 2012)
  - eResilience & eAdaptation  
ICTs as enablers of an increasingly connected world, fostering  
innovative responses to change and societal transformation  
(Ospina and Heeks, 2010)

# Future Research

- **How can ICTs be used to open up conversational space**  
**In what way(s) can ICTs increase public mobilisation**
- **Organisations/Actors**
  - How do current understanding and practices of engagement 'translate' to new mediated context
  - How is reflexivity incorporated in ICT comms strategies
- **Audiences/Public(s)**
  - How do public(s) use ICT for information & actions related to environmental change/transition to low carbon future
  - What are the preferred modes of ICT use, when and by which public(s)

# In Conclusion



'DOING MY BIT'

## Thank you and Any Questions?

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