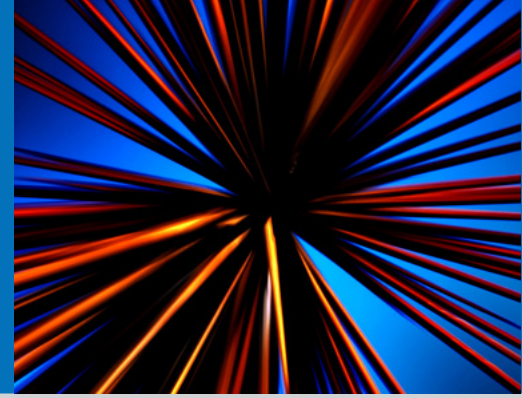


MARC Research Profile

Conditioning Demand: Older People, Diversity and Thermal Experience



The aim of this project is to understand the diversity of thermal experiences in an ageing society and the implications for current and future energy consumption. The project team is investigating the social and material dimensions of energy and carbon challenges related to 'thermal experience' in domestic settings in the UK and France. The research project examines two key forms of future change: the demographic trend of an ageing society and the development of energy-efficient technologies.

The project team will interview older residents across a range of domestic living situations and socio-economic categories to understand the diversity of thermal experiences within this population group. In addition, the project team will study how older individuals are adopting energy-efficient technologies that alter thermal experience such as heat pumps, solar hot water, and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, through interviews with older residents, energy modellers, technology designers, installers, and building maintenance and operations personnel. The collected data will be analysed by the project team and the findings will be disseminated on the project website, through academic and trade journals, and at various conferences.

The outcomes of the project will be relevant to a wide array of academic disciplines, including scholars of sociology, architecture, urban planning, engineering, science and technology studies, geography, and environmental psychology. The researchers will also reach out to non-academic stakeholders including NGOs, community organisations, and the general public by describing the multiple factors that shape thermal experience. Finally, the project will build capacity in the study of people, energy, and buildings by training four post-doctoral researchers as well as an interlinked cohort of doctoral students and EDF's research and development group.

Website

www.manchester.ac.uk/marc/conditioningdemand

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