

# Intimate Energies. Negotiating Power in Domestic Spaces

*Dr. Tiia Sabrakorpi (Weber State University / Aalto University), [tiiasabrakorpi1@weber.edu](mailto:tiiasabrakorpi1@weber.edu) / Dr. Fabian Zimmer (TU Berlin), [fabian.zimmer@tu-berlin.de](mailto:fabian.zimmer@tu-berlin.de).*

In recent years, energy historians and energy transitions scholars have produced a great number of studies focusing on large-scale infrastructures and energy systems, in addition to politics, policies and economics of energy. However, this macro-level approach often overlooks the significant role played by household members, particularly women, in historical and contemporary energy transitions. Our panel thus seeks to address this gap by examining the agency of households in energy decision-making, focusing on domestic negotiations of power shaping energy use in the household.

We are interested in global case studies from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, centering on how negotiations and decision making around domestic energy use and consumption have shaped and been shaped by the intimate power relations in the home – regarding gender, as well as age (e.g. parents–children), class or race (e.g. house lords–servants). To uncover the historical negotiations of power in the home, this panel explores intimate everyday experience of energy use. What roles do different domestic actors perform in the domestic space surrounding energy? How has the design of domestic objects and appliances and the everyday intimate experience of domestic technology use interacted with and mediated negotiations of power and energy in domestic environments? What is the role of the senses and emotions in these intimate encounters with the objects of energy use in domestic environments? How do households keep track of energy consumption practices inside the home?