IDRIC

Green Industrial Futures
Realised.

Workshop

Will industrial decarbonisation produce resilient communities?

Workshop lead: Karen Henwood

Funded by

UK Research and Innovation

The session presented the project's latest report

- This report summarises key findings from a study on 'Understanding public responses to industrial decarbonisation in insecure times'. The research conducted workshops in sites identified for new technological energy infrastructures in South Wales. The study focuses on how material fabrications intersect with cultural experiences, termed infrastructural ecologies. Drawing on empirical data analysis gathered through workshops, the report highlights how psychosocial logics explicate impacts, resistances, and resilience to change. This research offers insights valuable to industrialists, policymakers, and academics involved in decarbonising industries, emphasising the importance of engaging local communities to co-create effective pathways for change and fostering trust for productive action.

- https://idric.org/resources/report-will-industrial-decarbonisation-produce-resilient-communities/

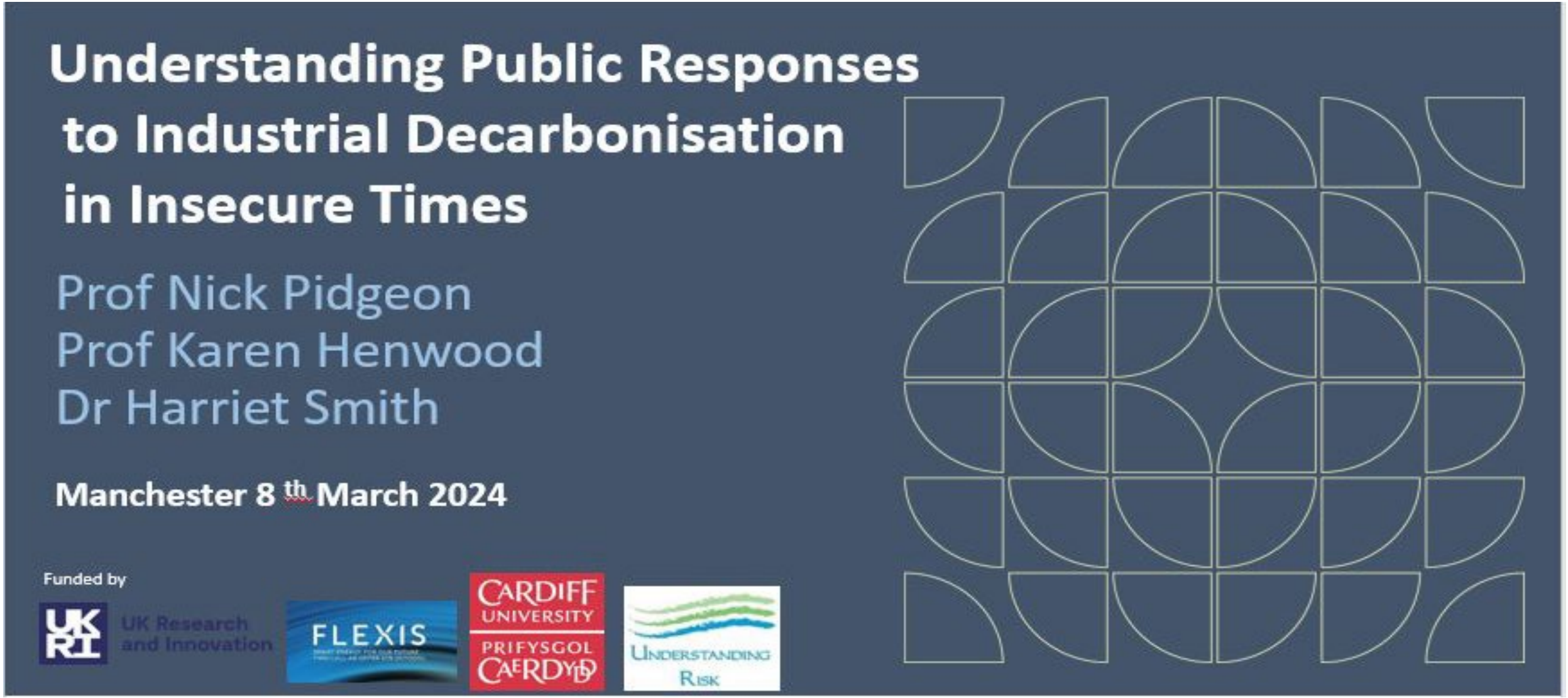
Key messages from the session

- Understanding public responses to industrial decarbonisation visions is deepened through developing knowledge practices to gather emotional and affective engagement strategies. This opens up a key role for specialist modes of engagement in research and innovation (e.g. situating visuals)

- Such knowledge can be further explored by conducting psychosocial analysis of communities and how expert visions land in place. IDRIC social scientists engaged extremely positively with Cardiff University's reported analysis attending to deeper issues of community containment and dynamics of lived experiences in and through time, including a creative multimodal workshop animation

- Our work aspires to meet challenges posed to industrial decarbonisation clusters and projects in dispersed places and sites where they are seeking to promote resilient communities as well as other means of "scaling out" their impacts

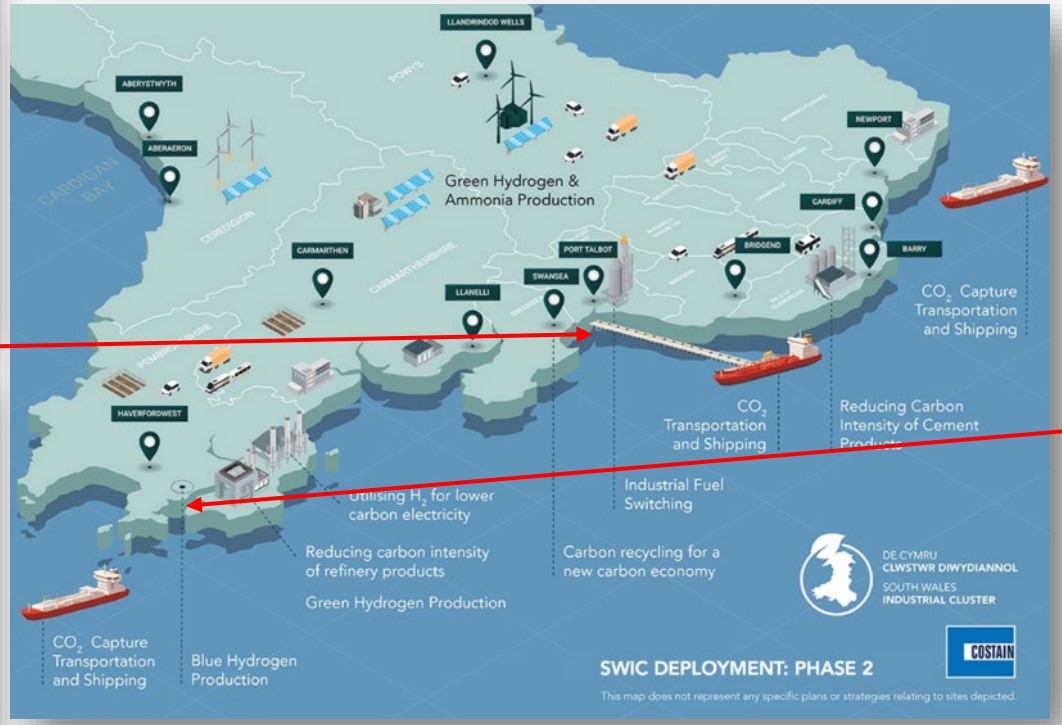
Session slides



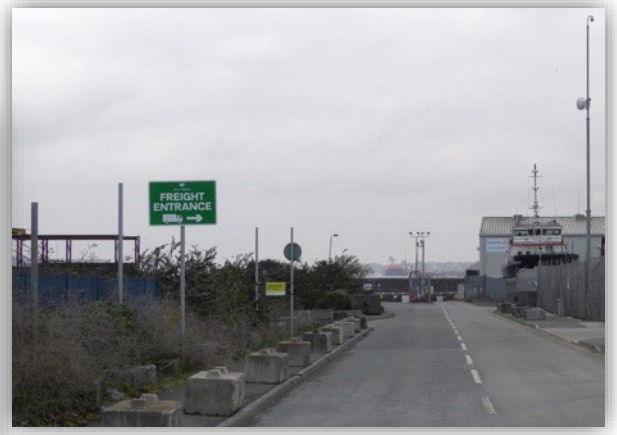
Understanding Public Responses to Industrial Decarbonisation in Insecure Times

Key reasons: De & Re industrialization in South Wales / Poly-crises / Global & Local Interrelations
2 case studies

Port Talbot (Aug, 2022)



Pembroke Dock (Dec, 2022)



Above: Aberavon Beach, below: Port Talbot from Water

Above: Pembroke Dock Rd, below: Milford Haven Waterway

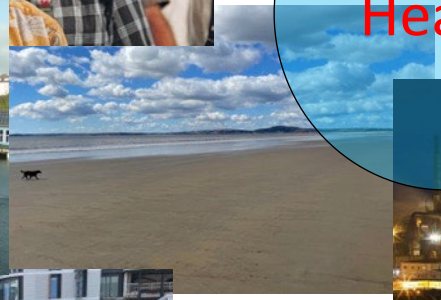
Reading Place as Infrastructure

Food Prices

Air Pollution

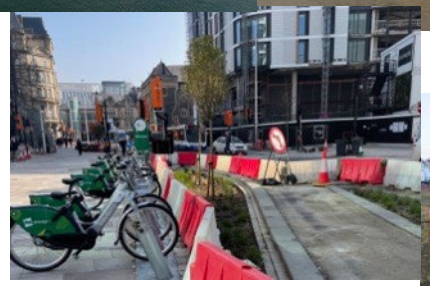
Jobs

Health



Empty Shops

Flood Risk

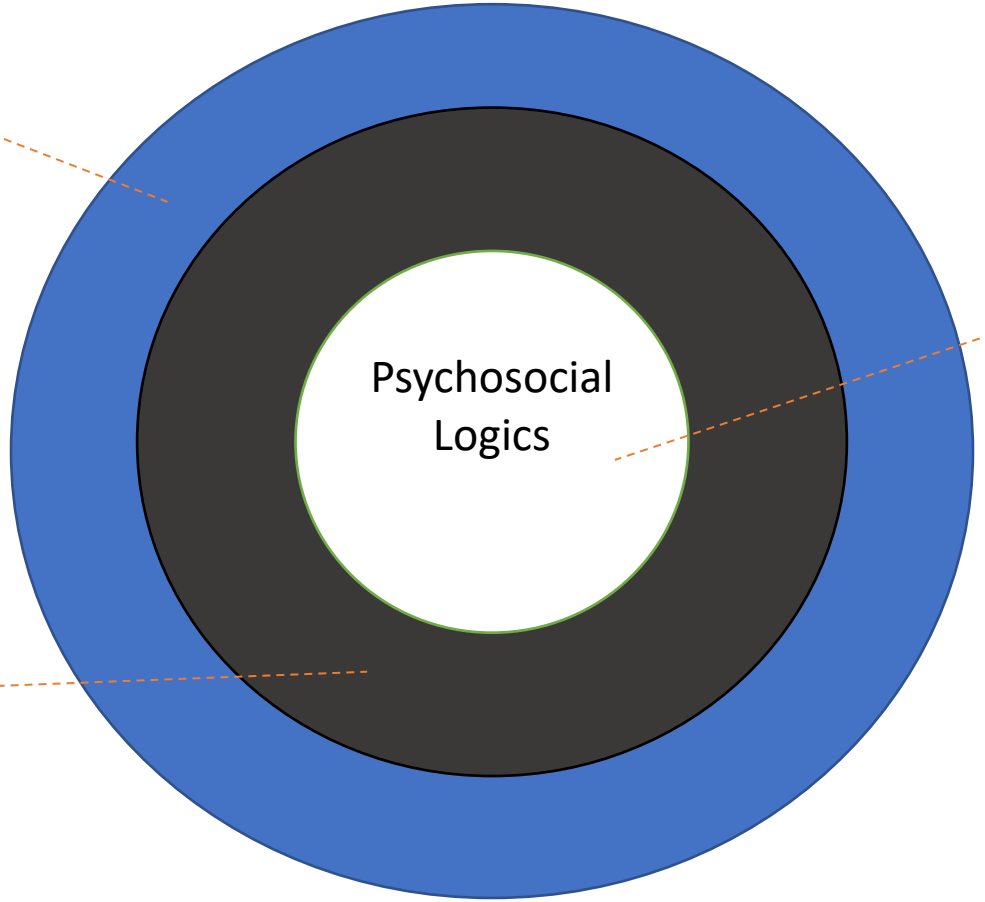


Fuel

Responding To Calls for Social Justice: What Objects are Relevant?
Affective Infrastructures, Images and Visions, Psychosocial Logics

Analysis

Atmospheres of Place
Affective:
emotional/experiential



Psychosocial Mechanisms/
(Relatively) unconscious

Thematic Interpretation
Discourse related mixture
of cognitive and emotional
responses

Atmospheres of Place

Contained and resilient

‘my town’, ‘home’, ‘heart of Port Talbot’, ‘family and friends’

Wounded- fragile stability

‘pollution’ ‘eyesore’ ’spoiled’, ‘vigilant’, ‘uneasy’ ‘fearful’

(Infrastructural Ecologies)

Thematic Findings

Global and Local Interrelations

- The Pembroke 'infrastructural ecology' reflected a contested relationship to global industries and a focus on localised risks.
- In Port Talbot people expressed global concerns and collective responsibilities towards decarbonisation as well as concerns about potential impacts of local change.

Don't Trust Them

- There was a gap between local experience and the stakeholder visualisations that portrayed the future without inclusion of localised knowledge and concerns.
- 'Broken Promises' led to distrust of future plans.

The Least Uncertain Uncertainty

- Initially the Port Talbot group embraced on-shore wind and solar as a preferable solution to industrial decarbonisation.
- In Pembroke questions were raised about the impact of the freeport structure on local governance and service provisions amid ongoing experiences of loss.

Vision Fatigue

- Where past plans are promoted or even agreed but do not get built, 'vision fatigue' is produced with people reluctant to engage further in future project plans.
- Rolling visualisations that do not manifest increases distrust of 'experts'.

Forms of Acceptances

Pembroke Dock: Embrace of Off-Shore Wind- A Coping Mechanism Provides Acceptance

Industry is Essential → Make it invisible → Good because Off-Shore Turbines are Invisible

Beautiful by night

"I think people will be happier with the fact that it's, like you say, 40 kilometres or 40 miles into the sea, where it ain't an eyesore…….. What you can't see, you don't think about sort of thing ….."

Forms of Acceptances

Port Talbot Super-Town: Reaching a Reparative Position

Problem

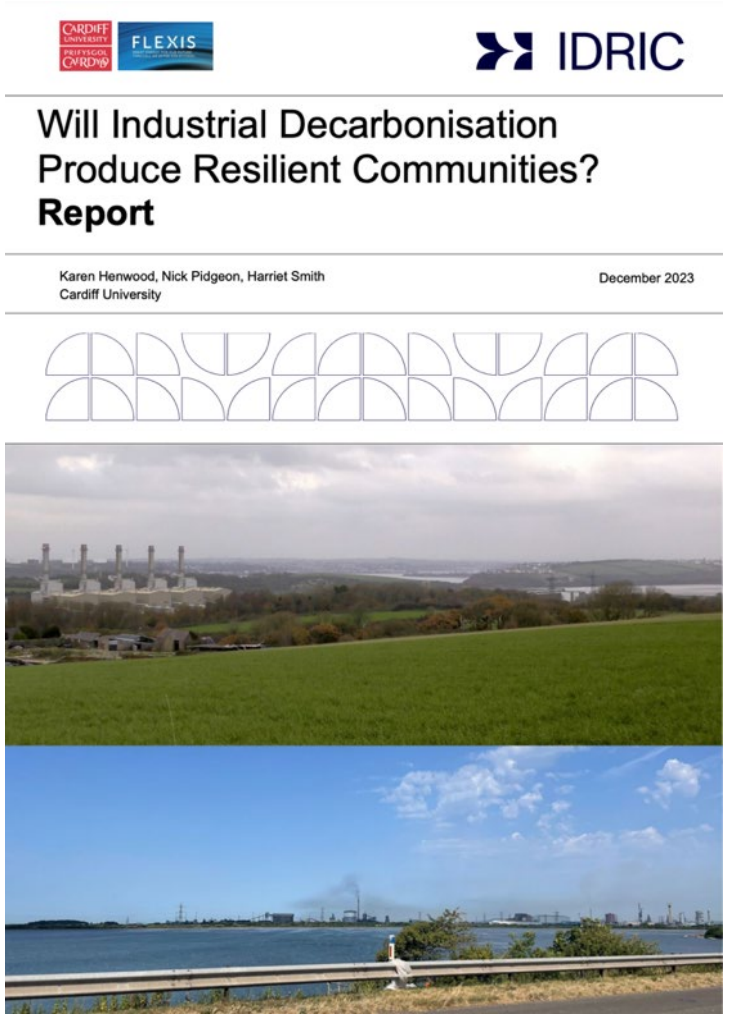
Idealised Solution

Problem

Reparative Solution

Super-Town

Check out our reports:



QR: Above : IDRIC Report

QR : Below : Report at Cardiff University

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2
3
RWE PNZC
Pembroke Net Zero Centre
What it is
What it means
Emotions

Thank You