The Nexus Network

Dr Ruth Welters
Communications and Impact Manager

Valuing Natural Capital in Low Carbon Energy Pathways Programme
Workshop, Monday 21 July 2014
What is the Nexus?

• Interdependencies, tensions and trade-offs between food, water and energy security, in the broader context of environmental change.
ESRC investment areas

1. How can we build social science ‘Nexus thinking’ capacity around Interdependencies, trade-offs, values, decisions...

2. Re-thinking growth for a sustainable future

3. What is and where is the Green Economy?

4. Resilience, coping with shocks and preparedness

5. Consumption, behaviour and socio-cultural change

6. Public policy shaping, framing and learning

7. Governance arrangements for sustainable overall resource use

8) What new data, methods, skills and approaches are needed to address the challenges

Scale and context: spatial, political, demographic...
What is the Nexus Network?

- Funding the Nexus Network to better coordinate UK research efforts in this area.
- £1.8 million over three years.
- *The Nexus Network: New connections in food, energy, water and the environment*
# The core team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>James Wilsdon (PI)</th>
<th>Fiona Marshall</th>
<th>Andy Stirling</th>
<th>Lyla Mehta</th>
<th>Ian Bateman</th>
<th>Jake Reynolds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="James Wilsdon" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Fiona Marshall" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Andy Stirling" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Lyla Mehta" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Ian Bateman" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Jake Reynolds" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WELCOME TO THE NEXUS NETWORK

Funded by the ESRC, the Nexus Network brings together researchers, policy makers, business leaders and civil society to develop collaborative projects and improve decision making on food, energy, water and the environment.

themexusnetwork.org
Navigating the nexus of food, energy, water and the environment

The UK’s Economic and Social Research Council is launching a £1.8m network to join up research, policy and practice on environmental challenges.

The Nexus Network, a £1.8m initiative by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council, which is being launched today.

The UK government’s passion for fracking was again on display in last week’s Queen’s Speech, with proposed changes in the trespass law to allow shale gas firms to drill under people’s homes without permission. Ministers continue to insist that fracking can deliver improved energy security.

A nexus approach to global challenges

Resource challenges are highly interconnected. Can the idea of a food-energy-water ‘nexus’ become more than another buzzword, and help us to identify solutions?

Women struggle to get water from a well in famine-hit Daqio, Sindh province, Pakistan. March 2014. Photograph: Rehan Khan/EPA

The dramatic spike in resource use over the last two decades, particularly in the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, has exacerbated the threat of resource scarcity. And the world’s failure to curb emissions of greenhouse gases means that the impacts of climate change will be felt strongly across food, water and energy – leading to conflicts, competition, and loss.
Vision

Achieve a step-change improvement in the provision of strategic research around food-energy-water-environment interdependencies that can improve policymaker, business and user decision-making.

• Deliver meaningful engagement and collaboration across the natural and social sciences.
• Proactive engagement with the strategic needs of business – especially via Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.
• Articulate – with and for ESRC - the critical social science role in nexus debates; in linking emerging understanding of natural worlds with those of social worlds.
Activities: think pieces

First call for think pieces ended 4 July 2014

- Had over 100 applications
- Up to £5K each
- Will select around 10 for funding
- In 2015: calls for **pilot projects** (up to £50K); **placements** (up to £5K); ‘**blue-sky’ ideas** (up to £10K).
First annual conference

• ‘What works at the nexus? New connections in food, energy, water and environment’
• 27 November 2014 in London
• For academia, business and policy
• Professor Ian Boyd, Defra CSA confirmed to speak

More info: email info@thenexusnetwork.org
or JOIN up on the website

JOIN THE NEXUS NETWORK
First Workshop: Environmental value and valuation at the nexus

28th Nov 2014, Defra, London

Speakers:

• Ulrike Hotopp, Defra Chief Economist
• Gemma Harper, Defra Chief Social Scientist
• Peter Simpson, Anglian Water Executive Director
• Plus: Leading researchers

Invited participants
Second Workshop: Natural Bridge - exploring business-led action at the nexus
15 & 16 April 2015

• Exploring the business risks related to land use, food, water, energy and the environment through a mix of interactive sessions to inspire business led action underpinned by research.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>YEAR 2</th>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING THE NETWORK</td>
<td>recruitment and mapping</td>
<td>ongoing building and maintenance</td>
<td>developing self-sustaining status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEMATIC WORKSHOPS</td>
<td>values and valuation</td>
<td>ecological thresholds</td>
<td>resources and conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>urbanisation and nexus challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>green technologies and transformations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METHODS WORKSTREAM</td>
<td>scope</td>
<td>explore</td>
<td>articulate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRANTS AND PLACEMENTS</td>
<td>CALL: thinkpieces</td>
<td>CALL: ecologies, values, thresholds</td>
<td>CALL: cities, resources conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY LABS</td>
<td>flexible response to emerging hot topics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANALYSIS, ADVICE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFERENCES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic links

• We have started to identify research priorities linking environment, food, water, biodiversity, energy and climate with concerns regarding resilience, consumption, behaviour, sustainable prosperity, etc.

• Building on close links with a variety of Research Council initiatives, government departments and business partners
Contacts

Professor James Wilsdon, Nexus Network Director
j.wilsdon@sussex.ac.uk or 01273 876 581

Dr Ruth Welters, Communications and Impact Manager
r.welters@uea.ac.uk or 01603 591384

Join the Nexus Network
go to Join form on www.thenexusnetwork.org