

Hot (water) topics: the formation of an energy issue at home

Wiktorina Glad, Bodil Axelsson & Josefine Höijer, *Linköping University, SWEDEN*

The collaboration

A joint research and art project together with residents, Linköping University & Museum of Work, funded by the Norrköping fund for research.

The aim was to increase our understanding of hot water practices and how communication about these practices could be improved by collaborations between social science research and cultural work.



Formation processes

Focus group interviews, visual methods and storytelling prompted everyday experiences and opened otherwise closed doors. The methods provided a rich material for both art and research formation processes.

The analysis highlighted tensions between private and public spheres, and between the residents' social perspectives and the technical perspectives of the staff serving the tenants.



The public installation

The art formation process resulted in the public installation "Tjöta om vatten" (Talk about water), an audiowalk with residents' voices and three artefacts - a bathtub, a sink and a toilet - placed in the River Motala Ström.

The audiowalk was accessed via an app and included voices of the residents about their everyday dilemmas in saving tap water. The audiowalk placed the private spheres in for example bathrooms in a public arena, framed in a wider context of our common energy and water futures.

