The Social Construction of Energy in Organisational Management
Story 1: Irrational rationalisation
“The only disadvantage of a centralised type strategy is that everything’s down to Facilities Management and everyone has no interest in the running of the building.”

Facilities Manager
“it gives you [...] unbelievable amounts of data relating to each zone of the building, but the reality is, we just don’t need it. It’s a bit like giving you a Ferrari to do the posting.”

Facilities Manager
“If I took a snapshot of the building now, 99% of people would prefer to work in the old half [...] They have control over their environment”

Team Manager
Story 2: The Power Vacuum
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**Gas, 0053299, METER IN BOILER ROOM Plant room/boiler room**
“I think, personally, in order to read [SystemLink] properly you need to understand the operations of that site, do you know what I mean, because we've had it now, where [it’s] using electricity on a Sunday [...] there are reasons why this is happening”

B&M Surveyor
“[W]e put a plan in place to reduce energy, which was the time we dropped all the lighting to 60% and did tweak some of the times on the lighting [...] It very quickly came back at us; they just go to a director and director says [to us], “no, you do what I tell you; put it back on again”. At the end of the day, we’re here to do as we’re told, we’re not allowed to say no, basically.”

Facilities Manager
“Many of the cleaners at the sites, first thing they do when they come in at 6am is switching on all lights to show ‘I’m here, I’m doing work’”

B&M Team Member

“The ISO 50001 auditor comes to do the energy audit and give the certificate, but he didn’t look at any hard data, just the paperwork – he doesn’t want to cause a fuss, he wants to give a good score and keep the client happy, he wants to get paid”

Energy Team Member
Story 3: Heard, but not Seen
“This building, in particular, is right on the limit, power-wise... And you can’t seem to get it through to them that the chain is going to eventually snap if they keep adding weights on”

Site Electrician

“realistically it’s one of those problems we try not to think about”

Head of Technology
A Phenomenology of Human-Electricity Relations

1. Background relations
2. Embodiment relations
3. Hermeneutic relations
4. Alterity relations
Common Threads

• Social construction of energy

• Technological mediation of energy

• Technology as solution to organisation’s conceptual confusion?
Murray Goulden
Horizon Institute, University of Nottingham
murray.goulden@nottingham.ac.uk