

University of Cambridge
Decarbonisation Network
Workshop report



Workshop organised by The University of Cambridge Decarbonisation Network and
the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)
3rd May 2023, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge

A co-constructed poem

Exercise led by Serena Alagappan

Everything will get better when humans
acknowledge they are animals, part of nature as
well,

I am the rituals I share, the noticing I do, the
attention I give, I am never alone

Collective effort is our currency

To compete overboard, overflowing, the capacity
for empathy,

It makes my life more calculable in a world of
uncertainties,

I would like to see more intention to change,

The clock is ticking for Earth – will we reach net-
zero in time?

Learning to live on a Hothouse

Global players that don't play ball

Funders with money but fewer ideas than AI

What we need: radical imagination, suitable
design

About this report

This report summarises a workshop hosted by The University of Cambridge Decarbonisation Network and CRASSH which aimed to provide an opportunity for networking and to identify:

- The current research landscape i.e. how attendees research relates to decarbonisation and key topics for collaboration within and across departments.
- Ongoing and potential industry collaborations i.e. where are there gaps in industry input and how research could (or couldn't) benefit from industrial engagement.

The workshop is summarised by live illustrations presented in this report. The workshop breakout discussions are captured in more detail in the Appendix.

Panel Discussion



Live illustration of the panel introduction.

Artist: Thomas Mclean, Tom Draws

Panellists

Joanna Page (Panel Chair),
Director of CRASSH

Zoe Svendsen, Lecturer in
Drama and Performance in the
Faculty of English

Dina Khalifa, Prince of Wales
Global Sustainability Fellow at
CISL

Samuel Ruiz-Tagle, Research
By-Fellow at Hughes Hall, and
Senior Researcher in Law at
the Centre for Climate
Engagement

Reyhaneh Shojaei, Research
Associate at the Cambridge
Centre for Housing and
Planning Research, Land
Economy

Panel Discussion



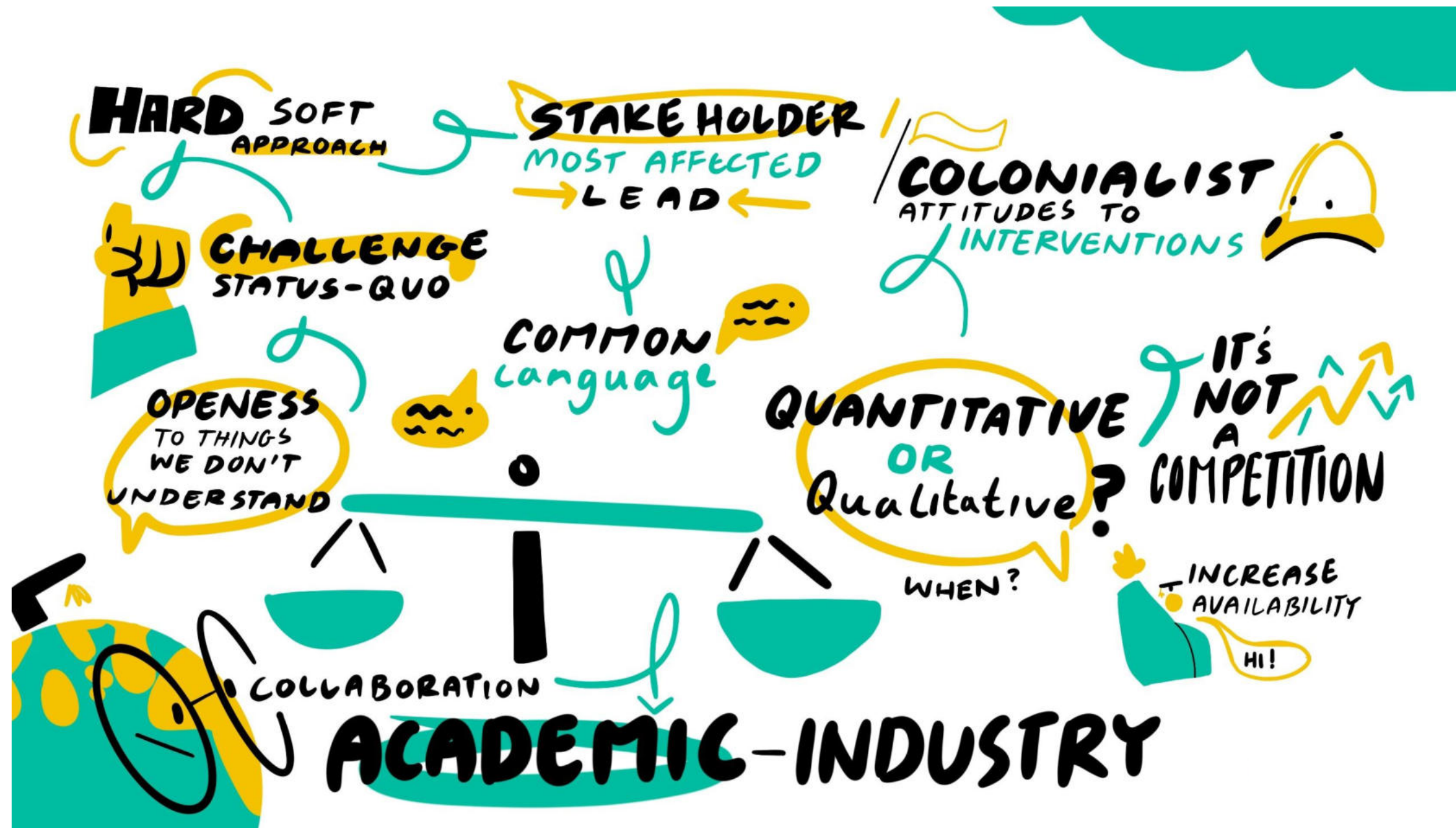
Live illustration of the panel introduction. Artist: Thomas Mclean, Tom Draws



Live illustration of break out group discussions. Artist: Thomas Mclean, Tom Draws

What makes academic-industry collaboration successful?

Group discussions



Live illustration of break out group discussions. Artist: Thomas Mclean, Tom Draws

Which industrial sectors would you like to work with?

Group discussions

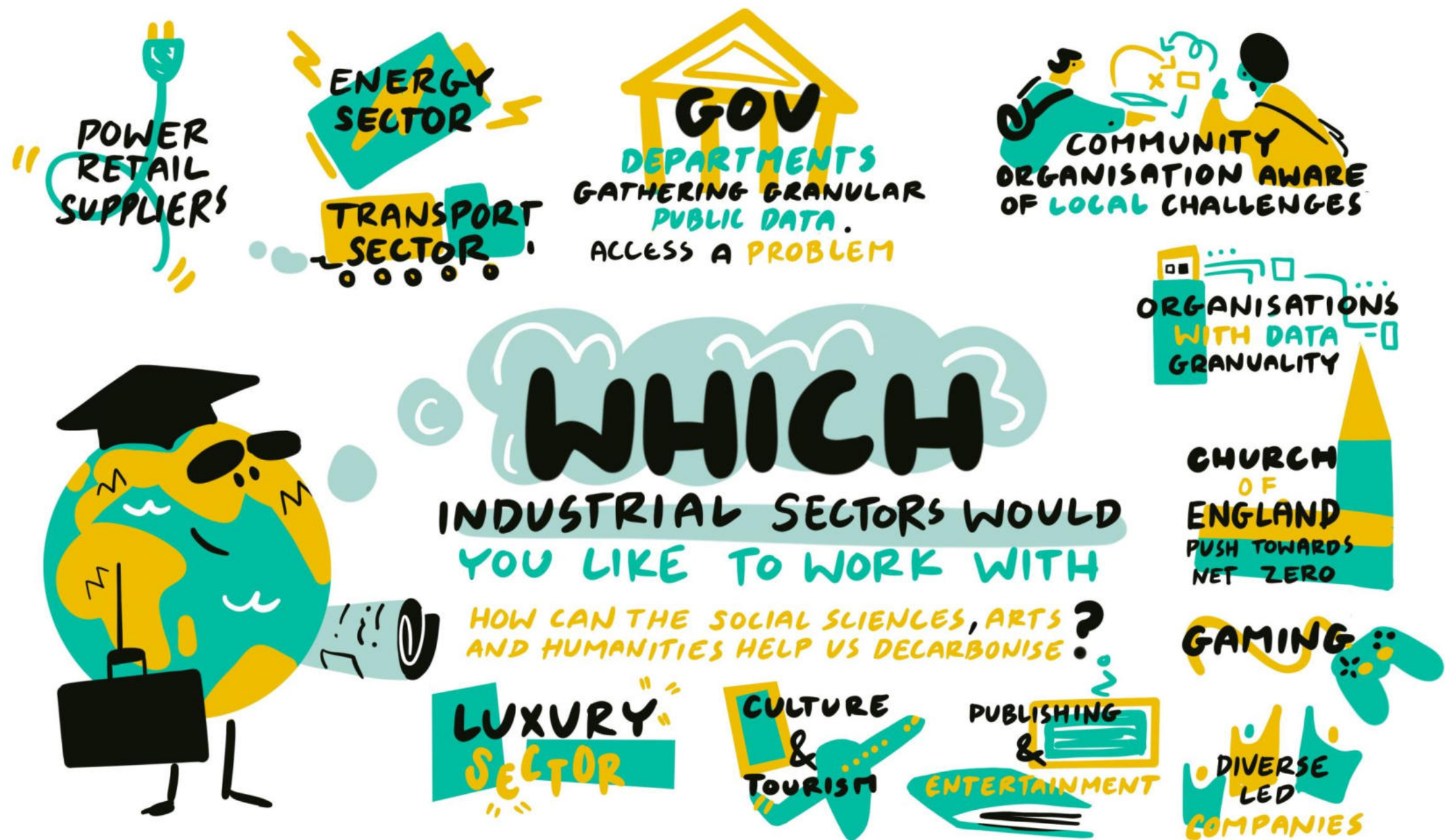
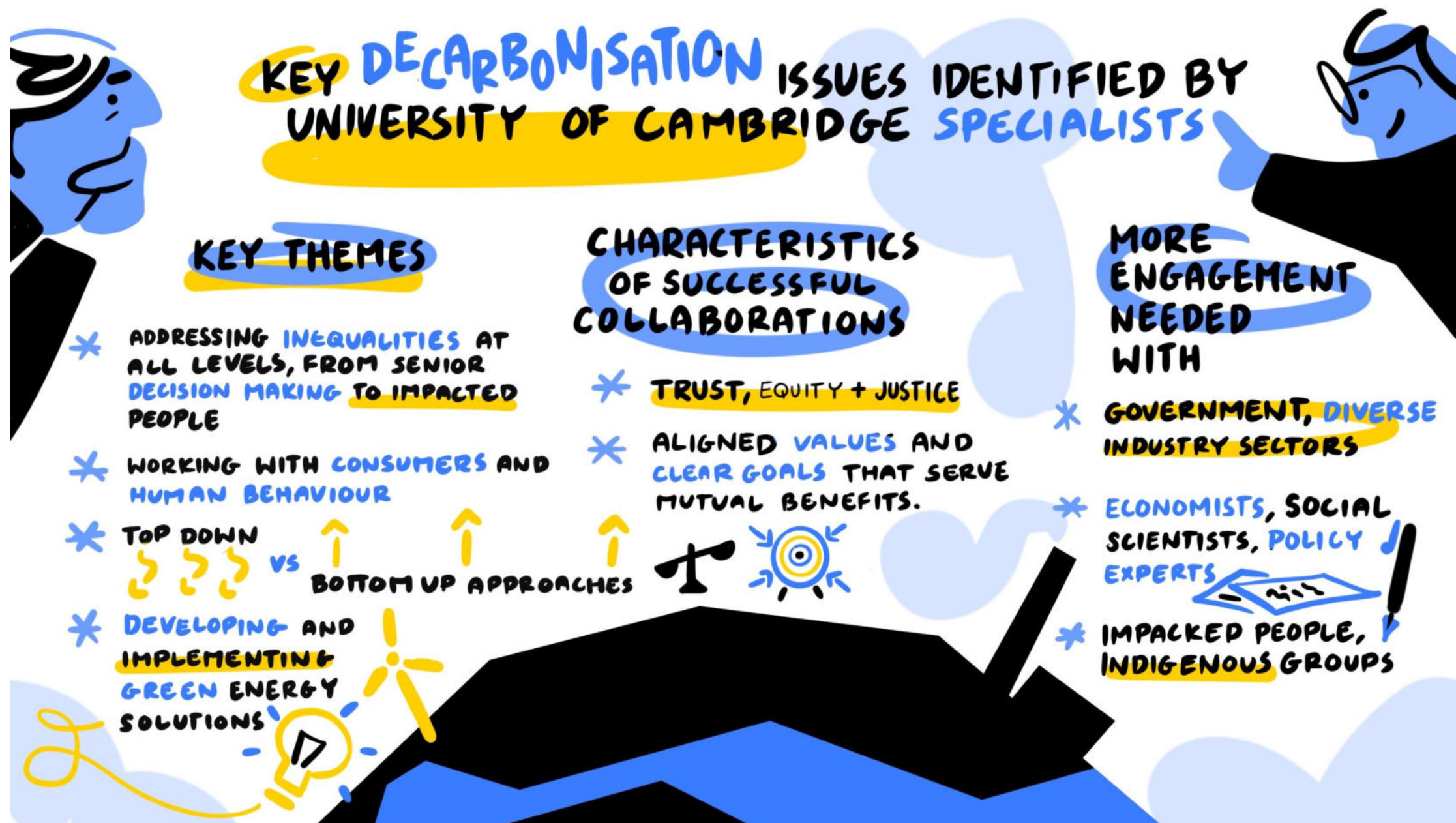


Illustration of break out group discussions. Artist: Thomas Mclean, Tom Draws

Key Decarbonisation Issues

The Decarbonisation Network also hosted an event 'The Physical Sciences and Technologies role in meeting Net-Zero'. The following illustration represents key issues identified across both workshops.



Artist: Thomas Mclean, Tom Draws

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our attendees and breakout group facilitators.

We would also like to thank:

Joanna Page, Director of CRASSH, and the CRASSH team for supporting and organising this event.

The panellists: Zoe Svendsen, Dina Khalifa, Samuel Ruiz-Tagle, Reyhaneh Shojaei.

The workshop facilitator: Bruce Rowling, Simply Change.

Serena Alagappan, University of Oxford, who ran the EcoPoetry exercise.

Thomas Mclean, Tom Draws, who illustrated the workshop live and whose illustrations appear in this report.

The events were funded by an internal award of funds, coming from the [University's Enhancing Research Culture allocation from Research England](#). Thank you to the committee for this opportunity.

Attendees

23 people attended the event. Those that agreed to be named are:

Ana-Luiza Nicolae, History and Philosophy of Science

Ariel de Fauconberg, Judge Business School

Charles Beard, Earth Sciences

Chunyan Dai, Cambridge in Judge Business University

Dina Khalifa, CISL

Eldrid Herrington, Centre for Climate Engagement

Hannah Baker, Strategic Partnerships Office

Joanna Page, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)

Juliana Melcop, Cambridge Judge Business School

Lilian Kroth, French

Lucy Sheerman, School of Arts and Humanities

Maoran Sun, Department of Architecture

Raheela Rehman, Energy IRC

Reyhaneh Shojaei, Land Economy

Saheed Bello, Energy Policy Research Group

Samuel Ruiz-Tagle, Hughes Hall, Cambridge

Sarah Carden, Environmental Sustainability Team, Estates Division

Serena Alagappan, Comparative Literature, Princeton University

Sergey Kolesnikov, Land Economy

Shafiq Ahmed, Energy IRC

Zoe Svendsen, Faculty of English

Appendix

In the workshop, four questions were posed to the participants in their breakout groups. The collective responses have been summarised in the main report. The following appendix provides a full list of the responses received, somewhat condensed to omit repetition.

The questions posed were:

- How does your research (or the research you want to do) relate to decarbonisation?
- What are the key issues/themes that connect you?
- Which industrial sectors would you like to work with?
- What are the key characteristics of a successful collaboration?

How does your research (or the research you want to do) relate to decarbonisation?

Appendix a

- Policy and governance
- Funding, facilitation and enabling transformation
- Innovation
- Understanding the system
- Purpose
- Preservation of environment and understanding the cost of environmental harm
- Conservation of heritage
- Exploring values and possible ways of living
- Sustainable religious practice
- Raising awareness, and the role of art in mobilising people
- Public concerns with risk assessment and models
- NIMBYism effects on projects
- Clean energy transition
- Power markets
- Materials demand of renewables
- Plastics
- Co-operation with renewable energy companies
- Hydrogen infrastructure
- Changing business models
- Driving purpose over profit
- Market openness and consumer awareness, attitudes and behaviour
- Decarbonising the built environment and campus

What are the key issues/themes that connect you?

Appendix b

- How social practices are shaped and sustained
- Public understanding of sustainability
- NIMBYism and detachment from resources
- Senior decision making
- Adopting top down and/or bottom up approaches
- Gender split between senior decision makers and consumer decisions
- Inequality between sustainable and finance voices
- Barriers created by widening inequalities
- Collective vs. individual agency and how to connect
- Market structures and regulators
- Need human-centric mind-sets to implement change
- Changing the way we work with consumers
- Involve consumer in production processes – towards a new vision of the ‘prosumer’
- Reconceptualise ‘freedom of choice’
- Incentives - lower costs
- Trust issues
- Using hydrogen to decarbonise
- Hard to decarbonise technologies
- Electrical Supply and demand – local people benefit
- Can we push the boundaries of passivhaus design?
- Addressing status quo in disciplines that do not emphasise the climate urgency
- Decarbonisation in English literary tradition
- Recommendations:
 - ‘Petro-masculinity’ by Cara Daggett
 - ‘The Three Dimensions of Freedom’ by Billy Bragg

Which industrial sectors would you like to work with?

Appendix c

- Luxury sector
- Culture & tourism
- Publishing & entertainment
- Diverse led companies
- Gaming
- C of E push towards net zero
- Organisations with data granularity
- Community organisations aware of local challenges
- Gov departments gathering granular public data (note: access to Gov is a problem)
- Energy sector
- Transport sector
- Power retail suppliers

What are the key characteristics of a successful collaboration?

Appendix d

- Trust
- Equity and justice
- Common language
- Centring marginalised perspectives
- Stakeholder and interest conflict management
- Address misplaced/misaligned values
- Have all values heard
- Tackling intimidation
- Think of unintended consequence from actions
- Innovation and challenging the status quo
- Preserving heritage
- Co-developing and communicating across disciplines
- Openness and curiosity
- Clarity of objectives
- Long term view to 2050
- Sustainability focussed goals & KPIs
- Diversify communication of projects
- Engage more students
- Look at other good models
- Its not a competition!
- Financial support
- Climate diplomacy
- Introduce better products or regulation
- Recommendations:
 - ‘Emergent Strategy’ Adrienne Maree Brown
 - ‘The Nutmeg’s Curse’ Amitav Ghosh
 - ‘The Great Derangement’ Amitav Ghosh