



INVITATION



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



The University of Guyana
in collaboration with
Arizona State University,
School for the Future of Innovation in Society
presents

A Ph.D. Prospectus Defense
under the UG-ASU Environmental Action
in Communities Advanced Academic Research Programme

NORWELL HINDS

will defend his dissertation prospectus

Imagining Power: The effect of prepaid meters
on household energy vulnerability and why it matters
for Guyana's electricity system

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022
08:00 HRS AZ TIME [11:00 HRS GUYANA TIME]

Click on the link to register in advance via Zoom:
<https://asu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuf-CorjgjGNz9ZtTQ5wKtT7p6aKPgUYDj>

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE:
Co-Chair, Professor Clark Miller, ASU
Co-Chair, Professor Nalini Chhetri, ASU
Member, Professor Craig Calhoun, ASU
Member, Professor Michael Schoon, ASU

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ABSTRACT

Household experience of energy vulnerability challenges dominant frames about how capabilities and freedoms are enabled with access to electricity. The prepaid meter represents an intervention at the household scale which has the potential to alter its experience of energy vulnerability. Exploring the associated sense of control over electricity consumption provides information which can be leveraged for redesigning a more democratic electricity system, and thereby re-situate the household as an important institution in energy transition. Household control over the quantity of electricity it consumes implies its knowledge of risks and hazards that might accompany choices about electricity use. This sets the stage for reimagining practices and habits at the household scale that can have lasting significance for the overall electricity system. The objectives of the dissertation research are to first determine the motivation for using prepaid meters and evaluate its effect on the household. The final objective is to compare what is learned about the household's experience of energy vulnerability to the implicit and explicit understanding in public policy and planning in the energy sector in Guyana. In achieving these objectives, the proposed research responds to a gap in how household energy vulnerability is constructed in public policy and socio-technical systems design.