

Prepaid-Meters and implications from STS

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This presentation builds on current research in progress and tries to grasp a certain socio-technical configuration in the context of energy poverty. Prepaid-Meters (PPM) are used by utilities since the late 19th century and are therefore not a new or innovative technology per se and with the EU-wide smart meter roll-out by 2020 on the horizon they will soon be embedded as a feature in this new technology. However PPM are a controversial technology regarding energy poverty in Austria; utilities significantly increased the implementation of PPM in their dunning processes and thereby lowered their numbers of disconnections. The research on the social implication of the PPM-technology is yet still very limited and in the case of Austria practically nonexistent. This presentation (as part of my PhD project) will give an overview on the development of and literature on PPM and discuss preliminary findings on PPM-users in the Austrian province of Styria.