

An illustration of two stylized human figures, one in a yellow shirt and one in a teal shirt, holding a large, coiled metal spring. The spring is positioned to the left of the main title text.

TIME OF USE TARIFFS AND FLEXIBILITY CAPITAL

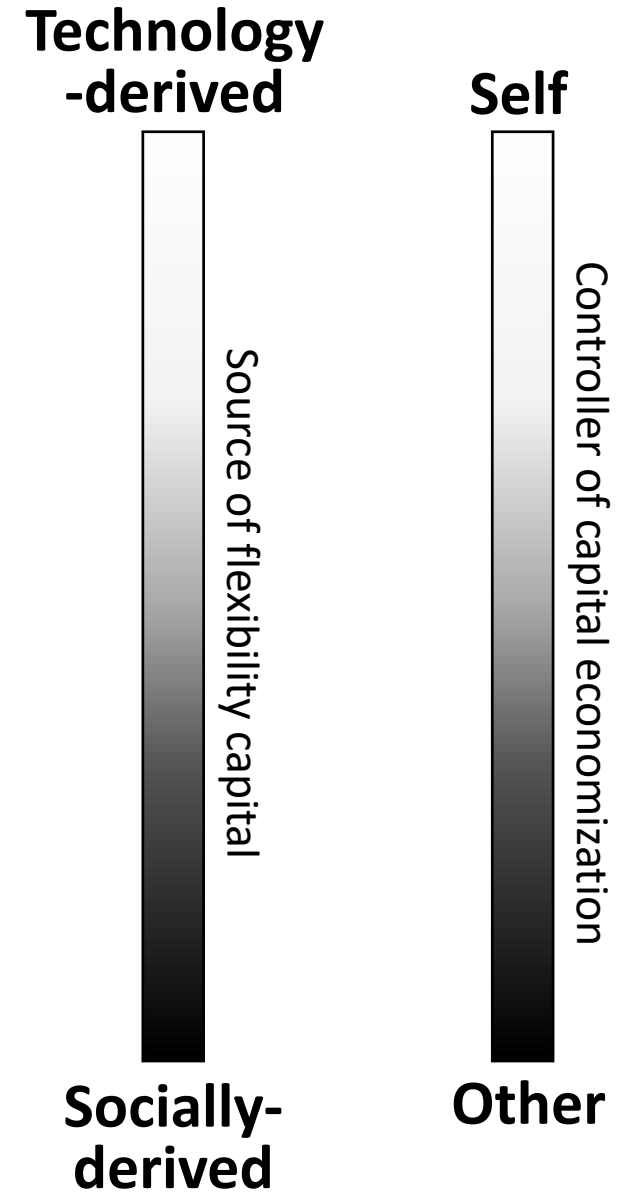
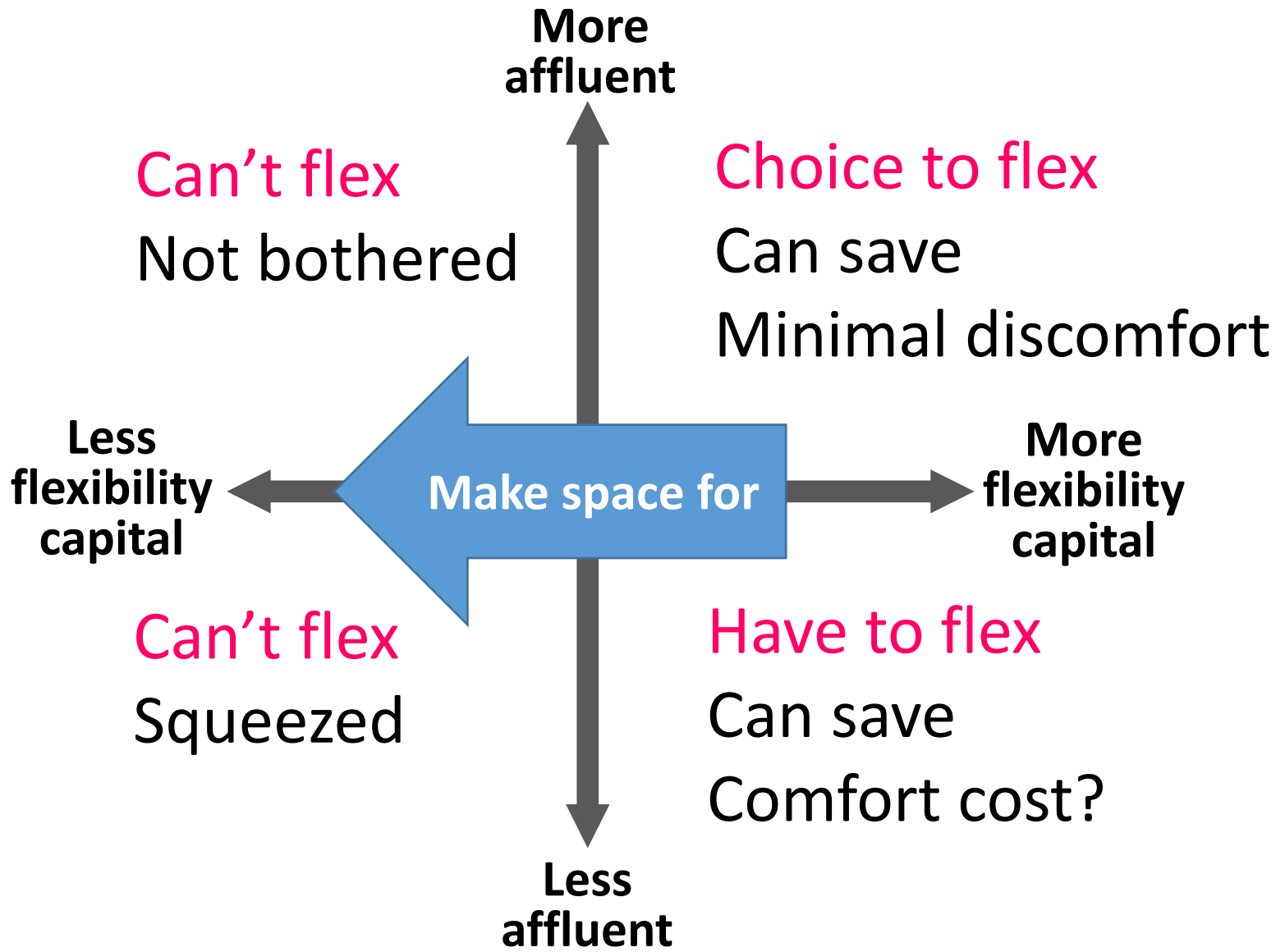
Michael Fell

University College London

Can time-of-use tariffs help unlock the flexibility potential of domestic electricity consumers? BIEE webinar, 22 Feb 2023

- Time of use (TOU) tariffs – indirect (price) signal to incentivise change in patterns of interaction with electricity system – flexibility
- Capacity to provide flex depends on a range of factors, many of which not easily changed:
 - technical (large electrical loads, storage, automation)
 - social (household composition, work schedules, cultural factors)
- We term this “flexibility capital” ...and it is unevenly distributed







- Key concerns if you are less affluent in TOU context:
 - Lacking flex capital hits you harder
 - Releasing it may cost you more in comfort
 - Releasing it may feel less voluntary
- Those with it 'make space' for those without
- While flexibility can benefit all, inequality may undermine social contract underpinning transition
- How to design/regulate services that build/unlock flex capital for a wider range of households while maintaining acceptable quality of energy service?

Based on the paper
Flexibility Capital and Flexibility
Justice in Smart Energy Systems
by Gareth Powells and Michael
Fell in *Energy Research and Social*
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michael.fell@ucl.ac.uk
@mikefsway

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