

THE NEXUS NETWORK

new connections in food, energy, water and the environment
An ESRC investment

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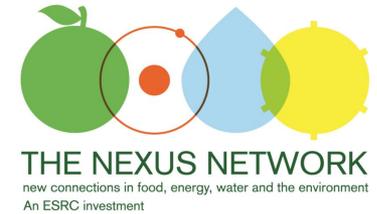


Overview



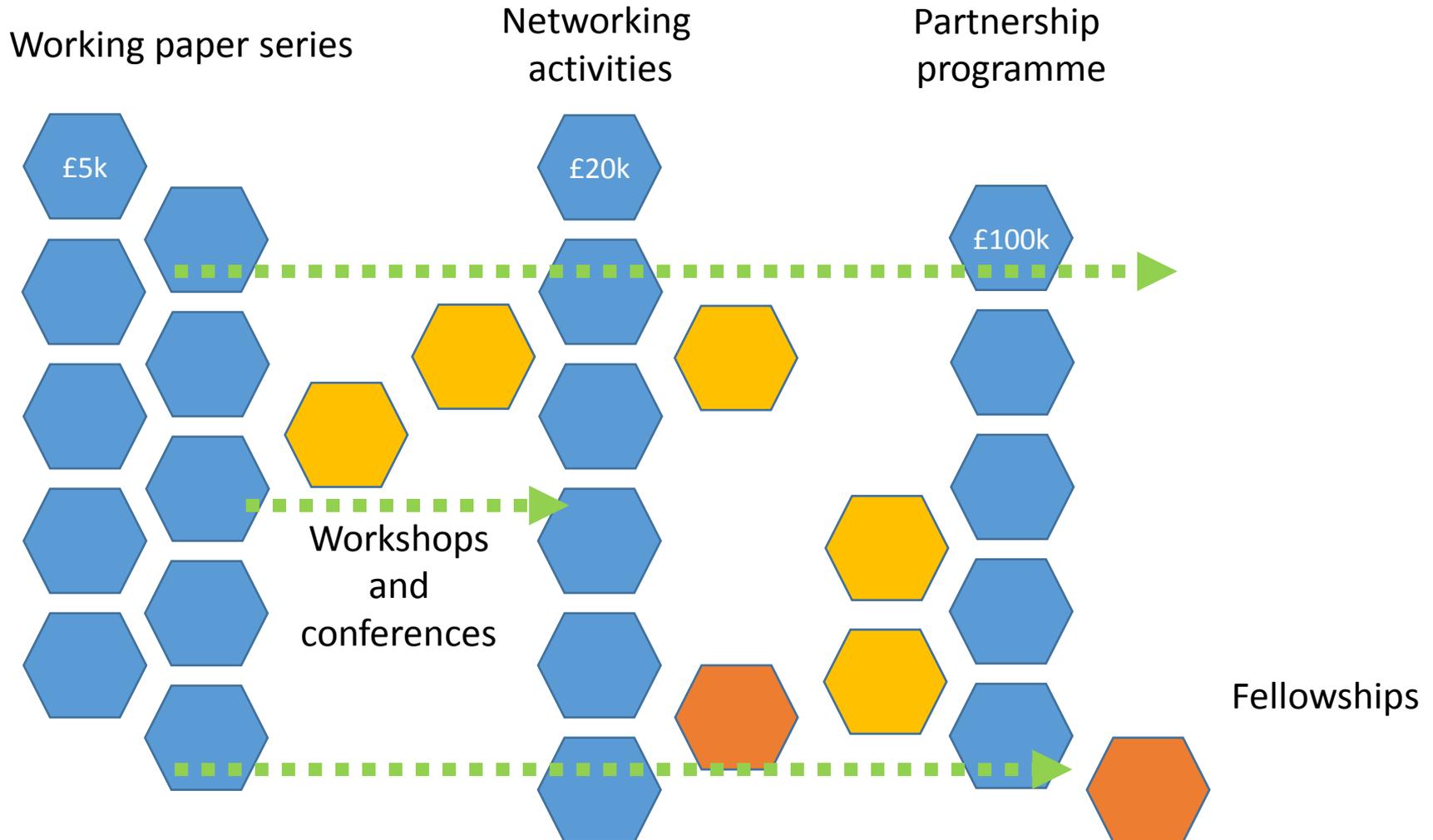
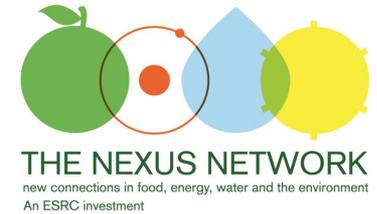
- Context: research and funding landscape
- What we're doing
- Emergent ideas and debates

Developments in the research landscape (a UK perspective)

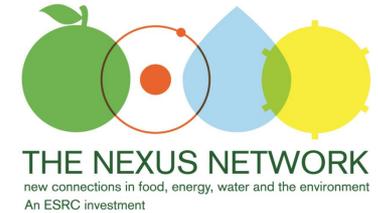


- 18 months in stasis
 - Newton, Nurse Review, CSR, Stern Review, 2015 Green paper (and TEF), 19th May 2016 HE White Paper on HE
- Increasing focus on interdisciplinary work
 - ‘Packaged’ research centres (this is not neutral)
 - Researcher risk-reward nexus needs work
- Increasing focus on ‘global challenges’
 - £1.5bn GCRF
 - Internationally comparative: beyond global south / global north → circulation (e.g. urban studies)

Funding and research activities

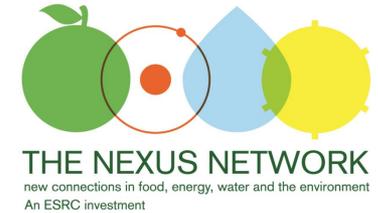


Notable research ideas and debates (I)



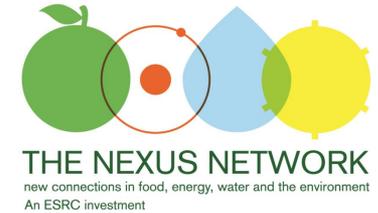
- Nexus-thinking as a fad / imaginary
 - Before and after the goldrush Cairns and Krzywoszynska (2016)
- There is no one way to view *the* nexus.
 - Diverse framings of the nexus mean different things to different people and different trade-offs for different actors. Leach et al. (2010)
 - **Plural nexuses** – increasing the number of interconnections we are looking at

Notable research ideas and debates (II)



- **Social science** is important to make visible those “hidden cogs of nexuses” that otherwise get overlooked Suzanne Fisher-Murray (2016)
 - Land, labour, the role of the state
 - New junctures in resource politics, namely the emergence of new corporate and military actors
 - => Can nexus-thinking be used to achieve social justice in resource management?
- Nexus thinking might offer an arena in struggle between commons and capitalism Mehta and O’Donovan (2016)

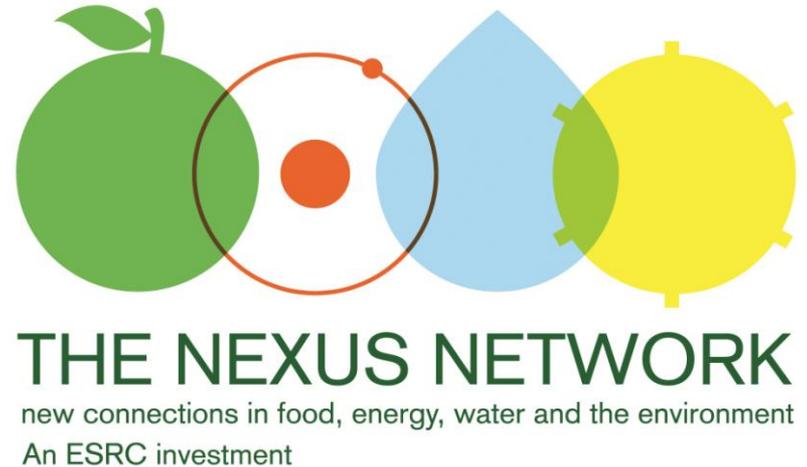
Notable research ideas and debates (III)



- Processes of **democracy** as an analytic flag pole
- Nexuses as sites at which to construct democratic encounters
 - E.g. hold powerful players to account
- If this is to occur, nexus thinking then must become truly transdisciplinary Stirling 2015
 - A process of **equal exchange** between disciplines
 - Scientists, citizens etc. take part in **knowledge-creating** and **decision-making**

Summary

- Two years into a three year programme. Allocated funding across >20 initiatives
- Community of >1,000
- The Nexus as a funding phenomena
- Democracy as a focal story
- **Invitation:** come to our annual conference! – March 2017



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