

Title: Acceptability of low carbon transitioning: Conflict, resistance and (in)security

Abstract:

In the contemporary UK context energy system transitions are being driven by three main policy concerns – an increasing reliance on fuel imports coupled with rising competing international demand for energy, decarbonisation as a response to climate change, and issues of affordability. These concerns create imperatives for substantial changes in how energy is supplied and used, as well as for a reconfiguration of the relationship between supply and demand. Such fundamental changes in energy systems, which are intended to lead to a more secure energy system in terms of national policy goals, also have the potential to exacerbate “the insecurities felt by others in other places” and at other spatial scales (Philo, 2012, p. 1). This may manifest through, for example, local public contestation to siting of energy infrastructures or through resistance to changes in energy practices within the home and other spaces of transition (e.g. travel).

The emergence of contestation and resistance toward new energy facilities, infrastructures and processes of demand management and reduction, is likely to play a crucial role in deciding which pathways of energy system transformation are (not) taken. With tensions manifesting between national energy security and local access to energy services, as well as through competing environmental and social justice concerns (e.g. relating to siting), are policy desires for a diverse secure energy system leaving us vulnerable to a plethora of uncertainties and insecurities within the context of public acceptability? Is the local or ‘individual’ in danger of being subsumed by national scale concerns? What lessons can be learned from the local about how to improve security and catalyse change at a broader level? How do wider publics envision secure energy systems?

We invite papers which can speak to any of these broad notions and/or dimensions of (in)security in the context of energy system transformation.

Session organisers:

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Research Group Affiliation(s):

Energy Geographies Working Group (see <http://www.energygeographiesworkinggroup.wordpress.com/>).

Session information:

Please send Dr Karen Parkhill (parkhillk@cardiff.ac.uk) by Friday 20th January:

- Abstract (200 words max)
- Author(s) name(s) and affiliations
- Details of any special equipment requirements

Deadline: 20/01/12