

Energy Expertise

// Society and Energy

Main expertise areas

- **Geopolitics, governance and policy:** investigating the process through which energy governance is being conducted at a variety of scales, with a particular interest in issues of energy security
- **Energy systems in transition:** examining the ways in which 'low carbon' transitions are taking place across energy systems.
- **Low carbon and resilient communities:** examining the role of communities in sustainable energy futures.
- **Energy use and practices:** investigating the factors that shape energy use and practice, and the ways in which these may evolve in the context of the low carbon transition.
- **Energy for Development:** working with communities globally to understand how we can ensure that new energy systems are optimised and fit-for-purpose, and designed to meet the real needs of communities now and into the future, including off-grid and renewable transitions in energy livelihoods.
- **Visual culture and energy:** exploring the cultural landscape of energy and energy resources through cultural imaginary, visual art, and cultural memory, exploring how this shapes the future possibilities of managing energy transitions.



Background

The Society and Energy Research Cluster at DEI is fundamentally interdisciplinary, drawing on the expertise of a wide range of social and physical science disciplines across the University. The ambition of the cluster is to develop new theoretical approaches to current energy research challenges based on the conception of energy systems as socio-technical; that is, on the understanding that energy systems are co-produced through relations between constituent social and technical elements. The Society and Energy cluster aims to develop our understanding of the energy challenges facing society, and, in particular, their implications for policies, practices and interventions that address vulnerability, security, equity and sustainability.



The group has strong links to industry, government and community organisations at local, international and transnational levels.

Recent projects

- **The Rising Powers, Clean Development and the Low Carbon Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa:** Examining how, why and to what extent China, Brazil and India are enabling the transition to low carbon energy systems in South Africa and Mozambique.
- **Understanding Energy Vulnerability and Responses in the London Borough of Haringey**
- **International Network on Urban Low Carbon Transitions:** comparing and researching the broader dynamics and implications of low carbon urbanism. It is formed by leading scholars working on the city and climate change interface in the United Kingdom, Australia, China, India, South Africa and the US.
- **Scenarios of future energy vulnerability and resilience under climate change** (InCluESEV).
- **Energy, Power and Protest on the Urban Grid**
- **Building on the past:** negotiating historic value and low carbon futures through heritage buildings
- **Community relationships and engagement in energy projects**
- **Customer Led Network Revolution (CLNR)** trialling innovative new smart grid technology and exploring energy practices and flexibility of energy use of Domestic Customers and SMEs.
- **Framing “Fracking”:** Public concerns surrounding hydraulic fracturing and unconventional fossil fuels in the UK
- **Community attitudes towards wind power and macroalgae biogas**

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Research team

Dr Simone Abram (Anthropology) -Energy and Society, Energy Tourism, Landscape and planning, Practices of Public Participation

Prof Sandra Bell (Anthropology) -Society and Energy; environmental anthropology

Prof Gavin Bridge (Geography) - Geographies of energy transition, politics of resource control and use.

Prof Marcus Power (Geography) - Geo-politics and 'post-colonial' geographies in Lusophone African post-colonial states & The Rising Powers, Clean Energy and the Low Carbon Transition in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Ben Campbell (Anthropology)- Low carbon energy transitions, Biomass to Biogas transition among indigenous communities of Nepal; New Directions in UK Sustainable Food Cultures; Social Science of Energy, Environment and Food.

Dr. Andrés Luque-Ayala (Geography): cities and the local governance of energy; social science perspectives on the 'digitalization' of energy flows; a socio-technical examination of the crossover between smart cities and smart grids.

Prof Lena Dominelli (School of Applied Social Science): Community energy action, Energy poverty, social inequalities and injustices, climate change and environmental social work.