

Generating actionable knowledge to achieve clean energy for all

Global agenda for SDG7 action

Bringing actionable knowledge to the UN

Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET) proudly participates in the University of Bergen's (UiB) delegation to the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 in New York, organised by the university's SDG Bergen initiative.

CET is based at the Faculty of Social Sciences at UiB. Our main focus is to develop and promote interdisciplinary research on strategies for climate and energy transformation in society. CET presents its contributions to the SDG7 review at HLPF 2018.

CET co-developed SDG7 Policy Brief #8: Interlinkages among energy, poverty and inequalities

Addressing interlinkages among energy, poverty and inequalities is an important component to achieve SDG 7. Our research examines governance aspects of energy transitions across scales. From global fossil fuel subsidies to local renewable energy projects, we support socio-technical and institutional change for equitable, just energy futures. Our work covers regulatory, bureaucratic and knowledge barriers, as well as socio-economic and accountability relations.

CET contributed to SDG7 Policy Brief #24: Energy sector transformation: Decentralized renewable energy for universal energy access

Identifying ways to enable accelerated renewable energy uptake with distributed generation sources, efficient grid coordination and decentralised control is essential for universal full energy access and greater public benefits. As cities, regions and nations undertake deep and rapid system transformations, they must democratise the energy sector to be responsive to a wide range of stakeholders. Our research engages with disruptive change to leverage its potential. We assess planning processes and co-design more inclusive ones to chart multi-sectoral pathways towards low-carbon development.

CET hosts the SpaceLab research collective and the Norwegian Management Committee for the COST Action on European Energy Poverty, and represents social science research on energy at the University of Bergen.

Energy Research & Social Science 42 (2018) 193-197



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Energy Research & Social Science





Perspectives

Transformative social science? Modes of engagement in climate and energy solutions



Håvard Haarstad, Siddharth Sareen*, Tarje I. Wanvik, Jakob Grandin, Kristin Kjærås, Stina E. Oseland, Hanna Kvamsås, Karin Lillevold, Marikken Wathne

Spaces of Climate and Energy Laboratory (SpaceLab), Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET) and Department of Geography, University of Bergen, Norway

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Social sciences Climate and energy solutions Sustainability transformations

ABSTRACT

The social sciences are increasingly called upon to engage with how decision-makers and stakeholders tackle climate and energy challenges. However, creating or taking part in these new arenas is not unproblematic, and arguably, social scientists have not properly reflected on what types of engagement are most useful. In this Perspective we argue that such engagement is most productive if we can find or create activities where our core competences, epistemological toolbox and critical sensibilities can be put to use. Therefore, we propose three modes through which social science can productively engage with climate and energy challenges in society: (1) producing and situating actionable knowledge, (2) critically reframing discourses, and (3) connecting actors and processes. Combined, these open up a space for social scientists to both critically assess and simultaneously participate in sustainability transformations.

Some of our key recent publications on governing energy transformation:

- 2018 'Solar 'power': Socio-political dynamics of infrastructural development in two Western Indian states' Sareen S, Kale SS, Energy Research & Social Science 41: 270-278
- 2018 'Bridging socio-technical and justice aspects of sustainable energy transitions' Sareen S, Haarstad H, Applied Energy
- 2018 'The politics of rapid urban transformation' Grandin J et al., Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability 31, 16-22
- 2018 'Limited emission reductions from fuel subsidy removal except in energy-exporting regions' Jewell J et al., Nature 554 (7691), 229-233
- 2017 'Carbonscapes and beyond: Conceptualizing the instability of oil landscapes' Haarstad H, Wanvik TI, Progress in Human Geography 41 (4)
- 2018 'Transformative social science? Modes of engagement in climate and energy solutions' Haarstad H et al., Energy Research & Social Science 42
- 2018 'Bridging concepts: Applying energy transition geographies to the empirics of solar uptake' Sareen S, Bouzarovski S, Sustainability Science











@ Havard.Haarstad@uib.no

