

Include Symposium 2022- PhD Session

Where: The Calman Learning Centre, Durham University, 4th floor: Kingsley Barrett (and Derman Christopherson)

When: Thursday 15th September 13:30 - 17:00 hrs

The Include research conference in Durham 14th-15th September is entitled [*Climate Emergency! Energy Crisis! A symposium on responsibility, inclusion and place-based action*](#). In connection with this, on the second day of the conference, we are organising an exclusive workshop for selected PhD students within Include, as well as for external students working with related themes. The goal is to share and discuss theoretical, methodological and empirical aspects related to the study of socially inclusive and just transitions, so as to inspire each student in their work. Based on the outcome of the workshop and students' own motivation, we are also proposing that the group considers the production of a perspective article.

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Three guiding themes/questions for the workshop

1. How to define and measure justice in a time of crisis? How does research on different sectors employ the notion, and what are the challenges when applying justice in empirical work?
2. What wider issues (e.g., structural inequalities) may be lost out of sight as we study justice aspects related to specific policies and interventions? (How do we systematically consider knock-on justice risks and benefits between projects)
3. How do we understand the potential merit of increased 'inclusion' in light of questions 1 and 2?

Sketch of the programme outline

- Joint session: Each PhD student provides a max 5-minute presentation (max 3 slides) of how they relate to justice and/or inclusion in their work (1 hr 30 minutes)
(Break in between somewhere with coffee, tea, snack)
- Group work: Participants will be divided into two groups to be led by Kirsten and Tanja, to work with the guiding questions (45 min)
- Break (15 min)
- Joint session led by Jenkins: Summary of group work and discussion of potential for perspective article (45 min)

Participants

Eivind Hjort Matthiasen



Affiliation: Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) and Department of Sociology and Human Geography (ISS) at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Sociology

PhD project: *Understanding consumer's capacity to transition to sustainable energy practices: A level playing field or a pipe dream?*

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Eivind is a PhD student at Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway. In his research, Eivind explores everyday use of energy in households, using among other things social practice theory. Through his PhD project he wants to better understand people's capacity to respond to changes that are happening when moving towards a zero-carbon society and whether the introduction of new policies and technologies risk creating new or strengthening existing inequalities. Eivind's research raises questions of recognition (are there groups that need recognition when policymakers draft policies) and distributional justice (who benefits most/least from these implementations).

Ingrid Christensen



Affiliation: CICERO Center for International Climate Research and Department of Political Science (ISV) at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Political Science and risk analysis

PhD project: *Collaborative governance in the transition to a circular economy: a study of circular initiatives in Norwegian municipalities*

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Ingrid is a PhD student at CICERO Center for International Climate Research in Norway. Her research and PhD is on collaborative governance and how municipalities can collaborate with businesses on circular economy initiatives. Her research studies the causal relationships between components in collaborative governance and different outcomes. Collaborations are assessed through the concept of public value, i.e. a combination of procedural legitimacy, democratic accountability and substantive outcomes, which relates to different aspects of justice, such as which actors are included/excluded in the process, transparency and distribution and cost of results.

Johannes Volden



Affiliation: Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Human geography and multidisciplinary sustainable consumption studies

PhD project: *Meating the Anthropocene: Barriers and opportunities for alternative proteins in Norway*

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Johannes is a PhD student at the Centre for Development and Environment (SUM) at University of Oslo. In his research, Johannes looks into the role of emerging alternative proteins in facilitating sustainable and equitable food consumption. Emerging alternative proteins include replacement products for animal protein such as plant-based meat, edible insects and cell-cultured meat and while surveys indicate that consumers are more willing to try new alternatives to meat than before, there is little known of how eating habits change in practice and what role these alternative proteins play in consumer's diets.

Food practices and a food system transition can be investigated with a focus on justice and inclusion aspects. In his research, Johannes raise questions of e.g. access to alternative proteins, but also how food practices and food narratives may include/exclude different people.

Marieke van der Star



Affiliation: Department of Sociology and Human Geography (ISS) at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Human geography and urban studies

PhD project: *The socio-spatial consequences of densification policies in the greater Oslo region*

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Marieke is a PhD student at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography (ISS) at the University of Oslo. Her research project focuses on the socio-spatial consequences of densification policies in terms of housing, mobility and transport accessibility. In response to the current climate goals, urban areas focus on compact city strategies to reduce CO₂ emissions and car dependency. Although densification policies seem an adequate way of reducing energy consumption, it is important to shed light on the potential social-spatial consequences for residents living in the city. As densification policies may lead to rising housing prices, in particular around public transport hubs it may therefore benefit a well-off minority that experiences locational advantages (spatial capital). Working with the complex relationship and trade-offs between sustainable urban development on the one hand and housing- and mobility justice on the other hand leads to challenges of defining measures/indicators when analysing socio-spatial consequences.

Neha Singh Gabrielsen



Affiliation: Department of Education (IPED) at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Pedagogics and teaching

PhD project: *Civic education and sustainability in a Norwegian municipality*

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Neha is a PhD student at the Department of Education (IPED) at the University of Oslo. In her research, she will investigate the teaching and learning practices in lower secondary schools regarding democracy and citizenship as well as sustainable development. With her project, Neha aims to contribute methods and frameworks to help teachers design locally grounded civic education in, as well as understand how digital technologies might be implemented. Greater understanding of how young people's civic engagement can be promoted is crucial for enabling them to participate in their local community, and consequently something the project aims for. The multiple ways to teach democratic citizenship in the classroom and digital technologies can help teachers promote new ideas and inspire students to participate and challenge the different opinions that may emerge, potentially increase awareness among students as to how to promote more inclusive and just societies.

Oskar Vågerö



Affiliation: Department of Technology Systems (ITS) at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Energy Engineering

PhD project: *Designing Socially Inclusive Low-Carbon Energy Systems - Social Acceptance and Energy Justice Aspects in Energy Systems Modelling*

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Oskar is a PhD student at the Department of Technology Systems (ITS) at the University of Oslo. His research involves energy system optimisation models (ESOMs) for the design of future low carbon energy systems. Recently, the use of ESOMs have started to go beyond techno-economic analyses of future energy systems, to also include a wider variety of social aspects, such as social acceptance and social justice. However, assessing social and justice aspects quantitatively in a mathematical model is challenging and not without trade-offs and pitfalls that need to be discussed. Oskar's research investigates these challenges and attempts to bring social science and engineering closer together.

Sigrid Jerpstad



Affiliation: Department of Sociology and Human Geography (ISS) at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Sociology and Human geography

PhD project: *Providing inclusive public spaces in newly developed urban areas*

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Sigrid is a PhD student at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography (ISS) at the University of Oslo. Through her PhD project, Sigrid investigates public spaces in urban neighbourhoods and the decisions and knowledge involved in developing and maintaining these spaces in newly developed urban areas. She explores; a) causes of friction and conflict in such public spaces in association to ownership structures and degrees of privatisation, b) social practices and experiences and understandings of how they are enabled, constrained or restricted as well as c) dilemmas for providing inclusive public spaces and designing for a variety of social practices. Findings and knowledge is discussed in the context of justice and inclusion.

Iris Leikanger



Affiliation: Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) and the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo

Background/discipline: Social anthropology

PhD project: *Co-producing local sustainability? Norwegian municipalities suspended in webs of climate collaboration*

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Iris is a PhD student at the University of Oslo in Norway. Her project focuses on collaborative relationships between Norwegian municipalities and actors from other sectors in climate mitigation projects. She wants to understand how this cross-sector collaboration is carried out in practice, how responsibilities are divided between collaborators, and how this affects which issues are focused on in municipal climate mitigation. Her project stands against the background of the 'participatory turn' in policy focusing on concepts like co-production, and a desire to understand how increasing demands for cross-sector collaboration are met and how they affect climate transitions.

Burag Gurden



Affiliation: Department of Geography at Durham University

Background/discipline: International Development and Management

PhD project: *Governing the Energy-Water Nexus: Sustainable resource governance for development in Turkey*

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Burag is a PhD student at the Department of Geography at Durham University. His research concerns sustainable resource governance for development and the energy-water nexus, particularly in relation to geothermal energy projects (GEPs). Marked by authoritarian and nationalistic energy and resource policies over the past decade, private sector's fast-tracked GEPs in western Anatolia apply exclusionary environmental governance models and often trigger socio-environmental conflicts. These GEPs are almost always located in the proximity of rural and agrarian communities with a longstanding tradition of agriculture. Alternative expert and public opinions on energy sovereignty, rural development, land-use etc., are often side-lined despite the well-established procedures of participation. Burag's research helps understand the reasoning and arguments underlying GEPs by locating experiences, narratives and discourses of geothermal energy development in Turkey's trajectory of neoliberal development vis-à-vis growing public dissent. The theme of justice, in this context, is a placeholder in the negotiations over the implications of GEPs for their localities and the wider society and economy.

Carlos Tornell



Affiliation: Department of Geography at Durham University

Background/discipline: Latin-American decoloniality, political ecology-ontology, spatiality and materiality of energy transitions and environmental/energy justice.

PhD project: *Decolonizing energy Justice: a landscape perspective from the Global South.*

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Carlos is a PhD student at the Department of Geography at Durham University. His research focuses on decolonizing energy justice and the multiple ways in which the energy transition in Mexico is reproducing colonial differences, hierarchies and epistemological forms of violence. Carlos draws on two case studies from Yucatán, Mexico to assess how material and cognitive injustices are reproduced through the deployment of the renewable energy projects and the epistemology of development that is embedded in notions of energy justice. Furthermore, he problematizes the universality of energy justice and show that even when recognition, participation and distribution are included into the design and deployment of these projects, a lack of engagement with the colonial past and the previous attempts to develop or modernize landscapes can end up reproducing new injustices. By presenting landscapes as “empty” or as “wasted spaces”, or by obscuring or seeking to eliminate the Other (its knowledge and way of being).

Costanza Concetti



Affiliation: Durham Energy Institute and the Department of Geography at Durham University

Background/discipline: Science & Technology Studies (STS) and Human Geography

PhD project: *Scaling Down Power: Contested Geographies of Electricity Prosumption*

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Costanza is a PhD student at the Department of Geography at Durham University. In her research, she explores how the proliferation of decentralised electricity generation and distribution in Italy and recent attached legislation is producing specific energy transition pathways, challenging state-region relationships, and co-producing imaginaries of energy sovereignty. The project moreover builds on energy transitions literature highlighting the material politics of energy infrastructure and questions whether instances of collectively organized electricity presumption - consumers producing their own electricity - may be discontinuing some of the socio-material structures onto which the Italian nation state was built and its centralisation of power was consolidated.