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Energy and Justice in the EU and in Asia

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Gordon Walker

Professor Gordon Walker is Co-Director of the DEMAND Centre (Dynamics of Energy, Mobility and Demand) at Lancaster University with expertise on the social and spatial dimensions of sustainable energy technologies, sustainability transitions, sustainable social practices and cross cutting issues and theories of energy and environmental justice. He has led a series of multi-partner projects funded by UK research councils and government departments focused on the dynamics of energy demand, community energy, fuel and energy poverty, zero carbon housing, energy use in care settings, fuel poverty, renewable energy and public engagement and flooding and resilience. His books include ‘Environmental Justice: concepts, evidence and politics’ (Routledge, 2012).

Abstract

The ‘right to energy’: an analysis of meanings and implications

Rights-based talk has increasingly incorporated energy into a set of ‘second generation’ rights that seek to demand the politically significant socio-economic or welfare demands of contemporary (global) citizenship. The ‘right to energy’, as articulated in both international and regional forms, seeks to assert that energy matters to the degree that it is more than just another commodity, and that the state and other actors involved in energy provisioning therefore have obligations that go beyond normal (uneven) market relations. That it is a specific matter of justice. In this discussion I will consider what it means to conceive of a right to energy, and how, in so doing, it is necessary to consider carefully what energy is *for*. Setting the right to energy alongside the more established provenance of the right to water, highlights that energy is not one thing (a constructed rather than a natural category); that its value and demand is derived – for multiple services – rather than more immediately vital or direct; and that (socio)natural flows are implicated in the situated geography of how (produced) energy matters to well-being. These characteristics complicate the practical formulation of a right to energy per se, and suggest (maybe) that more specific terms are more appropriate – the right to electricity, the right to warmth, for example. They also flow into distinctions between a right to access (which gives attention to supply infrastructure and the possibility of demand) and a right to use (which gives attention to the terms of supply, affordability, and the necessity of demand); as well as to the degree to which the right to energy can or should take a universal form, applicable globally and socially to all.

Jean François Di Miglio

Currently President of the French think-tank Asia Centre, established in 2005 and devoted to publishing and researching on Asia as a whole with a sectorial and foreign policy, strategy spin, Jean-François DI MEGLIO is an alumnus of Ecole normale supérieure and of Beijing University. Before taking over Asia Centre's responsibility, Jean-François had spent over 25 years in an international banking institution, mostly in Asia. He writes, comments and speaks often about energy and environment issues in Asia. Recent book (co-edited) : China and the global financial crisis : a comparison with Europe (Routledge, 2012). To be released : "Framing China's energy security" Routledge, 2015.

Abstract

Do authoritarian states have an equity obligation responsibility

From the "free for all SOE's entities" situation which used to prevail in 2005 when China started its expansion towards new sources of various energy to the current, very diverse landscape of energy security, ownership, distribution and organization, a lot has changed in China.

The recent anti-corruption moves has let many power struggles emerge and appear while they used to be concealed. Furthermore, while new energies have developed their influence (e.g. natural gas) without totally shaking the existing monopolies, a real approach based on growing attention paid to end-users, as well as studies on the environmental impact of a "top-down" approach to the pricing of energy have helped change the structure of energy access in China.

We shall aim at identifying trends and conflicting forces shaping the various proposals and plans for the future in this field.

Stefan Bouzarovski

Stefan Bouzarovski is Professor of Geography and Director of the Centre for Urban Resilience and Energy (CURE) at the University of Manchester. His research is situated at the nexus of energy and urban policy, with a particular focus on energy poverty in Europe. His work been funded by a wide range of governmental bodies, charities and private sector organizations (in approximately 50 different projects or consultancy engagements), and has been published in more than 70 scientific and policy publications, including the books *Energy Poverty in Eastern Europe* (Ashgate, 2007) and *Retrofitting the City* (IB Tauris, 2015). Its outcomes have informed the drafting of the Third Energy Package, strategic documents adopted by the World Bank and International Energy Agencies, as well as national policies in several European and Asian countries.

Abstract

Energy vulnerability in Central and Eastern Europe: Revisiting infrastructural legacies and path creation

This paper focuses on the embeddedness of energy vulnerability – understood as the propensity of a household to lack a socially- and materially-necessitated level of energy services in the home – in the socio-technical legacies inherited from past development trajectories, as well as broader economic and institutional landscapes. I focus on the expansion of this phenomenon among different demographic and income groups in the states of Eastern and Central Europe. The paper highlights the path-shaping nature of post-communist energy vulnerability via three organizational and temporal frames, which, based on Dahrendorf's (1990) theorization, are termed 'clocks' of institutions, practice and space (also see Sykora and Bouzarovski 2012). These ideas are employed towards the development of an approach that highlights the ability of inadequate access to energy services to generate new political reconfigurations among a variety of actors, while prompting the articulation of household strategies with far-reaching structural consequences.

Rosie Day

Rosie Day is a senior lecturer in human geography at the University of Birmingham, UK. She holds postgraduate degrees from the London School of Economics, and University College London. Her research focuses on environmental inequalities and environmental justice, more recently with a focus on energy resources, where she is interested in energy demand, energy poverty, and justice in new energy developments. She has several current energy related research projects working in the UK and Belgium and supervises research students in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Abstract

A Capabilities perspective on energy demand and energy poverty

The capabilities framework was developed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum as a way of conceptualising human development and assessing the achievements of development programmes. Rather than focusing on income or utility, the approach has at its core what people are able to do and be. In this presentation I apply this framework to thinking about energy poverty, arguing that it has a number of advantages over approaches which focus on either affordability of energy or household access to energy. These include attention to both individual difference and contextual variation, as well as more flexibility for thinking about reducing energy vulnerability in the context of a wider need to prevent escalation of energy demand.

Steve Pye

Steve Pye is a Senior Research Associate at the UCL Energy Institute, with over 10 years' experience in climate and energy-related research. His primary research focus concerns the implications of long term transitions to sustainable energy systems, using quantitative

modelling approaches. His current focus is on how energy models inform policy making, by improved behavioural realism, characterising and communicating uncertainty, and accounting for the distribution of economic impacts, including across groups in energy poverty.

Abstract

Energy vulnerability in the 28 european members

Energy poverty, where individuals are not able to adequately heat their homes at affordable cost, is an increasing problem across many Member States due to rising energy prices, recessionary impacts on national and regional economies, and poor energy efficient homes. The EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC) estimates that 54 million European citizens (10.8% of the EU population) were unable to keep their home adequately warm in 2012. This paper explores how Member States define the issue of energy poverty and vulnerable consumers, and the measures that have been implemented to address these issues. We highlight the quite distinctive approaches undertaken across Europe, and the role of the European Commission in coalescing efforts to meet the challenge of vulnerability in the energy markets and that of energy poverty. The paper draws on work undertaken by the INSIGHT_E consortium, on behalf of the European Commission's Energy Directorate.

Giulia Romano

Giulia C. Romano, Italian, is a PhD Candidate at CERISCIENCES Po. She previously worked as Program Manager of the Energy Program at Asia Centre and in the consulting field on energy issues in China. Her research focus is on international cooperation with China in the field of sustainable urban development. Co-editor : *China's energy security. From Shaping Self-Reliant Policy to External Constraints Framing Policy* (with JF Di Miglio), Routledge, (foreseen 2016).

Abstract

“Sustainable urban development for whom?” A comparison between two experiences in China

Several projects are now currently conducted in China in the name of sustainable urban development, with initiatives aiming at building new cities “out of scratch” being the most outstanding and advertised experiences. However, a burgeoning literature is already showing the flawed conceptualisations embodied by these realisations, with doubts emerging about their aims as well as their idea of sustainable urban development. In particular there emerges the question of the addressees, wondering for whom sustainable urban development is done. We propose to answer to the question by drawing a comparison between two cooperation projects started in the early 2000s, showing two opposed approaches and meanings of sustainable urban development. We aim at pointing that alternative approaches are possible and that international cooperation shall better reflect on the way it engages with China in exploring conceptualisations of sustainable urban development.

Kathryn Chelminski

Kathryn Chelminski is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of International Relations/Political Science at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, where she examines the effectiveness of clean energy governance in addressing barriers to policy and technology diffusion in developing countries. She is currently working as a Doctoral Research Fellow in the Belfer Center's Energy Technology Innovation Policy research group at the Harvard Kennedy School and is also affiliated with the Ash Center's Rajawali Foundation Institute for Asia. Her research project at Harvard focuses on the impact of fossil fuel subsidy reform on the competitiveness of geothermal energy in Indonesia. In parallel to her fellowship, Kathryn continues to work as a researcher with the SNIS-funded project "Access to Clean Energy Technology for the Green Economy in Developing Countries" led by the Graduate Institute in collaboration with ETH-Zurich, UNIGE, UNIBE, Harvard and UNEP. Prior to her pre-doctoral fellowship, she was a visiting doctoral candidate at CERI/Sciences Po collaborating with the research group: *Energie et cohésion: gouvernance, régulations et négociations*, and she has previously worked as an Analyst Trainee at the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation in the IEA and as a Researcher at UNEP.

Abstract

Sustainable energy transitions and energy access in Indonesia

Indonesia's burgeoning energy demand and rising carbon emissions place the sustainable energy transition and energy access priorities at the forefront of the country's development plans. Yet these objectives can often be contradictory in implementation. With electrification rates lagging behind other countries in the Southeast Asian region (83% electrification ratio in 2014) and a unique set of barriers to rural electrification and transmission interconnection as an archipelago, Indonesia has long road ahead in terms of achieving its targets. This paper examines the Government of Indonesia's interventions to overcome barriers to accelerating renewable energy development and increasing energy access. In the context of the tensions between rural electrification and renewable energy development, the role of sub-national actors and bilateral and multilateral development agencies in impacting energy development are the main variables studied in this paper. The case study of Indonesia will provide important insights into the tensions between energy access and equity and sustainable development priorities in a developing country context.

Guillaume de Langre

Guillaume de Langre works on energy and defense issues in developing countries, particularly in Asia. He holds a B.A. from McGill University in development economics and political science and a Masters from Sciences Po Paris in International Public Management.

Abstract

Reforms of the energy market in Lao PDR and Cambodia and their impact on energy access

While electrification is a cornerstone of development, there is no consensus amongst developing countries about how to achieve it. This article compares the performance of Cambodia and Laos, two countries that had very low levels of access to electricity in the late 1990s. They adopted different and often opposed public policy paradigms: Cambodia opted for a private sector-led, decentralized solution, while Laos preferred a state-led, centralized model. Laos has achieved a 90% electrification rate, bringing low-cost grid power to all parts of the country. Cambodia's electrification has been slow, highly unequal, and has strengthened the disparity between the rate of development in cities and in rural areas. This article argues strong public ownership, an effective implementation agency, and efficient use of IDA are discriminating factors for developing countries seeking to improve both accessibility and affordability of electricity.

The dependency of the EU on external energy sources and the need for a diversified energy supply policy in order to increase energy security open further perspectives for cooperation between the EU and Central Asia. EU efforts to strengthen local energy markets will help to improve investment conditions, increase energy production and efficiency in Central Asia and diversify energy supply and distribution in the region. The Strategy for a New Partnership between the EU and Central Asia now forms the general framework for the EU's relationship with Central Asia in all areas of cooperation.