

Energy geographies

3 sessions:

1. Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions

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The global challenge to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources has been taken up to varying degrees by countries around the globe. Great disparities in energy access are still evident, particularly in countries of the global south, and with the rising cost of oil and gas following the Russian invasion of Ukraine the urgency to make the transition to renewables is all the more justified. Considerable progress towards renewables has been made in some cases, aided by levelised costs of energy from renewable energy sources today that are substantially lower today than a decade or so ago. Many countries of the global south are rapidly deploying solar and wind technologies, while reactionary politics and vested interests in some industrial countries seem hell-bent on maintaining the unsustainable status quo or even lobbying for a renewed push for exploration and exploitation of oil and gas. In short, the renewables transition is highly uneven.

Geographers have tackled energy questions from many angles, and at different scales. Topics covered include landscape impacts, energy justice, infrastructural path dependency and sociotechnical imaginaries, to name but a few. For this session, we seek presentations covering the broad range of topics. The contributions could relate to general theory and/or particular cases. They could for instance take the form of local case studies of renewable energy projects, policy making and/or planning processes for renewables, or the shifting geopolitics of energy.

2. Contested Energy Landscapes: Resourcification, Knowledge and Imaginaries in Nordic Energy Transitions

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There is an urgent need to transition from fossil to renewable energy. Such transitions change our landscapes in profound ways and often evoke strong emotional responses, generating contestation, disagreement, and feelings of powerlessness among affected communities. Understanding these dynamics is essential for analysing contemporary energy transitions in the Nordic region and beyond. This session seeks to explore the geographical, political, and socio-economic transformations shaping contemporary energy landscapes, with attention to issues such as ownership, distribution, knowledge, and power.

We welcome contributions that critically examine **resourcification and energy ownership**, and access to land and nature. Who owns energy resources and infrastructures, how is ownership structured and contested, and what spatial, political, and social relations emerge from these arrangements? We also seek papers addressing the **distribution of energy** across scales and sectors. How are energy resources, benefits, and burdens allocated, and with what implications for communities, regions, and states? We encourage analyses that foreground uneven geographies and intersecting inequalities. In addition, we invite work that interrogates the nexus of **knowledge and power** in energy transitions. What kinds of expertise influence policy and planning,

whose perspectives are marginalized, and how do knowledge regimes shape governance, public discourse, and visions of the future? Finally, we welcome contributions engaging with **energy imaginaries**—the narratives, expectations, and future visions that guide political choices, investment strategies, and societal transformations.

By bringing together perspectives from geography, political ecology, energy studies, planning, and critical social science, the session aims to deepen our understanding of how renewable energy expansion reconfigures power relations, rights, and cultural meanings across the Nordic region. We invite theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions.

3. Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline

Session organiser: Siddharth Sareen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway, **E-mail:** ssareen@fni.no

The field of energy geographies is taking firmer shape through emergent articulations. With influential forays from the 2010s onwards, the canon has grown steadily, and is now developing a centre of gravity.

How does this field within a discipline as fluid as (human and environmental) geography see itself? Is there need for greater coherence, or to retain the generative nature of more amorphous existence? How does definitional degree relate to potential impact, and what relation does the scholarly field have to impact in the sense of engagement with and influence over developments such as energy transitions and energy poverty alleviation?

This session invites authors and editors of energy geographies books and special issues (spanning definitive monographs as well as edited collections) to convene and reflect upon the evolving state of the art. Participants will present their core contribution in brief, followed by a convivial reflective format. Moderated discussion amongst panellists will be followed by a roundtable style conversation that will invite short contributions and questions from the audience.

Editors of journals that have featured significant energy geographies scholarship are welcome as well. The session aims to hold an open space rather than taking a firm stand on how the field of energy geographies should evolve, and offers an arena to discuss and collectively reflect on developments. It also seeks to highlight promising work that is advancing the field, and invite deeper engagement with recent forays in this respect.

An overarching concern is whether energy geographies as a field has some key principles and foundations that merit explicit articulation, and in cases where this has been attempted, whether there is consensus or a need for further debate on what these are and indeed what purpose they serve. The session invites participants into a moment of collective reckoning, to take stock of recent advances and fashion a more intentional agenda for future thematic and disciplinary contributions with broad ownership and deep anchoring within the blossoming epistemic community of energy geographers.

Contributors should indicate the title of contributions that are published or in the works if they wish to present these in brief, or propose a focus of discussion that they are keen to champion as a way to orient debate on the overarching theme.

