

# Energy in CLES

*Whole System Approaches for Smart, Flexible Energy Systems*

Iain Soutar

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# Who are we?

- 26 academics/researchers across
- Geography (21)
  - Environmental social science, political economy, STS, innovation etc.
- Biosciences (3)
  - Ecology of microbial species for biogas production
- Psychology (2)
  - Social psychology

# The Energy Policy Group, University of Exeter



## Key research themes

- Sustainable energy transformations
- Balancing policy objectives
- Innovation & inertia
- Politics, politics & governance
- Institutions, esp. markets and regulation
- The geography of energy

<http://geography.exeter.ac.uk/research/groups/energypolicy/>

 @ExeterEPG

Geography

About us  
Athena SWAN  
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Prospective undergraduates  
Prospective postgraduates  
Our research

Research groups

**Energy Policy**  
Environment and Sustainability  
Environmental Change  
Cultural and Historical Geographies  
Landscape and Ecosystem Dynamics  
Natures, Materials and Biopolitics  
Space, Politics and Society  
Earth System Science Group  
Research seminars  
Early Career Research Network

**Geography**

**Energy Policy Group**

The Energy Policy Group at the University of Exeter provides an academic hub for the interdisciplinary study of energy policy. We place sustainability and change at the heart of debates about energy policy and governance. We work collaboratively with stakeholders and researchers on the economics and politics of energy to find new and innovative approaches for enabling the transition to a low carbon, sustainable and affordable energy system. Find out more about our [team, vision and work here](#).

**Our new thinking...**

**Iain Soutar**  
**Understanding Innovation at the Water-Energy-Food Nexus**  
June 2018 | Presentation at the 9th International Sustainability Transition Conference | [Slides](#)

**Iain Soutar**  
**Energy System Change: Insights for the Circular Economy?**  
June 2018 | Presentation at Exeter University | [Slides](#)

**Helen Poulter, Catherine Mitchell and Richard Lowes**  
**Submission to Ofgem's RII02 Framework Consultation**  
May 2018 | Ofgem Consultation | [Link](#)

**Catherine Mitchell**

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# Geography in Streattham

## Environment and Sustainability research group

- Prof Patrick Devine-Wright
- Dr Karen Bickerstaff
- Dr Catherine Butler
- Catherine Queen
- Celia Robbins

## Research interests

- Policy, practice, people, place and landscape with regard energy infrastructure
- Social and psychological aspects of infrastructure siting
- Role of publics, state and institutions in affecting low carbon transitions
- Risk theory, science and technology studies & environmental justice



# Wider geography

- Prof Jane Wills
  - Geography of democracy, community organizing
- Dr Rosie Robison (GSI)
  - Behaviour change and decision-making



# Biosciences



- Prof Angus Buckling, Dr Pawel Sierocinski
  - Evolutionary biology
  - Ecology of microbial species used in biogas production
- Dr Matt Witt
  - Marine ecology
  - Ecological effects of marine renewable energies

# Psychology



- Prof Mark Levine & Denise Wilkins
  - Social psychologists (Streatham)
- Household-Supplier Energy Market (HoSEM)
  - Collaboration with Bristol, EDF and Energy4All
  - Group participation in P2P markets: How do group identities affect trust and market participation?

# Approaches & themes

Using ideas and approaches from social sciences

- Politics, psychology, economics, sociology

Impact across a range of actors at different scales from policy/industry/civil society

- Analysis of policy, politics and governance, regulation
- Understanding of energy system innovation
- Understanding of public engagement

Themes

- Governance, policy and politics
- People, communities and local energy
- Smart energy systems
- Sustainability of energy systems

Energy system change is increasingly hinging on rethinking

- Institutions within which individual and societal behaviours are constrained
- How actors/technologies engage with the public



# Current projects in CLES

- Public attitudes to shale gas
- AURES2 (Auctions for Renewable Energy Support)
- CEFOW (Clean Energy from Ocean Waves)
- CLEM (Cornwall Local Energy Market)
- FutureGas
- HIT (Heat, Incumbency and Transformations)
- HoSEM (Household-Supplier Energy Market)
- ICE (Intelligent Community Energy)
- IGov 2 (Innovation and Governance for Future Energy Systems)
- MISTRAL – EU International Training Network on Social Acceptance of Renewable Energy
- SIM4NEXUS
- Stepping Up
- Understanding the Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Public Attitudes and Community Responses to Shale Gas: an Integrated Approach



SIM4NEXUS

