1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions x 3 positions
School/department: University of Sussex Business School / Science Policy Research Unit
Hours: Full time. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: Fixed term for 2 years from June-October 2020 until June-October 2022
Reference: 3492
Salary: Grade 7 starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum. Grade 8 starting at £41,526 to £49,553 per annum.
Closing date: 27 April 2020. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Virtual Interview date: w/c 11 May 2020
Expected start date: Between June and October 2020

The Sussex Energy Group, within the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex Business School, are seeking to appoint three Research Fellows in Energy Justice and Transitions to work with Professor Benjamin Sovacool and teams on a range of newly funded projects, including CINTRAN - Carbon Intensive Regions in Transition (in a consortium led by Wupperthal Institute), JUSTNORTH - Toward just, equitable and sustainable Arctic economies, environments and societies (in a consortium led by the University of Uppsala), and CREDS – Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (in a consortium led by the University of Oxford).

The Research Fellows will examine the sustainability, equity, power, and/or justice implications of low-carbon energy transitions; co-lead the research design, analysis, and writing of case studies of justice and decarbonisation with fieldwork in Northern and Central Europe and/or the Arctic; and assist with other outputs examining conceptual and empirical applications of energy transitions and/or energy justice.

Essential criteria for the positions are:
1. A PhD (obtained at the time of the appointment) in energy studies, energy policy, science and technology policy studies, energy geography, political science, innovation studies, sustainability transitions, or a related area
2. Able to begin between June and October 2020 and be able and willing to travel for field work (at up to 2-3 weeks at a time), project meetings and conferences.
3. The analytical skills or experience necessary to apply existing concepts and theories about sustainability transitions, sociotechnical transitions, political economy, ecology, and/or social justice
4. Strong knowledge and methods training, and experience, in qualitative techniques such as field research and interviewing, database management, and experience writing case studies

5. Evidence of the ability to communicate effectively to academic, policy and non-academic audiences.

Applications are invited from candidates at Research Fellow I (Grade 7) and Research Fellow II (Grade 8) levels.

Informal enquiries may be made with Prof Benjamin Sovacool
B.Sovacool@sussex.ac.uk

For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

2. The School

University of Sussex Business School
The University of Sussex Business School is a unique research-focused interdisciplinary school, which takes a strong policy-directed view on business practices while also developing the underlying core disciplines. It includes the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Department of Strategy and Marketing, the Department of Management, the Department of Economics and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU).

As a dynamic, research-orientated and interdisciplinary School, we produce cutting-edge research that addresses real-world issues, pressing global policy agendas and business practices, whilst also being committed to developing the underlying core disciplines.

The School is committed to the University’s vision to understand and help address the grand issues of our time, by challenging conventional thinking and discourse, being creative and open in our approach and innovative in our methods in order to produce world-class research with impact.

Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)
Founded in 1966 by Christopher Freeman, SPRU was one of the first interdisciplinary research centres in the field of science and technology policy. Today, with over 70 faculty members, SPRU remains at the forefront of new ideas, problem-orientated research, inspiring teaching, and creative, high impact engagement with decision makers across government, business and civil society. Our research addresses pressing global policy agendas, including innovation challenges posed by the digital economy, the future of industrial policy, inclusive economic growth, the politics of scientific expertise, energy policy, security, entrepreneurship, and pathways to a more sustainable future. SPRU researchers are driven by a desire to tackle real-world questions, whilst also contributing to a deeper understanding of how science, technology and innovation is shaping today’s world.
With a community of over 140 MSc and doctoral students from all over the world, SPRU is also well known for its high quality, research-led teaching programmes.

Sussex Energy Group (SEG)
SPRU is part of the Sussex Energy Group, unifying researchers across the University of Sussex and the Institute of Development Studies working on energy issues. The Sussex Energy Group is one of the largest independent social science energy policy research groups in the world.

The Sussex Energy Group aims to understand and foster transitions towards sustainable, low carbon energy systems. Drawing from SPRU’s tradition, we undertake academically rigorous, interdisciplinary and world-leading research that is relevant to contemporary policy challenges. We also educate the next generation of energy policy professionals through our MSc and PhD programmes.

Our research is clustered under six broad themes: energy innovation and transitions; economics and finance; energy justice; energy demand and behaviour; smart infrastructure; and energy supply technologies. Our projects are both problem-oriented and applied, engaging with a range of contemporary UK and international policy debates. We work with policymakers, industry and civil society across the globe in order to open up routes to an inclusive and sustainable energy future.

The Projects
CINTRAN - Carbon Intensive Regions in Transition
Sussex are leading the work package ‘Responses to decarbonisation policy mixes in carbon intensive regions’, to create knowledge regarding how actors across multiple scales and contexts are coping with decarbonisation policies, and how coping strategies can be shaped to support decarbonisation efforts. It will focus on the actors, institutions and ideas that drive and help realise coping mechanisms to decarbonisation policies. To do that, tasks will examine the nature of the coping strategies, decarbonisation policy mixes, the elite actors with capacity to shape responses, and relationships between coping strategies, policies, and elite actors. Work will orient around the following main objectives:
1. To develop an inventory of coping strategies classified according to the actors who undertake them, and the scope and intent of their impact;
2. To evaluate the nature, content, and implementation of decarbonisation policies and related policies developed to facilitate the implementation of decarbonisation policies (decarbonisation policy mixes) with implications at the regional scale;
3. To analyse how elite actors, especially local elites, shape power dynamics and relations that may impede or accelerate coping strategies, and how these actors impact visions for the regions;
4. To determine the role of round tables or commissions in enabling the creation of policy mixes that either impede or accelerate coping strategies through the involvement of specific (elite) actors;
5. To understand the relationship between specific policy mixes, coping mechanisms, and elites with larger societal change; and
6. To develop materials on transferability of project findings to broader contexts.
JUSTNORTH - Toward just, equitable and sustainable Arctic economies, environments and societies
Sussex are leading the work package ‘Economic Activity Case Studies, SDG and Ecosystem Services Evaluation’, analysing the production, transportation, conversion, and use of energy in the Arctic. It consists of 6 case studies analysing existing Arctic economic activities related to energy development. The objectives of the case studies are:

- to catalogue and systematize the ethics and value systems of actors engaged in these activities
- to catalogue the impact of economic activities on the relationship between economic development and ecosystem services, especially cultural ecosystem services.
- to collect the empirical data necessary to underpin the key deliverables of JUSTNORTH, including the JUSTscore framework, the project’s documentary and its recommendations for viable and sustainable economic activities in EU policy mechanisms affecting Arctic development in line with UN sustainable development goals.

CREDS – Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions
CREDS’s Digital Society work, led by SPRU, focuses on researching the effects that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has on energy consumption and carbon emissions. To address this, CREDS are:

- Investigating the impact of ICTs on economy-wide energy consumption: Projects in this area look at the evidence on the impact of ICTs on energy consumption – both historical impacts and potential future impacts.
- Exploring the potential for ICTs to deliver end-use services with much lower energy use: New business models are offer multiple opportunities to entrepreneurs and challenge established forms of economic organisation (e.g. taxi services, electricity markets). CREDS examines these potential models, drawing on ideas from innovation theory.
- Investigating how ICT diffusion influences energy-related user practices: Smart meters, automated vehicles, smart homes, and teleworking are areas where ICT might increasingly change user practices such as home working and leisure.
3. **Job Description**

Job Description and person specification for the post of: **Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions – Grade 7** (see job description and person specification for Grade 8 position below)

**Job Title:** Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions  
**Grade:** Research Fellow I, Grade 7  
**School:** University of Sussex Business School, Science Policy Research Unit  
**Location:** Jubilee Building  
**Responsible to:** Principal Investigator through to Head of School  
**Direct reports:** N/A  
**Key contacts:** Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.  
**Role description:** Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

---

**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

---

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

   1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

   1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

   1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

   1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

   1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 To examine the sustainability, equity, power, and/or justice implications of low-carbon energy transitions

4.2 To co-lead the research design, analysis, and writing of case studies of justice and decarbonisation with fieldwork in Northern and Central Europe and/or the Arctic;

4.3 To assist with other outputs examining conceptual and empirical applications of energy transitions and/or energy justice

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity at the time of the appointment

- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.

- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.

- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.

- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.

3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. A PhD (obtained at the time of the appointment) in energy studies, energy policy, science and technology policy studies, energy geography, political science, innovation studies, sustainability transitions, or a related area.

2. Able to begin between June and October 2020 and be able and willing to travel for field work (at up to 2-3 weeks at a time), project meetings and conferences.

3. The analytical skills or experience necessary to apply existing concepts and theories about sustainability transitions, sociotechnical transitions, political economy, ecology, and/or social justice.

4. Strong knowledge and methods training, and experience, in qualitative techniques such as field research and interviewing and experience writing case studies.

5. Evidence of the ability to communicate effectively to academic, policy and non-academic audiences.
DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

3. Ability to conduct comparative, cross-sectoral work

4. Experience with collaborative research projects and/or writing

5. Demonstrated record of meeting deadlines

6. Expertise in quantitative methods

7. Knowledge of energy systems in the regional context of the aforementioned projects (e.g. the Arctic, Eastern Europe)

8. Expertise in applied ethics

9. Language skills applicable to research in Estonia, Macedonia, Germany
3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions – Grade 8 (see job description and person specification for Grade 7 position above)

Job Title: Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions
Grade: Research Fellow II, Grade 8
School: University of Sussex Business School, Science Policy Research Unit
Location: Jubilee Building
Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports: N/A
Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University, academics in the field in other institutions.

Role Description: Research Fellow II is a career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to take a senior role within a research team, be able to demonstrate an established research portfolio, and a growing reputation in their field of study. They will also be expected to provide support and guidance to less experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to contribute to obtaining research funding and knowledge exchange income as appropriate.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Contribute to the development of School research strategy and themes.

1.2 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research at acceptable levels.

1.3 Conduct research projects individually and/or in collaboration with others.

1.4 Assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research, and develop ideas for their application.

1.5 Produce high-quality research outputs that have impact in the field, for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as
appropriate, and contribute to the School’s REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

1.6 Lead small research projects and/or identified parts of a larger project, including supervising the work of others and managing or monitoring a research budget.

1.7 Make presentations at conferences, or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement.

1.8 Identify sources of funding and secure or contribute to the process of securing bids.

1.9 Identify and secure opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy where permissible.

1.10 Actively build internal and external contacts, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.

1.11 Contribute to a relevant national professional body or recognised events.

1.12 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

1.13 Conduct risk assessments, and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Contribute to teaching and learning in the School, including delivery of teaching if required.

2.2 Supervise postgraduate research students, for example as part of a postgraduate supervisory team.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Mentor less experienced colleagues, supporting them in developing their research techniques, and advising on personal development.

3.3 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 To examine the sustainability, equity, power, and/or justice implications of low-carbon energy transitions
4.2 To co-lead the research design, analysis, and writing of case studies of justice and decarbonisation with fieldwork in Northern and Central Europe and/or the Arctic;

4.3 To assist with other outputs examining conceptual and empirical applications of energy transitions and/or energy justice

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Regular published output of original research at international level (referred journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text-books).
- Other evidence of original research contribution to the field, such as through invited conference contributions, membership of editorial panels etc.
- Evidence of successful co-supervision of doctoral students.
- Evidence of the successful supervision of others within the research group.
- Evidence of contribution to the process of obtaining competitive/peer reviewed research support funding or collaboration in significant research projects with institutions of equivalent standing.
- Involvement in the creation, transfer and use of the results of research through a range of knowledge exchange activities.
- Success in transferring research results to commercial, professional, public sector or other practical use.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Evidence of significant independent contribution to the design and execution of research.

3. An emerging track record of publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
9. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. A PhD (obtained at the time of the appointment) in energy studies, energy policy, science and technology policy studies, energy geography, political science, innovation studies, sustainability transitions, or a related area
2. Able to begin between June and October 2020 and be able and willing to travel for field work (at up to 2-3 weeks at a time), project meetings and conferences.
3. The analytical skills or experience necessary to apply existing concepts and theories about sustainability transitions, sociotechnical transitions, political economy, ecology, and/or social justice
4. Strong knowledge and methods training, and experience, in qualitative techniques such as field research and interviewing and experience writing case studies
5. Evidence of the ability to communicate effectively to academic, policy and non-academic audiences.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
2. Experience of supervising postgraduate research students.
3. Ability to conduct comparative, cross-sectoral work
4. Experience with collaborative research projects and/or writing
5. Demonstrated record of meeting deadlines
6. Expertise in quantitative methods
7. Knowledge of energy systems in the regional context of the aforementioned projects (e.g. the Arctic)
8. Expertise in applied ethics
9. Language skills applicable to research in Estonia, Macedonia, Germany