

1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions

School/department: University of Sussex Business School / Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)

Hours: full time

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: fixed term for 14 months

Reference: 6260

Salary: starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum

Placed on: 28 June 2021

Closing date: 12 July 2021 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: w/c 19 July 2021

Expected start date: September or October 2021

The [Sussex Energy Group](#), within the [Science Policy Research Unit](#) at the [University of Sussex Business School](#), are seeking to appoint a Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions to work with Professor Benjamin Sovacool, Professor Adrian Smith, and Dr Mari Martiskainen and teams on two projects: the Centre for Research Into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) funded project Fuel and Transport Poverty in the UK's Energy Transition (FAIR), and the ESRC / JPI SOLSTICE funded project Responsive Organising for Low Emission Societies (ROLES).

The Research Fellow will organise workshops, focus groups and undertake interviews with a range of research participants including policy makers, regulators, energy suppliers, advocacy groups, and householders. They will analyse interview and focus group data using qualitative data analysis methods; contribute to writing academic journal papers, policy briefings and blog posts; and present research findings to key audiences.

Essential criteria for the post include:

- A PhD in a related area (e.g. energy social science research or other relevant social science research)
- Knowledgeable about themes in energy justice, energy poverty and/or power in relation to energy studies
- Good general knowledge about UK energy policy
- Proven ability to organise, undertake and analyse systematically in-depth qualitative interviews with a range of policy, practitioner and lay subjects to academic and ethical standards
- Experience organising workshops with policy, practitioner and lay participants, and documenting and analysing workshops
- Ability to write reports and blogpost for non-academic audiences, particularly policy-makers and think tanks

Please contact Prof Benjamin Sovacool (B.Sovacool@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

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, SPRU, SEG and the research projects

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, uniting 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 research projects

See further details of the Centre for Research Into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) funded project Fuel and Transport Poverty in the UK's Energy Transition (FAIR), and the ESRC / JPI SOLSTICE funded project Responsive Organising for Low Emission Societies (ROLES), here:

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/sussex-energy-group/research/current-projects>

3. Job Description

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Energy Justice and Transitions
Grade:	Research Fellow I, Grade 7
School:	University of Sussex Business School
Location:	Jubilee Building, Falmer, Brighton
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 Help organise stakeholder workshops and focus groups
- 4.2 Organise and undertake interviews with a range of research participants including policy makers, regulators, energy suppliers, advocacy groups, and householders
- 4.3 Analyse interview and focus group data using qualitative data analysis methods
- 4.4 Contribute to writing academic journal papers, policy briefings and blog posts
- 4.5 Present research findings to key audiences

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
- 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 or 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 in a related area (e.g. energy social science research or other relevant social science research)
2. Knowledgeable about themes in energy justice, energy poverty and/or power in relation to energy studies
3. Good general knowledge about UK energy policy
4. Proven ability to organise, undertake and analyse systematically in-depth qualitative interviews with a range of policy, practitioner and lay subjects to academic and ethical standards
5. Experience organising workshops with policy, practitioner and lay participants, and documenting and analysing workshops
6. Demonstrate an ability to write reports and blogpost for non-academic audiences, particularly policy-makers and think tanks
7. Experience presenting research to academics and policy-makers at conferences and workshops
8. Ability to use qualitative analysis software

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. Knowledgeable about social and policy aspects to the digitalisation and decarbonisation of electricity systems and solar PV developments
4. Skilled in the use of N-Vivo qualitative analysis software (or equivalent)