

Workshop Programme

## Incumbent-challenger dynamics in energy transitions: Governmental challenges and policy needs in Germany, Great Britain and Nordic countries

Berlin, Representation of the Federal State of Hessen;  
In den Ministergärten 5, 10117 Berlin  
September 18<sup>th</sup> 2015

---

### Workshop Objectives

---

An energy transition process requires complex socio-technical changes. Removal of existing lock-in mechanisms, shifts in behaviour of producers and consumers, and technological, political as well as social innovations are some of the changes that will be necessary. To push the energy transition forward new players must become active and new strategies are required that challenge established patterns of energy policy interaction with experimentation and innovations.

The workshop addresses dynamics between innovative and new entrants that try to change the energy field ('challenger actors') and established actors ('incumbents') and the role of governments in the recent energy transition efforts in Europe in a comparative perspective. Many governments in Europe are striving for low carbon energy transitions. Investigating incumbent-challenger dynamics can show which policy intervention is required to keep the process of transformation going. The aim of the workshop is to work on policy recommendations for how to govern transition processes and to learn from various approaches in Europe, with a focus on Germany, UK and the Nordic countries.

The following questions will be discussed: How do governments deal with existing path dependencies? How are incumbent actors and challengers influenced by governmental policies when dealing with energy transition challenges? Which policy incentives are required for actors to meet the challenges of low carbon transitions? What factors promote persistence in the established pattern of action in the energy field, in the lock-in of the incumbent system and in the traditional paths? What fosters resilience of the incumbent regime? What are the strategies of governments to overcome the incumbent paradigms - or are they part of the incumbent regime? Why do formerly non-adaptive organizations shift towards adaptivity - is the shift triggered by external changes?

---

## Workshop Programme

---

9.00 **Welcome**

---

### Energy transitions – the crucial relevance of incumbent and challenger dynamics

---

**Chair:** *Miranda Schreurs, FFU Berlin*

9.00 - 9.20 **Catherine Mitchell**, University of Exeter:

Governance and transition to a sustainable energy system: how institutions, rules and incentives in Great Britain support the current system and undermine change

9.20 – 9.40 **Guri Bang**, CICERO, Oslo:

From Emissions to Extraction - keeping fossil fuels in the ground:  
Understanding under what conditions and through which means transitions away from economic dependence on fossil fuel extraction might occur in Norway

9.40 – 10.20 *discussion*

10.20 – 10.40 *coffee break*

---

### The role of governments in destabilizing or stabilizing lock-in mechanisms

---

**Chair:** *Kerstin Tews, FFU Berlin*

10.40 – 11.00 **Sandra Wassermann**, Zirijs, Stuttgart:

*working title:* Current challenges of Germany's energy transition project and competing strategies of challengers and incumbents: The case of direct marketing of electricity from renewable energy sources

11.00 – 11.20 **David Jacobs**, IET – International Energy Transition:

The implementation of auction design in Germany: Understanding the political economy

11.20 – 11.40 **Elin Lerum Boasson**, CICERO, Oslo:

Conflicts between logics in the Norwegian field of stationary energy and their influence on the Norwegian renewable energy support scheme – the role of government

11.40 – 12.10 *discussion*

12.10 – 13.00 *lunch break*

---

## Prominent incumbent-challenger dynamics in energy transitions on the national and international level

---

**Chair:** *Guri Bang CICERO, Oslo*

### Renewables versus coal and nuclear

- 13.00 – 13.20 **Gregor Kungl**, Stuttgart University:  
The Incumbent German Power Companies in a Changing Environment.  
A Comparison of E.ON, RWE, EnBW and Vattenfall from 1998 to 2013
- 13.20 – 13.40 **Aaron Atteridge and Claudia Strambo**, Stockholm Environment Institute SEI:  
Political economy, geopolitics or socio-technical transitions: An analytical framework for understanding action, inaction and opportunities for change in the fossil fuel sector
- 13.40 – 14.00 **Sascha Müller-Kraenner**, DUH:  
Transitioning from a coal based regional economy to news sustainable business models – how citizens and local stakeholders can shape their own future
- 14.00 – 14.20 **Susanne Strauch**, CEO Ahrtal-Werke:  
Insights into motivations and hurdles for a re-municipalization of a utility company - the case of Ahrtal-Werke
- 14.20 – 14.40 *discussion*
- 14.40 – 15.00 *coffee break*

### The role of new players for decentralised experimentation in transitions

**Chair:** *Miranda Schreurs, FFU*

- 15.00 – 15.20 **Dörte Ohlhorst**, FFU Berlin:  
The role of municipalities, regions and sub-national states in the German Energiewende - challenging the regime from inside?
- 15.20 – 15.40 **Benedicte Solaas**, Norwegian Oil and Gas Association:  
The future of European gas supplied by Norway in the European energy transition, in the medium- and long term
- 15.40 – 16.00 **Philipp Späth**, Freiburg University:  
Global challengers can be local incumbents: About the district heating system in Freiburg and lock-in
- 16.00 – 16.20 **Hege Westskog**, CICERO, Oslo; Power from the people:  
Drivers and barriers for households in Norway to become electricity producers

---

### Governmental challenges and policy needs

---

- 16.20 *concluding discussion*
- 17.00 *end of the workshop*

The organizers acknowledge funding by the Helmholtz Association and the Norwegian-German Willy Brand Foundation