

DEBEG session for Finnish Geography Days 2015, Tampere

Session title:

Mobility, mutation and translation processes of EU renewable energy policies

Chair: Moritz Albrecht

Abstract

The formation of a supranational policy is a demanding spatial task because it has to possess generic targets to be implemented in various geographical contexts. The EU's energy policies provide an example of this kind of process. As part of the transition towards a low-carbon economy EU member states are given the responsibility to choose their own approaches within the common EU 2020 renewable energy framework. As EU documents highlight, energy supply security and sustainability are key targets. As policies move from Brussels towards domestic and local materialisation, policy programmes are subject to multiple loops of translation in various spatial contexts. These loops involve shifting rationalities, historically formed path dependencies and distinct constellations of stakeholders affecting the means of their implementation within member states. A contested policy translation process reformulates governance on the way and sometimes causes the generic targets to disappear. Thus, context-dependent attributes of decision-making assemblages are portrayed as shaping the policy process and the development of renewable energy in various directions. The session presents the results of two research projects which have studied EU level renewable energy governance, its contextual translations in Finland, Germany, Estonia and Norway, as well as created a database on bioenergy conflicts on a global scale. The studies represent a critical perspective on the rationalities and path dependencies of policy materialisation with a focus on sustainability issues and contextual peculiarities that guide policy mutation processes. These issues are studied and conceptualised from the perspective of policy mobility and mutation. In the papers we aim to answer, among others, the following questions: How are EU policies designed and maintained as mobile entities? How are the policies contested by domestic and local contexts and complexities? How do the initial targets and rationalities of EU energy policy shift during their journey?

Presenters:

Moritz Albrecht & Jarmo Kortelainen, *University of Eastern Finland*

Bioenergy development, spatial design & policy mobility from Brussels' offices to local sites of materialization: Loosing the other end out of sight?

Teijo Rytteri, *University of Eastern Finland*

The renewable energy directive in the national context in Finland

Jani Lukkarinen, *University of Eastern Finland*

The European 2020 race and the materialization of a bioeconomy

Maxim Trishkin, *University of Eastern Finland*

Introducing a platform for bioenergy conflict evaluation and resolution in the making – the DEBEG conflict database.