

## Responsive Organising for Low Emission Societies (ROLES)

Newsletter February 2021 (<https://roles.w.uib.no>)

### What is ROLES?

ROLES is exploring how European city-regions can accelerate and intensify decarbonisation, specifically looking at the role of digitalisation of energy infrastructure and focusing on pathways that also create social benefits (such as reducing fuel and transport poverty). The project is working in the UK, Italy and Norway, with case studies in all three countries. The project started in late 2020 and will run for three years.

ROLES will develop an analytical framework for creating pathways to achieve deep decarbonisation by digitalising energy systems. We will prioritise co-creation of these pathways with relevant stakeholders and explore the role of power dynamics in shaping them.

The analytical framework we produce will be applicable to any mid-sized European city-region. We will initially apply it in three case studies city regions, each focusing on a different sector/ context for digitalising energy infrastructure (e.g. smart meter, e-mobility). Results will be shared with a wide range of stakeholders, from civic leaders to bodies representing marginalised groups.



*The ROLES project team (also includes Ed Dearnley) during our kick-off meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.*

## **Project Update**

The ROLES project is off to a good start despite the challenging pandemic circumstances. Our project involves locally rooted fieldwork across three countries - carrying out this in-depth empirical research currently presents some obvious problems.

The project team met online in December for our kick-off meeting. Despite being a large group, we are a cohesive team, as country team members have worked closely together. Above, you can see a photo from our kick-off meeting!

We will meet online once a month to exchange views and ensure coordinated activities across our three case study cities: Bergen (Norway), Brighton (UK) and Trento (Italy). During the second monthly meeting in January 2021 each team member picked a favourite text relevant to ROLES, giving the team a quick 'brain dump' of their takeaway from the text and how it could be useful for our project work. As a team with a vast range of experience and disciplinary competencies, this sort of exchange is an exciting and rewarding aspect of collaboration during ROLES. On the next page, you can see ten of the readings that we discussed.

With much of the administrative work necessary to set up the project complete, 2021 will see our research work starting to gain momentum. Team Norway had a head-start through their work on JUSTMOB ([just mobility transitions](#)) during the autumn semester of 2020, which provides a foundation for further data collection and consolidation during ROLES. See a video recording of a [public seminar](#) on just mobility transitions in Bergen.

## **Disseminating Our Work**

An exciting event relevant to ROLES is coming up in August 2021 – a biannual workshop of the Energy Anthropology Network on the theme '[digitisation and low-carbon energy transitions](#)'. Siddharth Sareen, the ROLES Principal Investigator, is co-convening this workshop along with Katja Müller. The shortlisted abstracts that have been invited for discussion as workshop papers are expected to be published as an edited volume.

One of ROLES' first public dissemination activities is coming up in February 2021 at the [Literature Festival Bergen](#). A reflexive, data-driven and interactive event is coming up as part of the National SDG

Conference Day Zero [co-creation workshop on just urban mobility transitions](#) on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. During 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 2021, we will introduce the project at the [5<sup>th</sup> Energy and Society Conference](#) in Trento (online), and discuss the design of participation processes. Keep an eye on [this webpage](#) for more upcoming events!

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Hunjan, R. and Pettit, J., 2011. Power: A practical guide for facilitating social change. Dunfermline: Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. [www.mspguide.org/sites/default/files/resource/power---a-practical-guide-for-facilitating-social-.pdf](http://www.mspguide.org/sites/default/files/resource/power---a-practical-guide-for-facilitating-social-.pdf)

Feenstra, M. and Özerol, G., 2021. Energy justice as a search light for gender-energy nexus: Towards a conceptual framework. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 138, 110668. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2020.110668>

DellaValle, N., Bisello, A. and Balest, J., 2018. In search of behavioural and social levers for effective social housing retrofit programs. *Energy and Buildings*, 172, pp.517-524. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2018.05.002>

European Environment Agency. 2017. Perspectives on transitions to sustainability. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/perspectives-on-transitions-to-sustainability> EEA Report 25/2017. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/perspectives-on-transitions-to-sustainability>

Sareen, S., Saltelli, A. and Rommetveit, K., 2020. Ethics of quantification: illumination, obfuscation and performative legitimation. *Palgrave Communications*, 6(1), pp.1-5. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-020-0396-5>

Nikolaeva, A., Adey, P., Cresswell, T., Lee, J.Y., Nóvoa, A. and Temenos, C., 2019. Commoning mobility: Towards a new politics of mobility transitions. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 44(2), pp.346-360. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12287>

Lacey-Barnacle, M., 2020. Proximities of energy justice: contesting community energy and austerity in England. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 69, 101713. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101713>

Martiskainen, M., Sovacool, B.K., Lacey-Barnacle, M., Hopkins, D., Jenkins, K.E., Simcock, N., Mattioli, G. and Bouzarovski, S., 2020. New Dimensions of Vulnerability to Energy and Transport Poverty. *Joule* 5(1), pp.3-7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joule.2020.11.016>

Robinson, C. and Mattioli, G., 2020. Double energy vulnerability: Spatial intersections of domestic and transport energy poverty in England. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 70, 101699. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101699>

### Get Involved

If you're interested in our work and want to be kept in touch, please let us know ([E.Dearnley@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:E.Dearnley@sussex.ac.uk)).

In these initial stages of the project we are on the lookout for publications, projects and partners that can inform our work. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch ([siddharth.sareen@uis.no](mailto:siddharth.sareen@uis.no)).