



Devices and Desires: The Cultural Politics of a Low Carbon Society

MAY 21-23, 2014, LUND UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

Workshop - Call for Papers

Devices and Desires: The Cultural Politics of a Low Carbon Society

Date: May 21-23, 2014

Venue: Lund University, Sweden

Organisers: Johannes Stripple (Lund), Harriet Bulkeley (Durham), Matthew Paterson (Ottawa)

Responding to climate change requires not only that new policies and technologies are designed, but that they become taken up, worked through and reconfigured in the day to day practice and culture of everyday life. While research and policy communities have tended to regard such processes as a matter of implementation and have sought to counter limited engagement with information and incentives, alternative perspectives would suggest that at stake is the creation and contestation of new forms of subjectivity — of what it might mean and entail to be a subject in a low carbon society. For example, what does decarbonization entail for entrenched practices of daily life like eating, travelling, heating our homes and consuming things? This workshop starts from this perspective and aims to explore the cultural politics of responding to climate change. To what extent does decarbonization, and ensuing policies and technologies, involve reshaping the sorts of people we are, our desires and fears, and the daily practices associated with them? The workshop will examine what a low carbon society entails and how it is coming to be constituted through multiple forms of subjectivity, and their contestation and resistance.

In particular, we welcome papers that consider:

- How diverse initiatives — government policies, campaigns by companies, NGOs or popular culture projects — attempt to shape daily practices and the identities that value them.
- The practice of low carbon subjectivity and the ways in which gender and ethnicity are reconfigured/neglected through such processes.
- Alternative forms of low carbon subjectivity emerging in relation to green, black, brown and blue carbon as policy efforts seek to differentiate carbon and potential sinks.
- The ways in which low carbon subjectivities are emerging in workplaces, professions, communities and organisations.
- The relationship between low carbon subjectivity and technologies, things and materials, i.e. thinking through low carbon subjectivity as a sociomaterial phenomenon.
- The tools, tactics and techniques through which low carbon subjectivities are constituted and accomplished.
- The forms and politics of resisting low carbon subjectivities, from denial to everyday acts of resistance and contestation.



About the workshop:

WORKSHOP IN BRIEF:

Our intention is that the workshop will draw together a new community of scholars exploring the cultural dynamics of a low carbon transition, in particular exploring questions around low carbon subjectivity. The workshop participants will come from a diverse set of academic backgrounds ranging from across the social sciences and humanities to schools of engineering, architecture and agriculture. The workshop will consist of around twenty scholars or professionals each presenting a paper between 3000-5000 words. The papers will be organised in different panels followed by substantial time for discussion and reflections. Our intention is to publish a collection of papers as a book or as a journal special issue.

TIMELINE:

Jan 31 - call for abstract closes

Feb 12 - notification of acceptance

May 1 - Papers are delivered to the workshop organisers and circulated among the participants.

May 21-23, 2014 - Workshop in Lund, Sweden.

HOW TO APPLY:

Send your abstract (max 200 words) to johannes.strippl@svet.lu.se no later than Jan 31, 2014.

PROGRAMME:

Wednesday May 21: Arrival and check-in. Workshop reception at 19.00.

Thursday May 22: 9.00 – 17.00 Workshop, 19.00 Dinner.

Friday May 23. 9.00 – 14.00 Workshop. Departures.

HOW TO GET TO LUND?

Lund is a small university town in the very south of Sweden, very close to Malmö and Copenhagen (Denmark). Lund is easily accessible from the Copenhagen Airport (CPH) or Copenhagen Central Train Station. Direct trains (40 min) runs 3-6 times per hour.

COSTS FOR ATTENDING?

There is no fee for attending. Lunches, coffee and workshop reception and dinner are free for the participants. We also plan to pay for your accommodation.

FUNDING:

The workshop is funded by the King Carl XVI Gustaf's Visiting Professorship in Environmental Science, which in 2013-2014 was awarded to Harriet Bulkeley, and the Governing Climate Change research project, funded by the Swedish Research Council Formas and coordinated by Johannes Strippl.

