

Project Title: The political economy of large-scale renewable energy projects: assessing the community impacts and perceptions of wind energy development in peripheral regions

Principal Supervisor: Dr. Luca Tasciotti

Secondary Supervisor: Dr. Simone Piras

Other supervisors: Dr. Deb Roberts, Prof. Apurba Shee

Department & Institution: School of Accounting, Finance and Economics (AFE), University of Greenwich

Collaborative Organisation: The James Hutton Institute

Project Description:**The rationale for the project**

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21), aims at limiting the rise in global temperature and achieving net-zero emissions by the second half of the century via a reduction in the use of fossil fuels of 30-35% by 2030 and of 45-65% by 2040. Within the scope of the global energy transition, numerous regions worldwide are initiating large-scale renewable energy projects as the installation of wind farms. While the societal benefits of these developments are broadly distributed, their associated costs—loss of agricultural land, impacts on biodiversity, and landscape alteration—are geographically concentrated in the rural areas home to these projects. Understanding how these communities perceive fairness in the distribution of costs and benefits is essential to ensure that the energy transition does not disproportionately disadvantage them.

This project seeks to investigate whether current policies adequately address these fairness concerns, and how the socio-economic impacts of existing developments align with local perceptions of equity and justice in the context of energy transitions.

To this end, the project will focus on wind farms in three case study areas located respectively in the UK, namely Scotland, and in peripheral regions of Europe—for instance, Sardinia (Italy) and Brandenburg (Eastern Germany)—or the Global South—the windfarm developments in the Northeast of Brazil.

Candidate Requirements:

Bachelor degree in economics (or related subject);

Master degree in economics (or related subjects);

Key References: 1 letter of reference**Further details about the project may be obtained from:**

Luca Tasciotti at l.tasciotti@greenwich.ac.uk

Simone Piras at Simone.Piras@hutton.ac.uk

Deadlines and how to apply:

The deadlines for student applications via The James Hutton Institute is Friday, January 10, 2025.

The James Hutton Institute will be conducting the interviews on identified dates between the 20th January and 7th February 2025.

The deadlines for student applications via the UBEL website is the Monday, March 3, 2025.

UBEL Board considers studentship applications from April 5, 2025.