Visions for the Energy Union:
Driving future energy policy through better integration of Social Sciences and Humanities

For too long energy-related Social Sciences and Humanities (energy-SSH) research has been overlooked as an evidence base for energy policy. Consequently, the European Commission (EC) are keen to more centrally utilise insights from energy-SSH, to complement and/or contrast with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathemathics (STEM) disciplines that have dominated energy policymaking to date. This has led to EC calls for more policy-relevant energy-SSH research, as well as promotion of greater interdisciplinarity in energy (policy) research. Such moves are hoped to assist in fulfilling its [European Energy Union](#) ambitions, which involve: connecting national energy infrastructures; improving energy security; reducing energy use by ≥27% by 2030; and reducing emissions by ≥40% by 2030; to name only a few headlines.

In these contexts, the [SHAPE ENERGY](#)[1] Platform is funding around eight interdisciplinary and cross-European written contributions – of around 3,000-4,000 words each – that explore, critique and showcase the ways that different disciplinary approaches can (and should be) integrated for the betterment of future EU energy policy. The resulting *Think Piece Collection* will intentionally treat the notion of 'integration' broadly, thus contributions are welcome that span differences both within SSH, but also across the SSH and STEM divide. Whilst a central thread of the collection will be EU energy policy, the basis for each piece's discussion need not be at the EU-level (e.g. can use regional/national experiences). Furthermore, we particularly welcome contributions that suggest directions (even if intentionally idealistic) for future academia-policy interactions. Examples of relevant energy-related themes include (but arenot limited to):

- What is unique to the 'energy' problem(s) in matters of integration?
- What exactly is 'successful' integration, and what is it that is being 'integrated' (e.g. disciplines, ontologies, approaches, etc.)?
- What are disciplines, how do they emerge, and with what implications for energy policy?
- At what stage of the research process does/should integration typically begin and with what implications, e.g. during problem definition, research design planning, data analysis, etc.?
- Energy-related project experiences of (not) integrating the Social Sciences and Humanities (well).
- Experiences of integration in energy-related project planning, proposal writing, and in general interactions with the [Horizon 2020 energy work programmes](#) and other EU funding programmes.
- Crucially, the ontological practicalities of bringing together contrasting theoretical perspectives, including overviews of how theories may be innovatively integrated for the benefit of policy.
- Novel tools that have been developed and/or underutilised in the pursuit of integration.
- Dominance of disciplines, including overcoming traditional sub-ordination of SSH to STEM.
- What do policymakers want from integration of energy-SSH, and how does this compare to academics' expectations?
- How do policymakers respond to the outcomes/outputs of integration, which e.g. may provide further complexity?
- A future vision for the academic system, e.g. regarding policy interactions, researcher positionality, interdisciplinarity, etc.
- SSH critiques (including outlines of alternatives) of key EU energy policy documents, such as those associated with the [Strategic Energy Technology Plan](#) or [2030 Energy Strategy](#).

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[1]The €2m EU Horizon 2020 funded (2017-2019)<u>S</u>ocial sciences and <u>H</u>umanities for <u>A</u>dvancing <u>P</u>olicy in <u>E</u>uropean <u>ENERGY</u> (SHAPE ENERGY) Platform.

- What are the energy-SSH priorities, or perhaps most meaningful ways of identifying such priorities, for energy-related funding in the EU Framework Programme 9 (planned to run post-Horizon 2020, across 2021-2028)?

Whilst it is by no means required, we are open to alternative ways of writing the pieces (that e.g. facilitate greater reflexivity or accessibility), and thus prospective authors should not necessarily feel obliged to structure their pieces in conventional academic ways (e.g. author teams could write autobiographic reflections,stories representing future visions, conversational exchanges between idealised fictious individuals, etc.). Note also that discussions are underway with prospective publishers about the Think Piece Collection being published as an open access edited book. Forewords are additionally being negotiated with high-profile individuals within the EU (energy) policymaking community.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the editors before submission of a proposal: Dr Chris Foulds (chris.foulds@anglia.ac.uk), Dr Rosie Robison (rosie.robison@anglia.ac.uk) and Lenke Balint (lenke.balint@anglia.ac.uk), Global Sustainability Institute, Anglia Ruskin University, UK.

Submit abstract (and the attached proposal form below) by 5pm (BST) on Friday 6 October, via the above email addresses.

Eligibility: Please note that each abstract submission must include at least three collaborators, covering at least three SSH disciplines and at least two Horizon 2020 eligible countries[2]. See the proposal form for fuller details.

Indicative timeline:
- *October 2017*–notify prospective authors of successful abstract submissions;
- *End of April 2018* – authors submit think pieces to editors;
- *End of May 2018* – authors receive think piece peer reviews;
- *End of June 2018* –authors submit revised think pieces;
- *End of June 2018* – deadline for submission of receipts for reimbursement (one submission per team, one reimbursement per team);
- *July 2018* – proofs are produced and reviewed by editors and authors;
- *August 2018*–think pieces are published online (open access) and also submitted to the EC's strategy unit for energy research and innovation.

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[2] Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

SHAPE ENERGY Think Piece proposal form

Guidelines:

1. Please read the [Think Piece](#) Call for Abstracts document prior to beginning your proposal and complete all sections within the given word limits.
2. The maximum that will be awarded per proposal is €3,750. This is intended to enable collaborative working through e.g. author meetings. Travel and subsistence are eligible costs, but not salaries or equipment. Monies will only be paid to the lead applicant's institution (and will be reimbursed, not paid upfront); the lead applicant's institution must arrange for distribution amongst other team members, as needed.
3. Proposals must be led by an academic researcher with a current contract of employment (which extends to at least August 2018) at an institution based in a Horizon 2020 eligible country. Whilst this may mean that many early career researchers are ineligible to be the lead applicant, their involvement is still welcomed.
4. Proposals must have a team: of at least three researchers; covering between them at least three SSH disciplines (other non-SSH disciplines are welcome, but only after the minimum three SSH requirement has been met); and be based in at least two Horizon 2020 eligible countries.
5. Lead applicants should have the prior support of their Department/School/Institute/Centre in delivering the proposal, and associated work, and the proposal should be signed by the Head of Department (or equivalent) to indicate this.
6. Abstract submissions can be submitted at any time until the final deadline, which is 5pm (BST) on Friday 6 October 2017.
7. The editors will arrange a phone/Skype call with each successful team to discuss their think piece.
8. Applicants should not incur expenditure before approval. Planned expenditure must be in line with the host institution's financial regulations and the EC's Horizon 2020 funding requirements. Best value must be ensured with any expenditure awarded as part of any successful award. The host institution will be responsible for any expenditure beyond the agreed value of any award.
9. All project expenditure must be tracked and in line with the original proposal. Any proposed changes to spend or milestones must be discussed and approved by the SHAPE ENERGY coordinator. Anglia Ruskin University will request receipts or other confirmation of payment made and may withhold payment where these cannot be produced. Lead applicants must submit all original receipts for expenses incurred to Anglia Ruskin University by 29 June 2018. Anglia Ruskin reserve the right to withhold reimbursements for expenses deemed ineligible.
10. All successfully awarded think pieces will be invited to produce a 1-3 minute video discussing the finished piece, for use on the SHAPE ENERGY website. Further details on this will be sent with acceptance letters. These videos may be used in SHAPE ENERGY publicity and reporting materials.
11. There is a parallel Call for Abstracts being issued by the SHAPE ENERGY Platform (concerning its [Research Design Challenge](#)). All prospective applicants should note that these sets of abstract submissions will be evaluated separately and thus one is free to apply to (and participate in) both collections should they so wish.

1. PROPOSED THINK PIECE

Provisional title	
Abstract (Max. 300 words) *Please be note that if successful, this may be used on the SHAPE ENERGY website.*	
Keywords (up to five)	
Please highlight which SHAPE ENERGY topic(s) your abstract relates most directly to. *If more than one, then please rank. If your abstract is inherently cross-cutting, then it is fine to include/rank all of these jointly.*	Energy efficiency & using less
	Competitive, low-carbon, secure energy supply
	Smart technologies & systems optimisation
	Transport sector decarbonisation

2. LEAD APPLICANT (FIRST AUTHOR)

Lead applicant (title/name)		
Gender (M / F / Other)		
Discipline(s)* (max. three, if more than one please rank)		
Job title		
Does your work contract extend to the end of August 2018? Y/N		
Dept./School/Institute/Centre (including address)		
Country		
Contact email & telephone		
Applicant's webpage		
Up to 5 keywords describing your research area		
Are you happy to be included on the SHAPE ENERGY mailing list and researcher database?	Mailing list (Y/N): Researcher Database (Y/N):	
Have you applied for or considered any other funding for this activity? (Please give details)		
Name and email of Finance Administrator or Clerk in Dept./School/Institute/Centre		
Head of Department (or equivalent) approval	I confirm that the applicant has the support of their Dept./School/ Institute/Centre in delivering the proposal, and associated work. Signature	Name and role
		Date

Where appropriate please choose from the primary SHAPE ENERGY SSH disciplinary list: Business, Communication Studies, Development, Economics, Education, Environmental Social Science, Gender, History, Human Geography, Law, Philosophy, Planning, Politics, Psychology, Science and Technology Studies, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Social Policy, and Theology. However we note that it is fine to include disciplines from outside this list.

2. CO-APPLICANT 1 (REQUIRED)

Co-applicant (title/name)	
Gender (M / F / Other)	
Discipline(s)* (max. three, if more than one please rank)	
Job title	
Dept./School/Institute/Centre (including address)	
Country	
Contact email & telephone	
Co-applicant's webpage	
Up to 5 keywords describing your research area	
Are you happy to be included on the SHAPE ENERGY mailing list and researcher database?	Mailing list (Y/N): Researcher Database (Y/N):

3. CO-APPLICANT 2 (REQUIRED)

Co-applicant (title/name)	
Gender (M / F / Other / Prefer not to say)	
Discipline(s)* (max. three, if more than one please rank)	
Job title	
Dept./School/Institute/Centre (including address)	
Country	
Contact email & telephone	
Co-applicant's webpage	
Up to 5 keywords describing your research area	
Are you happy to be included on the SHAPE ENERGY mailing list and researcher database?	Mailing list (Y/N): Researcher Database (Y/N):

IF MORE THAN 3 MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED TEAM (NO LIMIT), COPY THE TABLE ABOVE FOR ADDITIONAL CO-APPLICANTS.

4. BUDGET

Funding Requested and Budget Breakdown (Max. 400 words) Please give as much detail as possible in terms of e.g. when/where your team will meet, including other sources of funding secured where appropriate. The maximum that will be awarded per application is €3,750, however teams should not feel obliged to try to meet this limit as any funds left over may be used for related activities e.g. open access publishing, or to bring all think piece teams together to launch the collection. *Travel and subsistence can be applied for, but not salaries or equipment. Please note that only expenses deemed eligible for reimbursement under the EC's Horizon 2020 funding regulations will be considered.* *All proposed expenditure must adhere to necessary guidelines. Please discuss in advance with Finance Administrator or Clerk in your Dept./School/Institute/Centre.*	*e.g. travel, subsistence, catering, consumables (pens, paper, etc.), etc.*

Office use only – Think Piece proposal review	SCORE 1=low 5=high	Notes
1. Is the proposal relevant to the Think Piece Collection's themes?		
2. Does the proposal have a sound academic grounding, and is it of high academic quality?		
3. Does the proposal bring novelty and evidence of interdisciplinarity?		
4. Is the budget realistic, and does it reflect value for money?		
5. Your overall recommendation? *(5= definitely fund; 3=possibly fund; 1 = do not fund)*		
Average score:		
Name of reviewer & date:		
Reviewers comments to applicants:		
Reviewers comments to editors (confidential):		