

**Second call for PhD students:**



## **Explorations of Collaborative Closures in Environmental Conflicts - Renewable energy and emerging land-use conflicts**

**NOVA Phd Course Link to admission:** <https://www.nmbu.no/en/students/nova/news/node/36405>

**Course responsible:** John Andrew McNeish (NMBU) and Mikaela Vasstrøm (UiA)

**Venue:** University of Agder, Kristiansand – Norway

**Time:** 5-8 August 2019.

**5 ECTS**

### **Course Description**

The course explores environmental conflicts especially related to renewable energy development and land use conflicts in the global North and South.

Global climate challenges and the transition to low-carbon societies influence planning policy and the practice of the governance at all levels of society. Different forms of renewable energy production (bio-energy, wind, solar, hydro, etc.) and related infrastructural developments are at the core of these transitions. Renewable energy developments are increasingly generating new contestations by further transforming landscapes, land use and property relations.

In this course we study the dynamics of these new green contestations. As such we will study the physical impacts of renewable energy projects and the competing discourses and practices expressed in these contexts e.g. regarding conservation, forestry and agriculture, livelihoods and ontologies, economy and recreation, private vs. commons etc. The course studies the contrasts and common experiences of renewable development in both the global North and South - and with a special focus on cases in Scandinavia and Latin America. The course will draw on a set of theoretical approaches including political ecology, science and technology studies, environmental governance and participatory planning.

PhD students will be encouraged in the course to discuss and reflect on their own empirical research through tutored discussion groups. This creates an arena for peer-learning and the further development of academic papers under production by PhD students.

The course not only approaches renewable conflicts through different disciplinary and theoretical approaches and academic examples. The course also facilitates an arena for learning through direct

interaction with stakeholders and practitioners. Other than invited speakers in the classroom, through our organization a one-day field excursion, PhD students, invited scholars, practitioners and community representatives will jointly reflect and study land use conflict resulting from renewable energy development.

The course does not seek to characterize a simple plan or model for conflict resolution. In stressing collaborative closures it rather seeks to consider different approaches to dialogue and structural changes that can create openings for collaborations. The course thus focuses on the significance and applicability of different legal and political governance alternatives including formal and informal mechanisms for collaboration, legal intervention, regulation, dialogue, participation, consultation and rapprochement - to deal with land use conflicts related to renewable energy development.

### **Confirmed speakers:**

- Simone Abram, Professor Department of Anthropology and Durham Energy Institute, Durham University
- Siddharth Sareen, Department of Geography and Centre for climate and energy transformation, University of Bergen
- Else Grete Broderstad, Professor, Centre for Sami studies, University of Tromsø
- Joe Bryan - Associate Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, University of Colorado
- Laura Tolnov Clausen, Researcher, Department of Wind Energy, Danish Technical University
- David Phillip Rudolph, Researcher, Department of Wind Energy, Danish Technical University
- Steven Sparkes - Head of Environment and Social Governance at Statkraft
- Local politicians, planners and stakeholders in a wind power development site in Southern Norway

### **Preliminary Program:**

#### **Monday (9.00-17.00):**

- Welcome and presentation of participants
- *Introduction to the course: Renewable energy and emerging land-use conflicts* - John Andrew McNeish, NMBU and Mikaela Vasstrøm, UiA
- *How do we live with electricity? Electric thoughts, infrastructures and future imaginations* – Simone Abram, Durham University
- **Lunch at UiA**
- *Bridging socio-technical and justice aspects of sustainable energy transitions* - Siddharth Sarren, University of Bergen
- *Tutored PhD discussion groups:* PhD students present their abstract in relation to course theme – feedback from peer-students and tutors.

#### **Tuesday (9.00-17.00):**

- *Imbalanced power - Indigenous-industry relations in Arctic renewable energy* - Else Grete Broderstad, University of Tromsø
- *Norwegian wind power policy, development and emerging conflicts* - conflict resolution through national frames and maps? – Mikaela Vasstrøm, University of Agder
- **Lunch at UiA**

- *Mapping and counter mapping – territories for renewable energy* - Joe Bryan - University of Colorado
- Tutored PhD discussion groups - PhD students present their abstract in relation to course theme – feedback from peer-students and tutors.

### **Wednesday (8.00-17.30): Field trip**

- *Norwegian Renewable energy* – Steven Sparkes - Head of Environment and Social Governance at Statkraft
- Field-trip to a wind power development project (Birkenes) - Learning from multiple stakeholder perspectives and collaborative processes and closures
- **Lunch in Birkenes**
- Dialogue and debate between multiple actor views on wind power development and planning process (politician, planner, opposition, landowner, developer and local business)
- PhD student group work and response to the local case: How can collaboration be addressed in conflictual settings?
- 20.00 Course dinner in Kristiansand

### **Thursday (9.00-16.00)**

- *Wind power planning - collaborative openings and closures*, Laura Tolnov Clausen, Danish Technical University
- “(Re-)embedding the wind? The intricate relationship between renewable energy and rural matters”, David Rudolph, Danish Technical University
- **Lunch UiA**
- Group discussions & plenum discussion: *Collaboration in conflictual situations – openings and closures*
- Course evaluation

### **Friday (9.00-15.00)**

- NOVA research seminar (open for all)
- Discussing further research collaboration in the Nordic Network.

### **Pre-/Post-Campus Assignments**

- Course literature will be provided for each lecture in ample time before the course. Preliminary syllabus is written below.
- Students must submit an Extended Abstract and Reflection: A short description of your thesis project together with a reflection on why this course is relevant to this work (max 2000 words).
- To obtain the 5 ECTS the students must send in a revised paper (max. 5000 words) 2 months after the course.

**Assessment:** Passed or failed 5 ECTS - based on revised paper.

### **Learning outcome:**

- Explore and analyze environmental conflicts
- Understand complex relations between renewable energy, land-use planning, and economic structures
- Analyse how socio-economic aspects and knowledge influence management conditions and decision making structures

- Understand different types of collaboration and their precondition
- Analyse barriers and potentials for collaboration and deliberation

### **Nominal workload:**

80 hours pre-course tasks (reading course literature and writing)

40 hours seminars/lectures

60 hours post-course tasks (writing)

### **Preliminary Syllabus (more literature will be sent out in June):**

Bridge, G., Barr, S., Bouzarovski, S., Bradshaw, M., Brown, E., Bulkeley, H., & Walker, G. (2018). *Energy and society: a critical perspective*. Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Energy-and-Society-A-Critical-Perspective/Bridge-Barr-Bouzarovski-Bradshaw-Brown-Bulkeley-Walker/p/book/9780415740746>

Sareen, Siddharth, and Håvard Haarstad. "Bridging socio-technical and justice aspects of sustainable energy transitions." *Applied Energy* 228 (2018): 624-632. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306261918309747>

### **Practicalities:**

University of Agder is located in Kristiansand in the Southern Norway ([www.uia.no](http://www.uia.no)). The region is known for its beautiful coast line and nice weather - <https://www.visitnorway.com/places-to-go/southern-norway/?lang=uk>



### **Getting there:**

By air:

- **Kristiansand Airport, Kjevik (KRS)** is situated about 12 kilometres from the centre of Kristiansand. The airport offers international connections to Amsterdam ([www.klm.nl](http://www.klm.nl)), Copenhagen ([www.wideroe.no](http://www.wideroe.no)), London and Gdansk. In addition, there are daily connections to Norwegian cities, such as Oslo ([www.sas.no](http://www.sas.no)), Bergen, Trondheim and Stavanger. More information and schedules are [available at Avinor](#).
  - There are regular airport buses into the central bus station (Rutebilstasjonen) and the trip takes about 30 minutes and costs NOK 50 for students. [Check out AKT.no for schedules](#)
- **Oslo Torp (TRF)** is situated about 220 kilometres from Kristiansand. The airport offers daily international connections to many European cities, such as London, Warsaw, Milano and Amsterdam. Cheap airlines,

such as [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com) and [www.wizzair.com](http://www.wizzair.com) have daily schedules to Torp. [More information about Torp](#)

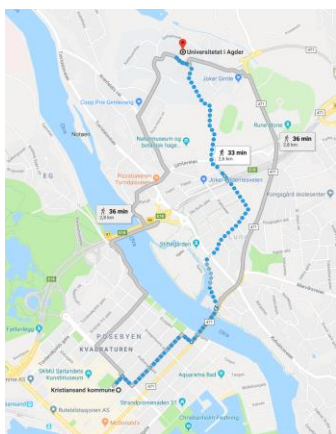
- Many bus companies operate between Torp and Kristiansand, and the trip takes about 3,5 hours and cost around NOK 200 for students. The following bus company has one scheduled bus per day straight from Torp Airport to Kristiansand a day [www.laprisekspresen.no](http://www.laprisekspresen.no), and these companies have several buses a day from Fokserød (about 3 kilometres from the airport, a local bus is available, otherwise take a taxi) [www.nor-way.no](http://www.nor-way.no) and [www.konkurrenten.no](http://www.konkurrenten.no)

#### By rail or buss:

- Kristiansand is a main station on the train line between Oslo and Stavanger. For schedules and prices, please consult [www.nsb.no](http://www.nsb.no)
- By Buss from Oslo app. 5 hours: [www.nor-way.no](http://www.nor-way.no) and [www.konkurrenten.no](http://www.konkurrenten.no)

#### Getting around:

University of agder is 2,6 km from the city centre, and you can reach campus by walking (30.min), (renting) bike, or bus (almost all east-bound busses stops at the university).



#### Accommodation:

There might be several AirBnB apartments available in Kristiansand. The semester starts two weeks after our course – and therefore there might be student renting out their apartment the week of the course. When all participants are registered we will send a mail with you e-mail addresses – in case you want to coordinate bookings.

If you want to stay at a hotel – here are some recommendations:

Yess – hotel in Kristiansand is one of the cheaper options for accommodation and has breakfast included: <https://www.yesshotel.no/hotell-kristiansand>

Sjøgløtt hotel is a nice small hotel close to the harbor and also one of the cheaper options: <https://www.sjoglott.no/>

Scandic Hotel Bystranda is a 4 star hotel by the sea, and a more pricy option – the university has an agreement that makes the rooms a little more affordable:

<https://www.scandichotels.no/hotell/norge/kristiansand/scandic-kristiansand-bystranda>

#### Other:

- The NOVA course provides lunch for the participants Monday-Thursday.
- There will be a course dinner sponsored by the course Wednesday after the fieldtrip.