

Spring Campus, March 30 to April 3, 2020

## **Workshop: “From Innovation to Acceptance: Challenges and Potentials of a Sustainable Energy Transition”, March 31 to April 1, 2020**

*Organized by Dr. Maria Rosaria Di Nucci (Environmental Policy Research Center FFU, FU Berlin) and Bettina Tacke (Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management, FU Berlin)*

### **Abstract**

There is a broad consensus that a significant reduction of GHG emissions is necessary in order to limit the effects of climate change. This reduction of GHG emissions requires a shift of the current energy system, which largely relies on fossil fuels, towards a system based on sustainable energy sources. For this purpose, ambitious targets were set by governments all over the world to increase the total share of renewable energy.

The shift to a sustainable energy system is closely linked to the diffusion of innovations. This process has multiple dimensions – socio-political, community-, and market-based – that must be considered holistically. Research shows the growing role of social acceptance and its potential as a constraining factor. Therefore, the social dimension has become equally as important as technological aspects for a successful sustainable energy transition.

The diffusion and acceptance process of sustainable energy supplies – ranging from wind energy and solar power to newer concepts like smart grids, all-electric solutions, or power-to-heat – have very different histories and face different challenges. However, similarities and common issues can be scrutinized, and important lessons can be drawn.

Participation and capacity building have been identified as key acceptance factors. Three important dimensions will be dealt with in the workshop: user interaction with new technologies (e.g. smart grids, energy management), information and involvement strategies of stakeholders as well as the concept of ‘energy democracy’. Social innovations like citizens’ energy projects provide greater local control over and acceptance of renewable energy generation infrastructure.

This workshop aims to bring together key research findings from the acceptance and social science research on various energy systems and discusses potential solutions that arise from analyzing these similarities. We will examine best practices, identify obstacles and drivers, and finally analyze the conditions for a successful implementation.

- Which participation strategies and user-technology interactions have enabled a successful implementation of renewable energies?
- What are the key factors of acceptance for sustainable energy systems?
- How are social innovations linked with the acceptance process of sustainable energy systems?
- Which social innovations can help to increase acceptance of renewable energy supply systems and energy reduction measures?
- Which sustainable energy sectors hold a potential for democratization, and how can we ignite this potential?

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### Call for Contributions

We invite contributions of the research project you want to present – including abstracts about new unfinished, conceptual ideas. **Please send your abstracts (500-900 words) to [bettina.tacke@fu-berlin.de](mailto:bettina.tacke@fu-berlin.de) by February 10, 2020.** Acceptance notifications for the workshop will be sent out on **February 15, 2020**. During the workshop, projects can either be introduced in a short presentation (15 minutes with 10 minutes discussion afterwards) or as part of a poster presentation session, which is recommended, especially, for PhD students.