

CALL FOR PAPERS

Research Conference and Special Issue

Dynamics of Social Acceptance

Latest Evidence from Research and Implications for Theory and Practice

St. Gallen (Switzerland), June 24-25, 2022

The University of St. Gallen, Chair for Management of Renewable Energies, in collaboration with the Horizon 2020 project MISTRAL (<https://mistral-itn.eu>), invites the submission of papers from researchers in management, energy research and social science, political science, psychology and other relevant disciplines as well as experts from industry and public authorities to the International Research Conference “Dynamics of Social Acceptance - Latest Evidence from Research and Implications for Theory and Practice” (Switzerland, June 24-25, 2022). The deadline for submissions is **February 22, 2022**.

Approximately 10-12 papers will be accepted and discussed. A limited number of best papers will be considered for a virtual special issue of *Energy Policy* (impact factor 6.142), based on the journal’s peer-review process. Please upload your submission (full paper with 6’000-8’000 words incl. abstract) via the *Energy Policy* editorial system (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jepo/default1.aspx>), selecting “VSI Dynamics of Social Acceptance” from the dropdown menu in the “Article Type” section (available from mid-February 2022). Authors who are unsure whether their paper fits with the scope of the conference and special issue are invited to contact the organizers with an abstract well ahead of the deadline. Authors whose papers are selected for presentation at the conference will be notified by March 31, 2022. Revised versions of accepted papers are due by May 15, 2022.

A step change is needed in renewable energy investments if the triple challenge of ensuring climate change mitigation, energy security and economic development is to be met. Renewable energy has the potential to significantly contribute to the race to zero emissions. For clean technologies to fully exploit their potential, social acceptance of infrastructure projects and policies is a key prerequisite. Social acceptance is a process relying on a series of positive decisions by salient stakeholders. While there is a flourishing stream of literature on social acceptance of wind energy and other renewables, much of the extant research is cross-sectional in nature, failing to capture the important dynamic processes that make or break social acceptance when push comes to shove. The aim of this conference is to contribute to closing the current research gap and encourage more longitudinal research on social acceptance. Furthermore, it is important to take into account the intricate role of cognitive and affective factors in shaping the dynamics of acceptance among a variety of decision-makers in the process.

This research workshop aims at advancing the knowledge on the specific topic of dynamics of social acceptance by taking stock of the latest evidence from the international research community. Empirically-based and theoretical contributions are welcome from the following research areas:

- **Management Science:** What are best practices in managing dynamics of social acceptance in contested environments? How do intra-organisational dynamics of acceptance influence firm performance in the context of technological innovation? Are there differences in incumbents’ and new entrants’ ability to cope with dynamics of social acceptance? How do renewable energy project developers perceive and manage dynamics of social acceptance?
- **Psychology and Affective Sciences:** What are the antecedents and consequences of emotional contagion in the context of energy projects and climate policies? How do positive and negative emotions shape the dynamics of social acceptance, as well as coping strategies with perceived impacts? Can a stages of grief framework help to analyse individuals’ and organisations’ adoption of low-carbon innovation? Do people’s responses and emotions in relation to energy projects change after their deployment? What are the psychosocial consequences of the deployment of energy projects? How do they affect and change lived experiences and well-being?
- **Cognitive Sciences:** How can a dual process perspective of decision-making help to understand the interplay of cognitive and emotional factors in shaping dynamics of social acceptance? Which heuristics or frames do decision-makers apply to manage dynamics of social acceptance, and how effective are they?

- **Communication Studies:** How does social media affect the dynamics of social acceptance? Is there a causal link between the rise of social media and the volatility and outcome of social acceptance debates? How can project developers monitor and manage the dynamics of social acceptance on social media? How can the spreading of misinformation be contained in the energy and climate context?
- **Political Science:** How does polarization affect political decision-making about energy projects and climate policies? What determines the preference formation process among swing voters and political parties? How will proposals to accelerate permitting procedures for renewable energy projects affect the dynamics of social acceptance?
- **Science and Technology Studies:** How do expectation dynamics build up to a hype cycle of energy technology adoption? What are the implications for research policy and climate mitigation strategies? How does path dependence in national energy systems influence the dynamics of social acceptance?
- **Finance:** How can the literature on herding in financial markets inform the debate on dynamics of social acceptance? What is the role of crowdfunding and citizen co-investment in positively influencing the dynamics of renewable energy acceptance? How does the ability to manage dynamics of social acceptance influence investor decision-making and firm valuation? What can be learned from the bursting of the carbon bubble for understanding dynamics of investor acceptance?
- **Energy Policy and Economics:** How can the price of social acceptance be reflected in the assessment of policy effectiveness? Do policies to promote actor diversity positively influence the dynamics of social acceptance? How does local political leadership positively or negatively influence the dynamics of social acceptance?
- **Economic Geography and Environmental Planning:** What is the role of place attachment in explaining dynamic processes of social acceptance? How does (perceived) procedural justice influence the dynamics of community acceptance?

In addition to paper presentations, the agenda will include sessions that aim to identify future research needs in the area of dynamics of social acceptance. Following the University of St. Gallen's mantra "From insight to impact", the research conference will be preceded by the St. Gallen Forum for Management of Renewable Energies (www.remforum.ch), where practitioners from the field of renewable energy investment and project development will share their reflections on latest trends in the industry and current research needs.

Submissions to this research conference should be original research papers that have not yet been published, or submitted for publication to an academic journal. We are interested in a mix of papers spanning multiple disciplines. International perspectives and cross-country comparisons are encouraged as well as regional perspectives. Empirical, theoretical and methodological papers are welcome. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the conference theme, we encourage co-authorships between researchers with complementary disciplinary backgrounds, as well as cooperations between scholars and practitioners.

Authors are encouraged to follow Elsevier's guidelines for manuscript preparation (see http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/30414/authorinstructions).

We hope to be able to offer partial funding for the travel, meals, and lodging of presenters and discussants. More detailed information on logistics and conference registration will be available on our website <http://iwoe.unisg.ch/research-rem/> in Spring 2022. The conference will be held in the scenic setting of St. Gallen, a UNESCO world heritage town conveniently located in proximity to some of the splendid outdoor environments of the Swiss and Austrian Alps, and yet only an hour away from Zurich, which is a major hub of the European night-train and high-speed rail network.

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Questions? Contact Nina Schneider: nina.schneider@unisg.ch

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