GUEST LECTURER AT IRS

Prof. Dr. Stefan Bouzarovski
University of Manchester, UK

Stefan Bouzarovski stays at IRS from 13th until 23rd January 2015. During his stay he is part of the research department "Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods" and will be working in the guest room.

Vita

Stefan Bouzarovski is Professor of Geography and Director of the Centre for Urban Energy and Resilience at the University of Manchester. He has also held a Visiting Professorship in Economic Geography at the University of Gdansk since 2004. Stefan's research has focused on the driving forces and experience of energy insecurity at multiple scales, with a particular focus on European cities. Among other activities, he co-ordinates the ERC-funded Energy Vulnerability and Urban Transitions in Europe initiative (http://urban-energy.org), having led more than 40 different research projects supported by a range of research councils, governmental and charitable bodies. He is the author of more than 70 research publications, as well as the monographs Energy Poverty in Eastern Europe: Hidden Geographies of Deprivation (Ashgate, 2007) and Retrofitted Cities: Flexibility, Informality and the Home (IB Tauris, 2015).

Stefan has advised numerous governments as well as international organizations such as the European Union, World Bank and International Energy Agency on issues of energy policy and inequality. He has held visiting appointments at universities in Stockholm, Berlin, Brisbane, Prague, and Bruges.

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IRS SEMINAR

Prof. Dr. Stefan Bouzarovski, University of Manchester, UK: Conceptualizing domestic energy demand: Towards a geographical perspective

Donnerstag, 22. Januar 2015
14:00 – 15:30
Pavillon
IRS – Leibniz-Institut
für Regionalentwicklung
und Strukturplanung
Flakenstraße 28-31
15537 Erkner

Growing concerns about the impacts of climate change and the security of hydrocarbon supplies have helped propel global energy dilemmas (Bradshaw 2013) to the top of the political agenda. The emergent domain of 'energy geographies' is thus increasingly providing a staging ground for multiple theoretical perspectives and empirical investigations, from the wider spatial aspects of transitions to low carbon futures to the lived experiences of energy use (Bridge et al. 2013).

The reduction and management of energy demand in the home have been central components of efforts to move towards a low carbon future. Within this trend, scientists and policy-makers alike have begun to acknowledge the importance of social and cultural aspects of energy flows at the level of individual households in addition to the more traditional focus on technologies and economies. Yet spatial perspectives on the topic have been notoriously absent, despite the existence of a significant body of knowledge on the geographical construction of the modern home, and the political ecologies implicated in its functioning.

This presentation aims to contribute to the conceptualization of a geographical perspective on energy demand. I explore the scale- and place-dependent nature of the relationship between the material and technical properties of energy circulations, on the one hand, and the social formations and arrangements present in the indoor environment of the home, on the other. To this end, the presentation uses two concepts – 'energy services' and the 'energy subject' – to highlight the inherently hybrid, political and multi-sited nature of domestic energy demand.