

Bregje van Veelen

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research and teaching interests are in the fields of environmental politics and political geography, with a particular focus on the political and socio-economic dynamics of low-carbon transitions. I currently hold a research fellowship at Uppsala University, where I investigate the socio-material conditions and dynamics that enable the ‘unmaking’ high-carbon energy infrastructures. Previously, I have examined how sub- and transnational forms of governance shape low-carbon transitions, with a particular focus on financial and civil society actors.

EDUCATION

- 2013 - 2017 PhD Human Geography, University of Edinburgh
Title: ‘Devolution, democracy and the challenge of diversity. Community energy governance in Scotland’. Supervisors: Dr. Dan van der Horst (Geography) and Dr. Claire Haggitt (Sociology)
- 2012-13 MSc Environmental Sustainability (Distinction), University of Edinburgh
- 2007-11 MA Geography and International Relations (First Class), University of Aberdeen

EMPLOYMENT

- 2020 - 2024 **Researcher in Earth Sciences, Uppsala University**
I hold a 4-year early career fellowship funded by Formas, the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, to execute my research project ‘Imagining the future to dismantle the present: Governing a just transition in high-carbon regions’.
- 2017 - **Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Geography, Durham University**
I worked on the interdisciplinary, H2020-funded REINVENT project, where I examined low-carbon innovations in ‘hard to reach’ industries, with a particular focus on the role green finance plays in (re)shaping low-carbon governance.
- 2014 – 2017 **Researcher, ClimateXChange**
I was commissioned to conduct three research projects on:
- Sustainable behaviours and behavioural change
- Heat and energy policy
- Community participation in energy developments
- 2015 **Social researcher, The Scottish Government**
I contributed to the Scottish Government’s new community land ownership strategy. Developed the metrics to help expand the evidence base for community land ownership, developed policy recommendations, and co-authored the final report.
- Other appointments
- 2019 - **Associate Fellow, Durham Energy Institute, Durham University**
I develop and contribute to networking and knowledge exchange activities for the Institute.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed research publications

- Van Veelen, B.** and Hasselbalch, J. (2020) [Power and politics in plastics research: A critique of “Whither Plastics”](#). *Energy Research and Social Science*. 61.
- Van Veelen, B.** (2019) [Caught in the middle? Constructing and contesting intermediary spaces in low carbon governance](#). *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*.
- Bridge, G., Bulkeley, H., Langley, P., and **van Veelen, B.** (2019) [Pluralizing and problematizing carbon finance](#). *Progress in Human Geography*.
- Van Veelen, B.**, Pinker, A., Tingey, M., Taylor Aiken, G., and Eadson W (2019) [What can energy research bring to the social sciences? Reflections on 5 years of ERSS and beyond](#). *Energy Research and Social Science*. 57.
- Van Veelen, B.** and Eadson, W. (2019) [Assembling community energy democracies](#). *Voluntary Sector Review*.
- Creamer, E., Taylor-Aiken, G., **van Veelen, B.**, Walker, G., and Devine-Wright, P. (2019) [Community renewable energy: what does it do? Reflecting on Walker and Devine-Wright \(2008\) ten years on](#). *Energy Research and Social Science*.
- Van Veelen, B.** (2018) [Negotiating energy democracy in practice: governance processes in community energy projects](#). *Environmental Politics*. 27(3): 644-665.
- Van Veelen, B.** and van der Horst, D. (2018) [What is Energy Democracy? Connecting social science energy research and political theory](#). *Energy Research and Social Science*. 46, 19-28.
- Creamer, E., Eadson, W., **van Veelen, B.**, Pinker, A., Tingey, M., Brauholtz-Speight, T., Markantoni, M., Foden, M., and Lacey-Barnacle, M. (2018) [Community Energy: entanglements of community, state, and private sector](#). *Geography Compass*. 2018(12): e12378.
- Van Veelen, B.** (2017) [Making sense of the Scottish community energy sector – an organising typology](#). *Scottish Geographical Journal*. 133(1): 1-20.
- Van Veelen, B.**, and Haggett, C. (2017) [Uncommon Ground: The role of different place attachments in explaining community renewable energy projects](#). *Sociologia Ruralis*. 57(S1): 533-554.
- Frantal, B., Bevk, T., **van Veelen, B.**, Harmanescu, M., and Benediktsson, K. (2017) [The importance of on-site evaluation for placing renewable energy in the landscape: A case study of the Burfell wind farm \(Iceland\)](#). *Moravian Geographical Reports*. 25(4): 234-247.

Manuscripts in submission

- Bridge, G., Bulkeley, H., Langley, P., and **van Veelen, B.** [Qualifying carbon: investment and divestment for decarbonisation](#). (In Revision for *Economy & Society*)
- Van Veelen, B.** [Cash cows? \(Re\)configuring environmental governance through ‘green’ investment](#). (Submitted to *Geoforum*.)

Manuscripts in preparation

- Van Veelen, B.** and van Sluisveld, M. [Where are we going towards 2050? An exploration of the futures \(un\)imagined in low-carbon roadmaps](#).
- Eadson, W., and **van Veelen, B.** [Deterritorialisation, reterritorialisation and reaching for the democratic horizon: becoming-democratic through community energy](#).
- Robinson, M., and **van Veelen, B.** [Thinking outside the neoliberal box? The discursive potential of national climate legislation for the local governance of climate change](#).

Book chapters

- Krug-Firstbrook, M., Haggett, C., and **van Veelen, B.** (2019) [Consumer \(Co-\) Ownership of renewables in Scotland \(UK\)](#). In: Lowitzch, J. (ed) *Energy Transition. Financing Consumer Co-Ownership in Renewables*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Book reviews

Van Veelen, B. (2018) Book review 'The new Oxford handbook of economic geography'. Edited by G.L. Clark, M.P. Feldman, M.S. Gertler and D. Wojcik. *Local Environment*. 23(8): 900-901.

Van Veelen, B. (2016) Book review 'Democratizing Inequalities'. Edited by C.L. Lee, M. McQuarrie and E.T. Walker. *Social Movement Studies*. 15(6): 650-651.

Van Veelen, B. (2015) Book review 'Global energy justice: problems, principles, and practices' by B.K. Sovacool and M.H. Dworkin. *Environmental Politics*. 24(5): 848-850.

Other publications

Van Veelen, B. (2017) *Low-Carbon Scotland – a review of the Scottish Government's Ten Key Behaviours*. Edinburgh: ClimateXChange.

Van Veelen, B. (2017) *European Climate Change Case Studies – Heat policy in the Netherlands*. Edinburgh: ClimateXChange.

The Scottish Government (2015) *One Million Acres by 2020. Strategy report and recommendations from the 1 Million Acre Short Life Working Group*. Edinburgh: The Scottish Government.

Haggett, C., Aitken, M., Rudolph, D., Harnmeijer, J., **van Veelen, B.**, and Markantoni, M. (2014) *Supporting Community Investment in Commercial Renewable Energy Schemes. Final Report*. Edinburgh: ClimateXChange.

FUNDING AWARDED

- 2019 Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (Formas) – Early career mobility grant: 2,962,281 Swedish krona (~£236,486)
- 2019 Leverhulme Trust – Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship: £83,000 + match funding from the University of Edinburgh (funding declined in favour of Formas grant)
- 2019 Funding to organise 'Democratising Infrastructures' workshop: £5,060
From the Institute of Advanced Study and Department of Geography, Durham University
- 2016 ESRC Festival of Social Sciences: £760
To run collaborative event 'Social impacts of renewables on young people in rural areas' during the ESRC Festival of Social Sciences. With Dr. Marianna Markantoni (SRUC) and the community group Here We Are Cairndow.
- 2016 Funding for RIPPLES network workshop: £1,786 (various sources)
From two University of Edinburgh departments to run a two-day workshop for a new network for interdisciplinary early career researchers.
- 2015 Meiklejohn Fund for geographical research in Scotland: £680
- 2015 Funding for Future Connections conference: £3,772 (various sources)
From the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences and four University of Edinburgh departments
- 2013 ESRC Environment, Climate Change and Energy pathway Doctoral Scholarship: £60,000
- 2012 Carnegie-Cameron Taught Postgraduate Bursary: £3,750
- 2012 Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds scholarship: €10,000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate

Teaching Assistant – University of Edinburgh	
- Environmental Justice	2017
- Research Design and Methods in Geography	2016
- Introduction to Human Geography	2016
- Journey to the Western Isles (field course)	2015-2016

Postgraduate

Guest Lecturer – University of Edinburgh

- Human Dimensions of Environmental Change 2015-2019
- Energy & Society 2015-2018
- Participation in Policy and Planning 2017

Guest Lecturer – Durham University

- Research Frontiers in Human Geography 2018

Workshop Organiser – University of Edinburgh

Research design and methods' workshops for the MSc programme Environmental Sustainability; and MSc Environment, Culture and Society. 2014-2017

Teaching Assistant – University of Edinburgh

- Environmental Sustainability 2013-2016
- Analysing the Environment 2014-2016
- Case Studies in Sustainable Development 2013-2014
- Water Resource Management 2013-2014

Dissertation supervision

Robinson, M.G. (2017) Thinking outside the neoliberal box: the discursive potential of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act for the local governance of climate change. MSc. University of Edinburgh. (Awarded Best Dissertation MSc Env. Sustainability)

Beharre Latore, N.A. (2016) Community Renewable Energy: Analysis of the participation process on community benefit. MSc. University of Edinburgh. Co-supervised with Dr. van der Horst.

CONFERENCES

Conferences organised

2015 Future Connections: a two-day conference for 45 early career researchers in Scotland working on the theme of 'environment and society'.

Conference sessions organised

2019 American Association of Geographers Conference – Washington, DC.
Realising diverse climate economies? The place(s) of green finance in the Anthropocene.

2018 Earth System Governance Conference – Utrecht, The Netherlands
Beyond the finance 'gap' - An innovative roundtable discussion on low-carbon finance

2016 RSG-IBG Conference – London, UK
Policies and practices of community-led environmental initiatives

Invited speaker

2019 University College London, UK - Institute for Sustainable Resources
'Decentralisation, democracy and the challenge of diversity: Becoming democratic through community energy in the UK'

2019 Uppsala University, Sweden - Geo-imaginaries workshop
'Where are we going towards 2050? An exploration of futures (un)imagined in low-carbon roadmaps'

2016 Hokkaido University, Japan - Sasakawa workshop on environmental governance
'Community energy in Scotland: a bottom-up transition?'

Papers presented

2019 American Association of Geographers Conference – Washington, DC

- 2018 'Producing diverse and multi-scalar climate subjects through faith-based climate action'
Summer Institute on Critical Environmental Governance – Toronto, Canada
- 2016 'Cash cows? (Re-)configuring sustainable dairy through green investment'
European Sociological Association Midterm Conference - Leipzig, Germany.
- 2016 'Negotiating energy democracy in practice: the case of Alltnish, Scotland'
RGS-IBG Conference - London.
- 2014 'Community energy in Scotland – deliberative democracy in practice?'
REScoop symposium – Lille, France.
'Community energy: contributing to a just low-carbon transition?'

SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION

- 2018 - Editor for Local Environment – The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability. I am responsible for developing the new 'Translations' section.
- 2016 - Reviewer for journals including Nature Energy; Environment and Planning A; Energy Research and Social Sciences; Geoforum; Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews; Environmental Policy & Planning; and Regional Environmental Change
- 2016 - Founder and member of RIPPLES early career researchers network
Further information available at www.ripplesnetwork.org.uk
- 2013 – 16 Co-organiser Interdisciplinary Global Environment & Society Academy PhD network (University of Edinburgh)
- 2013 – 15 Co-organiser School of Geosciences Environment & Society Research Group (University of Edinburgh). Developed four workshops on interdisciplinary research for PhD students.

Committee membership

- 2017 - 2019 Post-doctoral representative to the Department of Geography's Board of Studies (Durham University)
- 2016 - 2017 Representative on School of Geosciences Health & Safety committee (University of Edinburgh)

LANGUAGES

- Dutch - Native
English - Fluent
Spanish - Conversational
German - Conversational
Swedish - Beginner