

GPERC-STIR-FEPS Seminar

Postgraduate Research Students seminar on Sustainable Transitions

March 9th 2016, Greenwich Campus, Room QM168, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Paper abstracts

The complex issues around developing a ‘conjoint rural-urban area’: a classic situation of the Greater Port Harcourt City Development Project, Nigeria.

Molly Williamson Jack

Supervisory team: Dr Anne-Marie Coles, Dr Athena Piterou

It is fundamental to understand the complexities of a ‘conjoint rural-urban area’. Conjoint rural-urban area in this context is used to define an urban area that is geographically merged with rural areas. In the light of the several challenges of the Greater Port Harcourt City development project, there exist a niche of rural-urban dwellers, which are often made of rural dwellers that find themselves in and round the boundaries of the urban area. This niche and the broad spectrum of challenges that emerge from it was established in the findings of a research study which focused on Greater Port Harcourt City Development. Some of the key issues that were identified as factors inhibiting the sustainable development of the urban area were cultural differences, different traditional belief systems, existing community conflicts, language barriers, differences in land/water use and multifaceted level of vested interest by stakeholders. Under such circumstances, it is particularly difficult to define the scope in terms of the parameters of the urban area under development.

Persistence of innovative technologies in long-term co-development and transition processes: the case of CHP technologies in the UK

Anton Sentic

Supervisory team: Dr Anne-Marie Coles, Dr Athena Piterou

The emergence and development of innovative, sustainable ideas and their interaction with incumbent regimes is one of the key focal areas of Transitions Research. Based on the niche-regime relationship defined through a multi-level perspective, multiple studies have reviewed and discussed the different possible interactions between niche and regime and the pathways along which emerging innovations and the niches in which they develop interact with the incumbent regime. Five potential pathways were identified: transformations of the incumbent regime, reconfigurations of the regime with inclusion of elements of emerging niches, de-alignment and re-alignment of regimes that allows for the emergence of multiple innovations, technological substitutions in which well-developed niches replace unstable regimes or a combination of the former in circumstances of disruptive landscape change. In this presentation, the author reviews the case of niche innovations which are co-existing with dominant regimes for long time periods in a constant state of niche-regime interaction with periodically initiated transition processes due to landscape developments and/or changing macro-level contexts. The aim of the review is to investigate whether there might be an additional pathway for transformation processes, including elements of but different to the existing types of transition pathways.