

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) – SCIENTIFIC REPORT

The STSM applicant submits this report for approval to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA16232

STSM title: Exploring Energy Vulnerability causes from Capability Approach

STSM start and end date: 08/11/2017 to 20/12/2017 and from 31/01/18 to 04/04/18

Grantee name: Victoria Pellicer Sifres

PURPOSE OF THE STSM/

In order to justify the purpose of the STSM, I first include a brief background about the state of the art of academic research on energy vulnerability in Spain:

The STSM applicant is researching on energy vulnerability in Spain, from the last five years (from 2013), when the concept of “fuel poverty” first emerged in Spanish society. Since then, fuel poverty phenomenon captured Spanish attention thanks to the claim of activists and social organisations and due to the publication of some national reports. However, while fuel poverty issues goes on gaining attention on the activists spaces (social organisations, NGO, mobilised citizenship), and while some new labour parties on regional governments are starting to design policies to tackle fuel poverty, relative little attention has been paid from the academia realms.

Due to this, we could affirm that there is still a lack of deeper reflection Spanish specificities regarding fuel poverty (definitions, causes and consequences are directly being “copied” from the work developed in the UK). It is the STSM applicant’s departing point that current conceptualisation of fuel poverty is limited since it does not allow unveiling core elements of the problem. It is more complex, multidimensional and connected with structural causes than the way it has been conceived up until now in Spain. The STSM applicant suggests that a more critical and politicized conceptualization is needed. **However, in order to reinforce these ideas, further discussions with experienced researchers on this area are needed.**

The STSM period at SEED (The Manchester University) was conceived as a great opportunity to get involved in a research group aligned with this critical perspective of fuel poverty. More specifically, the purpose of **the STSM period was based on two main objectives:**

- To discuss the conceptualization of the causes of energy vulnerability in Spain, using elements from capability Approach. The basis of the discussions would be supported on

the seminal paper of Bouzarovsky and Petrova (2015), whose authors will belong to the STSM Host Institution

- To discuss the conceptualization of the consequences of energy vulnerability, using elements from capability Approach. The basis of the discussions would be supported on the seminal paper Day et al (2015), one of its co-authors (N. Simcock) also belongs to the STSM Host Institution

References:

Bouzarovski, S., & Petrova, S. (2015). A global perspective on domestic energy deprivation: Overcoming the energy poverty-fuel poverty binary. *Energy Research and Social Science*, 10, 31–40.

Day, R., Walker, G., & Simcock, N. (2016). Conceptualising energy use and energy poverty using a capabilities framework. *Energy Policy*, 93, 255–264.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

Below I describe the activities undertaken during the STSM period:

Month 1 (November):

- Week 1: First meetings with researchers on fuel poverty and presentation of broad ideas on the two suggested paper
- Week 2: Finish first working paper on consequences of energy vulnerability, explored from capability approach. Discussions are carried out with one of the co-authors of the paper of Day et al (2016) mentioned before, Dr. Neil Simcock
- Week 3: All co-authors meeting: present, contrast and discuss the working paper. Discuss practical decisions: journal and future planning
- Week 4: Incorporate comments and changes suggested during the seminar. Finish the first version of the paper

Month 2 (December):

- Week 1: Prepare and present the following seminar: “*Reframing fuel poverty from Capability Approach: The case of fuel poverty in Spain. Practical applications of Capability Approach*”. School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds. 27/11/17
- Week 2: Prepare and present the following seminar: “*Towards energy democracy: core concepts and practical example*”. Module Energy Society and Space, The University of Manchester. 12/12/17
- Week 3: Present, contrast and discuss the evidences from the Spanish case, about the conceptualization of energy vulnerability proposed, using the capability approach as a normative framework.

- Week 4: Finish the second working paper causes of energy vulnerability, explored from capability approach. Discussions are carried out with the authors of the paper of Bouzarovsky and Petrova (2015) mentioned before

January (from 30/01/18 to 02/02/18):

- Attend the Evaluate project symposium. Title: “*Transformative infrastructures: Second energy vulnerabilities and pathways symposium*”.
- Present the second working paper on causes of energy vulnerability, explored from capability approach. Title of the presentation: “*Exploring Energy Vulnerability from the bottom-up: an understanding using the Capability Approach*”

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

In terms of publishing outputs, the main results obtained have been:

One paper expected to be sent to a high impact research journal:

- Title: “*Fuel poverty as an energy injustice: exploring consequences on well-being from capability approach*”
- Co-authored with Dr. Neil Simcock (from the University of Manchester, the STSM Host institution) and with Dr. Alejandra Boni (from the Universitat Politècnica de València, the STSM Home institution).
- Current state: Authors are proceeding with the last revisions, and the paper is expected to be sent by the end of May 2018

One working paper:

- Title: “*Exploring Energy Vulnerability from the bottom-up: an understanding using the Capability Approach*”
- Co-authored with Dr. Stefan Bouzarovski, Dr. Saska Petrova and Dr. Neil Simcock (from the University of Manchester, the STSM Host institution)
- Current state: First version of the paper (expected to be sent to a high impact research journal) is estimated to be finished by the end of July

In terms of academic networking outputs, the main results obtained have been:

- To strengthen relationships with researchers on energy vulnerability from the School of Education, Environment and Development, The University of Manchester (The STSM Host institution)
- To strengthen relationships with researchers on energy vulnerability from the School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds (since I have been invited to give a seminar there during my STSM in Manchester)

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

Immediate expected future collaborations are the following:

- Finishing the (first) paper, entitled *“Fuel poverty as an energy injustice: exploring consequences on well-being from capability approach”*, with Dr. Neil Simcock (from the STSM Host institution) and with Dr. Alejandra Boni (from the STSM Home institution)
- Finishing the (second) paper, entitled *“Exploring Energy Vulnerability from the bottom-up: an understanding using the Capability Approach”*, with Dr. Stefan Bouzarovski, Dr. Saska Petrova and Dr. Neil Simcock (from the STSM Host institution)
- Writing a chapter co-authored with Dr. Lucie Middlemiss and Dr. Ross Guillard (from the University of Leeds) and with Dr. Koen Straver (from the Energy Research Centre of The Netherlands), who I met during my STSM. The title of the chapter will be *“Plugging the gap between energy poverty policy and the lived experience: five principles for a multi-disciplinary approach”*, and it will be published in a Think Piece Collection from the European project “Shape Energy”
- Meeting with the pre-doctoral student Majd Jayyousi (from the STSM Host Institution) who I met during my STSM, and who will a PhD Day event that I have co-organized (at my Home institution). The meeting will be useful to developing further some of the ideas related with Capability Approach that I’ve been working on during my STSM period.