



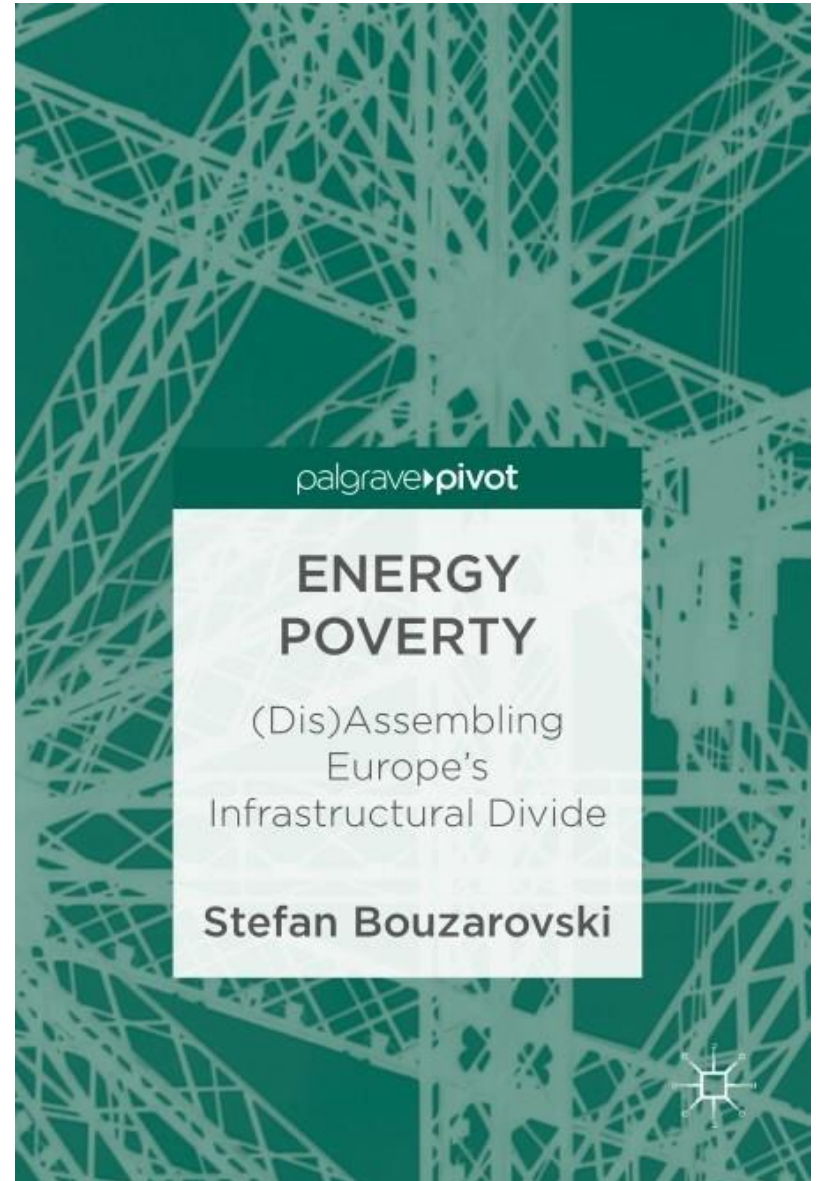
# Energy poverty and justice: A geographical perspective

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Bouzarovski S, Simcock N (2017) Spatializing energy justice. *Energy Policy* 107: 640-648.

Bouzarovski S, Tirado Herrero S, Petrova S, Frankowski J, Matoušek R, Maltby T (2017) Multiple transformations: theorizing energy vulnerability as a socio-spatial phenomenon. *Geografiska Annaler B* 99: 20-41.

Bouzarovski S, Thomson H (2017) Energy vulnerability in the grain of the city: toward neighborhood typologies of material deprivation. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 108: 695-717



# Conceptual challenges

- Moving beyond ...
  - *heating*: exploring a wider range of energy services, looking across the energy chain
  - *established groups*: e.g. young people, single parents etc.
  - *'the triad'*: emphasis on needs, practices, etc.
  - *well-known geographical spaces*: breaking the North-South divide
  - *poverty*: vulnerability and justice approaches
- Energy poverty as an urban and political phenomenon, and a form of material deprivation or inequality

# Methodological innovation

- Critical interrogation of existing measures and their inter-relationships
- Wider range of indicators, beyond expenditure and subjective self-reporting
- Expansion of modelling-based approaches
- New methods: ethnographies, direct measurement, labs?

# New policy spaces

- Expansion at the EU scale
- Increasing number of local initiatives, and NGO/informal organising
- Regional development funding as a means of alleviating the systemic drivers of energy poverty
- Behaviours, attitudes, aspirations, habits increasingly integrated in policy
- Addressing fuel/energy poverty via 'smart' measures

# Energy poverty as injustice

- Fairness in the distribution of 'benefits' and 'burdens' across society (Day et al 2016)
- Question remains as to what actually constitutes 'fairness' in this context - this is highly contested:
  - What is being distributed?
  - What is the principle of distribution?
- Vulnerability: energy poverty is driven by systemic and political factors – it is not the consequence of poor choices

# Spatial justice

- Geographers have a long engagement with concepts of justice
  - *Distributional focus*: unevenness in Cartesian space (Dikeç, 2001)
  - *Explanatory focus*: understanding the dynamic spatial processes that (re)produce geographic inequalities (Harvey, 1973)
- Space is not a neutral container within which the social world 'happens' – it is both constructed by and constitutes social relations (Dikeç, 2002)
- *Relational perspective*, termed by Soja (2010) the 'socio-spatial dialectic'

# Spatial justice and energy

- Energy vulnerability can be seen as a spatial injustice as it involves multiple material sites and scales of energy operations and flows
- The two frameworks have rarely been considered alongside each other (unlike distributional, procedural or recognitional justice)
- 'Involuntary confinement and unequal allocation of resources across space' (Marcuse 2010)
- Is spatial justice derivative of social or environmental justice?
- Moving beyond the urban scale to highlight wider spatial patterns and geographical forms of injustice (principally in distributional terms)



# Spatializing energy justice

- Energy vulnerability is unevenly experienced and distributed across space
- These distributions are scale-sensitive: countries, regions, time horizons
- More than 'who gets what' across space (political production/impact on well being):
  - Differences in bodies: health and social role
  - Differences in social context: access and politics
  - Transitions across the energy chain

# Some questions

- How do we politicize and spatialize fuel and energy poverty?
- What are the multiple 'nexi' linked to energy poverty?
- How do we connect disparate debates in the energy poverty and justice domains?
- How do injustices embedded in the 'low carbon transition' relate to fuel and energy poverty?



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