

# INTERPRETIVE POLICY ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 2021

**Panel Title:**

*P11 - Narratives, frames and knowledge in the current energy and climate debate*

**Panel Convenors:**

Dr. Julia Wittmayer, Assistant Professor, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Dr. Sabine Hielscher, Senior Research Fellow, Science Policy Research Unit (University of Sussex)

**Submit your paper abstract to:** [wittmayer@drift.eur.nl](mailto:wittmayer@drift.eur.nl); [S.Hielscher@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:S.Hielscher@sussex.ac.uk)

The key role of framings, narratives and discourses has for long been discussed in interpretive policy analysis, social movement studies and recently taken up in sustainability transitions. This panel aims to build upon this long engagement to explore the current contestations between different parties striving to establish interpretive authority about desired societal futures, including the role of knowledge therein.

The focus is on the content, construction, and performativity of different frames and narratives against energy pathways (e.g. based on fossil fuels) and/ or climate change more generally. Such frames and narratives may contain problem descriptions and envisioned alternative futures and are constructed and negotiated by multiple actors. Including but not stopping with 'policy frames', we encourage engagement with frames and narratives put forth by other actors and how these interact with incumbents' frames and narratives about energy system and/ or climate futures, influence policymaking and/ or 'stop' adverse activities such as local fossil fuel production. While often disguised as 'technical' transitions, transformations of the energy system do involve changes in certain political and social orders – what these are in concrete contexts is one of the areas to explore.

We are specifically interested in how framings and narratives gain interpretive authority, and how legitimacy for narratives and framings is constructed and these rendered more acceptable to publics. This involves a certain knowledge politics including questions about whose and which forms of knowledge count, how narratives and framing are negotiated, and legitimacy constructed and what is the role of existing knowledge institutes. Specifically, we are interested in receiving papers that focus on one of the following:

- comparative analysis of (competing) narratives about societal futures, specifically in relation to energy systems, climate change or sustainability issues;
- processes through which framings are negotiated and reproduced over time (acknowledging that there are multiple frames);

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- ways that framings are exploring and leading to changes in social relations, network formation or institutional change;
- ways that framings and narratives are adopted, adapted, captured by others or overall change over time;
- ways in which legitimacy and of framings and narratives are constructed over time, as well as their interpretive authority.