

PhD position in Geography of renewable energy transformations at the University of Victoria, Canada

The renewable energy transitions lab at University of Victoria is seeking applications for a PhD student to work on a three-year project focused on just renewable energy transitions supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded project “Do disruptive renewable energy innovations in local contexts accelerate a just and democratic energy transition?” The position will start in May or September 2022, depending on the preference of the selected candidate.

The ideal candidate will have academic and potentially work experience related to energy geography and sustainability transitions/energy democracy/energy justice. Applicants must have a relevant Master’s degree (e.g., geography, environmental studies, innovation systems) completed no later than summer 2022. The successful applicant will be working with an interdisciplinary team of researchers and students. The position will be supervised by Dr. Christina Hoicka (UVic Geography and Civil Engineering). Learn more about Dr. Hoicka and the lab at <https://socialexergy.ca/>. UVic geography offers minimum funding packages, and funding will be competitive for the successful candidate. Details about the graduate program in Geography at the University of Victoria are found here:

<https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/graduate/prospective-students/index.php>

Interested applicants should send a cover letter detailing how they are qualified for this PhD position, a CV detailing academic achievements, conferences and publications, and unofficial transcripts to Dr. Christina Hoicka (cehoicka@uvic.ca, subject line “SSHRC PhD position application”) no later than December 5, 2021. Cover letters should explicitly identify how previous academic and/or work experience are related to the skills required for the advertised position. Only those candidates of interest will be contacted for an interview, so we ask that you do not send follow-up emails regarding the status of your application.

Project details:

Addressing climate change requires a rapid transition to renewable energy sources. Depending on how a renewable energy transition occurs, it can either address or exacerbate inequalities as they occur in local contexts. This transition is not simply about technological change, it is about societal transformation and the scale-up of innovations that disrupt the established ‘socio-technical’ system. Social science research is required to advance our knowledge of how to address inequalities and encourage widespread participation while advancing a renewable energy transition to avoid climate disruption. This SSHRC project will explore the emergence of renewable energy clusters globally. The proposed research will investigate the transformative potential of renewable energy using the conceptual frameworks of energy democracy, energy justice, and innovation systems.

This proposed research seeks to: identify and analyze disruptive RE projects that are being planned and implemented in communities applying the concepts of renewable energy clusters and renewable energy transitions; understand their potential to be societally transformative and the associated factors; translate and communicate this knowledge to the communities.

University of Victoria

The University of Victoria is a public research university in Greater Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, located in the municipalities of Oak Bay and Saanich. It is the first post-secondary institution established in the province of British Columbia in 1903. UVic is one of Canada's leading universities. It is widely recognized for leadership in research, inspired teaching, and community engagement. UVic provides innovative programs and dynamic learning experiences in the diverse and welcoming West Coast setting. You can find more information on the university website (<https://www.uvic.ca>).

Diversity

UVic is committed to upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in our living, learning and work environments. In pursuit of our values, we seek members who will work respectfully and constructively with differences and across levels of power. We actively encourage applications from members of groups experiencing barriers to equity.

The lab encourages applications from all underrepresented groups considering research careers without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or age.