

## **Sustainability | Individual communication**

### **IC - (21025) - TIME, HISTORY AND MEANING-MAKING – A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH ON PEOPLE'S RESPONSES TO RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

Sophia Küpers<sup>1</sup>; Susana Batel<sup>1</sup>

1 - CIS\_ISCTE

#### **Background and objectives**

Time is an omni-present reality in current low-carbon energy transitions. The field of research on the social acceptance of renewable energy technologies (RET) is interested in how people relate to renewable energy projects, sees people as central actors within energy transitions and has shown that their responses are highly diverse depending on global and local power dynamics entangled with RET deployment.

#### **Process and methods (for empirical research)**

In this paper, we show that most research so far has been cross sectional, both by examining people's responses at a specific moment in a project's lifecycle and by considering RET projects as independent from histories of infrastructure and place as well as people's experience. We further point out how references to the perception of time and meaning-making in social acceptance work are frequently vague and often used as a mere backdrop to the main story. However, an embryonic body of literature cross-disciplinary contributions is already showing a way forward, towards increased temporal awareness (Sarrica et al., 2016; Sherren et al. 2016; Lai, 2021).

#### **Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)**

Inspired by these authors, we develop a first conceptual framework for the systematization of time dimensions in social acceptance research. We propose differentiating physical and historical time (Aminzade, 1992) for social acceptance research as a first step towards grasping the diverse meanings people attribute to temporal dynamics and specifically the role of collective memories.

#### **Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution**

Our deeper engagement with temporality contributes to recent critical work in social acceptance research and will provide a helpful analytical tool to researchers who intend to approach the temporal embeddedness of the very processes the field tries to understand.

**Palavras-chave : social acceptance of renewable energy technologies (RET), people's responses, meaning-making, temporality, physical time, historical time, energy history**