

Post-doctoral position

“Energy local exchanges and emerging intermediaries”

Grenoble Alps University, France

Grenoble Alps University offers a one-year post-doctoral position to social sciences PhD (Sociology, urbanism, planning, political sciences, sustainable transition studies, etc.) within the scope of its cross-disciplinary program “*Eco-district: Safe, Efficient, Sustainable and Accessible Energies*”.

Endowed with 8 M€ - 1.7 M€ funded by the “Investing for the Future” governmental program - the [IDEX](#) cross-disciplinary program [Eco-SESA](#) assumes that the stochastic production from the renewable energy sources in urban areas challenges the historical - centralized and unidirectional - operation mode of the grids and the relationship of individuals and communities to energy. Based on observations at the building and district scales, the project Eco-SESA aims to produce knowledge, concepts, tools and methods to re-think planning, design, management and governance of energy systems in cities as well as the design of their components. Grenoble is the [second French research and innovation site](#) after Paris and comes out as [the best place in France](#) to study.

Within the scope of “Interactions modelling between buildings and grids within districts” research front of Eco-SESA, this post-doctoral position concerns the energy *intermediaries*: devices or organisations at a cross-road between end-users, on-the-spot renewable energies systems and large networks (gas and power). Towards low carbon transition, urban *intermediaries* can design energy autonomy – in regard to large networks – and/or manage it through infrastructures of production and storage beyond the building scale. These emerging practices face sociotechnical regimes that themselves are changing. For example: while only thermal exchanges were allowed, new French legislation allows direct exchanges of power between neighbouring buildings. Moreover, throughout Europe, smart grids and databases multiply horizontal cooperation possibilities. The *intermediaries* could take various shapes especially in cities if they articulate different energy carriers.

The entirety of these evolutions opens new questions relative to institutional and economical statuses of intermediaries’, their decision-making process and the spatial configurations. It also opens questions on grid reliability and forms of solidarity, historically provided by national networks in France that *intermediaries*’ energy autonomy challenge.

Bibliography:

- Moss, Timothy. « Intermediaries and the Governance of Sociotechnical Networks in Transition ». *Environment and Planning A*, 1 juin 2009. doi:10.1068/a4116.
- Guy, Simon, Simon Marvin, et Will Medd. *Shaping Urban Infrastructures: Intermediaries and the Governance of Socio-Technical Networks*. Routledge, 2011.
- Hargreaves, Tom, Sabine Hielscher, Gill Seyfang, et Adrian Smith. « Grassroots innovations in community energy: The role of intermediaries in niche development ». *Global Environmental Change* 23, n° 5 (octobre 2013): 868-80. doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2013.02.008.
- Debizet, Gilles, Antoine Tabourdeau, Caroline Gauthier, et Philippe Menanteau. « Spatial processes in urban energy transitions: considering an assemblage of Socio-Energy Nodes ». *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 134, Part A (15 octobre 2016): 330-41. doi:10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.02.140.

Methodology:

- Literature review on urban energy intermediaries and on conditions of a local and horizontal energy management
- Socio-energy assemblage analysis from existing surveys in France and specific surveys to be conducted in several European cities
- Co-writing articles in international revues

Expected results:

- Publications
- Identification of emerging interaction models
- Contribution to designing multi-energy and multi-actors techno-economical simulation models

Scientific environment: The Post-doctorate will be located in the heart of an exceptional scientific environment: world class of Grenoble research institutes in energy research (GAEL, G2ELab, CEA-LITEN, INES...), integration in its large cross-disciplinary program, international partnerships, actors' survey in a pioneer city in matter of sustainable transition, host of [PACTE laboratory](#) French laboratory social sciences within a dozen of social scientists and PhD candidates working on energy transition within territories.

Period: starting between September 2017 and January 2018 for twelve months

Salary: According to French rules for post-doctoral position

Applicants must have obtained their PhD within the last 2 years and have to meet the following criteria:

- Excellent academic post-graduations
- Capacity to work with other disciplines and in a cross-disciplinary context
- Be highly fluent in both writing and speaking in the English language.
- Comprehensive reading in French is expected

Application procedures:

- **by email at:** gilles.debizet@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr and apply.eco-sesa@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- **by form:** <https://ecosesa.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/job-offers/application-form-711620.htm>

Both application procedures, email and form, are mandatory.

Each application procedure must include a single attached file (.zip, .rar, .pdf)

Application to be sent before the **1st of June 2017** with the following:

- Curriculum vitae with publication list
- Cover letter
- Thesis abstract
- Journal articles and Conference papers as first author

Auditions will be held **mid-June**

For more information: Gilles Debizet