



## Innovation and Governance for Future Energy Systems Speaker Biographies



### Alice Bell



is director of communications at 10:10 Climate Action, a charity specialising in public engagement with energy and climate change. Previously, she was a lecturer in science communication at Imperial College London, where she also set up an interdisciplinary course on climate change and supported the 2011 BBC Trust review of science media. Additionally, she has worked at City University, UCL and the University of Sussex. Alice has also worked as a professional journalist, specialising in science and environmental policy, writing for a range of publications including the Guardian, Times Higher, Research Fortnight and Al Jazeera. She was a regular correspondent for the International Council for Science's Road to Paris climate policy blog, and launched How We Get to Next, a website telling stories about innovation. She is a trustee of Medact, and sits on the advisory committee for the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity, University of Surrey.

### Katie Black



joined the National Infrastructure Commission in November 2015 to work on the Commission's initial report into the energy sector, 'Smart Power', and now leads the Transport, Energy and Digital policy team. She has also published a paper looking at the relationship between technological change and infrastructure systems. Prior to this she worked in various roles across the Department of Energy and Climate Change and undertook a secondment to an electricity retailer. She has a Master's degree in Chemistry and conducted research looking at the chemistry of carbon capture and storage.

### Jess Britton



is a Research Fellow on the iGov2 project. Prior to this she completed a PhD which examined the role of local government and municipal ownership in heat network development. Her research interests include how more diverse actors, business models and value propositions will be incorporated into sustainable energy systems, the changing role of data in energy systems and political devolution. She was a Research Associate on the Energy Security in a Multipolar World research cluster from 2012 – 2013 and has carried out consultancy for Ofgem, Sustainability First, CSE and Bristol Green Capital. Jess also worked in sustainability policy and projects for 8 years, as a Sustainability Manager in both local government and the NHS.

### Sonia Brown



is the Director of UK Regulatory Policy and Public Affairs at Visa Europe, and a member of the Visa Europe Legal and Regulatory Leadership Team. Prior to joining Visa Europe late in 2015, Sonia was a board member and Chief Regulation Officer for the water regulator (Ofwat) where she successfully led the most recent pricing reset (worth in excess of £46bn). Before joining Ofwat, Sonia worked as the health care regulator (Monitor) Chief Economist. At Monitor, Sonia was responsible for developing policy to set up the first economic regulator for health care in England. Sonia started her career at the energy regulator, (Ofgem) where she held a number of senior positions including Director of Gas Network Sales and Director of European Strategy and the Environment

## Rachel Cary



manages the zero carbon policy team at the Greater London Authority which looks at the policy and programmes required to decarbonise London by 2050. She oversees the GLA's work with the C40 network of cities working together to tackle climate change, GLA energy planning policy for new buildings in London, and new programmes to increase business action and investment in low carbon infrastructure in London. Rachel joined the GLA from DONG Energy where she worked on offshore wind and industrial strategy policy. Rachel was previously Head of Energy at the think tank Green Alliance and has a background in climate and energy consultancy. She has an MSc Physics from Manchester University and an MSc Environmental Technology (Energy Policy option) from Imperial College London.

## Antonia Dickman



is Head of Energy and Environment Research in Ipsos MORI's Social Research Institute. Antonia has 10 years' experience researching attitudes to the energy sector for clients such as BEIS, Energy UK, Ofgem and the Energy Networks Association. Much of Antonia's recent research has focused on consumer and business priorities around the design of a sustainable, affordable and fair system for the future.

## Elizabeth Errington



is a Senior Policy Researcher at Citizens Advice and joined the Energy Retail Team in 2017. Her main area of interest is in delivering leading research on domestic and micro business consumer experience to ensure appropriate regulation and policy in energy markets. Prior to joining Citizen Advice, Elizabeth worked on affordability challenges in the UK energy markets in industry and as an academic researcher. In her academic work, Elizabeth analyses UK energy regulation under a feminist critical policy framework and is interested in developing the 'Energy Justice' research agenda. Elizabeth is an associate of the 3S Research Group (Science, Sustainability and Society) and the Centre for Competition Policy at the University of East Anglia.

## Jo Gilbert



has worked in the energy retail market for over 18 years in business, operational, project and technical roles and has a thorough understanding of end-to-end business processes and functional requirements in this sector. Jo's specialist subjects are UK market entry, smart metering, prepayment and asset management supporting several public and private sector suppliers since the launch of Smart Change solutions in March 2010. Jo supported Nottingham City Council with the design, development and launch of Robin Hood Energy as Interim Head of the Company, for 3 years. Since January 2017 Jo has gone on to support ESB Energy, Orbit Energy and Inspired Energy with their UK market entry activities. Jo is an advocate of alleviating fuel poverty and the promotion of energy innovation and new energy systems.

## Silke Goldberg MA FRSA



is a partner at Herbert Smith Freehills LLP and an energy law specialist. She is a solicitor qualified in the Republic of Ireland and well as England and Wales and is also a member of the Berlin Bar (*Rechtsanwaltskammer Berlin*). Silke has extensive experience of advising on electricity and gas transactions across the entire value chain of the energy sector. She has advised on a series of upstream and downstream gas projects, gas sales and purchase agreements, gas pipelines, conventional and renewable power projects as well as interconnectors, transmission and distribution grids and storage facilities. She is a Visiting Lecturer at Queen May University of London for international energy regulation as well as an affiliated professor with the University of Haifa, and regularly publishes on aspects of energy law and policy. Silke has been the editor of the European Energy Handbook since 2007.

## Felicity Jones



leads on energy storage at Everoze, a fast-growing technical and commercial consultancy specialising in renewables and storage. Everoze's storage team provides due diligence, market entry and procurement support to the storage sector. Prior to joining Everoze, Felicity served as chair of the World Energy Council storage knowledge network. Felicity brings a global perspective, having lived and worked on energy strategy projects in the UK, Singapore, Norway and the Netherlands. She holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics & Economics from Oxford and MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College.

## Jane Lucy



is a pioneer of using digital technologies to empower consumers and bring about disruptive change. She worked with broadcaster and writer Hugh Fearnley-Whittingsall to 'change the eating habits of a nation' with the hugely successful Chicken out and Fish Fight campaigns. Jane was also instrumental in building some of the UK's first online collaborative communities: Landshare and Crowdfunder, gaining the attention of international thought leaders like Rachel Botsman and the Wikinomics team. Through energysave and its UK Together campaign, and working with industry leaders British gas, uSwitch and DECC, Jane spotted a huge market opportunity to do things differently, and so founded Labrador. With her deep knowledge of campaigning, digital know-how and appetite for positive change, Jane's ambition is to bring about disruption where it's most needed: the energy market. She has also worked as an analyst and equity advisor in Equity Capital Markets at Credit Suisse First Boston.

## Dr Robyn Lucas



is Head of Data Science at Open Energi. Robyn works on demand side flexibility in the UK electricity network; modelling, forecasting and optimizing the usage and performance of a variety electrical loads and enabling customers to intelligently control their electricity consumption. Prior to Open Energi she worked for a technology consultancy, helping clients make the best use of their data. Robyn graduated from Imperial College London in 2015 with a PhD in Physics, during which she worked at the CERN LHC.

## **Kathryn Magnay**



is Head of New Energy Technologies at EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), developing research and innovation programmes across the Energy sector in response to opportunities presented by the Industry Strategy Challenge Fund. Prior to this as Head of the RCUK (Research Councils UK) Energy Programme she set the vision and strategy for the cross-Council programme of research investment in Energy, working with the academic community to realise this vision.

## **Poppy Maltby**



is a Senior Project Manager at Regen, who are working to accelerate the transition to a decarbonised, decentralised and democratic energy system. She leads their work on energy scenarios for distribution networks and sits on the Access Task Force as part of the Ofgem's Charging Futures Forum. She joined Regen from EDF Energy where she worked as a sustainability strategy senior manager. Running a small team to develop, report and communicate their sustainability strategy. She also worked on energy and climate change policy at a UK and EU level. Poppy previously worked at Business in the Community on stakeholder engagement and benchmarking, and at the Sustainable Development Commission advising government on challenges including sustainable consumption, aviation expansion and redefining prosperity.

## **Lynne McDonald**



joined UK Power Networks in September 2010 and has over seven years utilities experience, delivering new technical, commercial and customer experience innovations to advance services to customers and communities. Interests are local energy; exploring the growth of community energy schemes, smart cities and towns. Lynne is responsible for overseeing the strategic change programme to transition the business to a Distribution System Operator (DSO) to facilitate a smart, flexible energy system that empowers and enable customers to take advantage of technologies available now and those yet to come. Previously Lynne was Project Lead for the £5.5m community energy project, energywise, that seeks to help fuel poor customers better manage their energy consumption. Moreover, Lynne led the energy efficiency report for the innovation project Low Carbon London. Additionally led a team that registered a programme of innovative projects to advance the condition and failure management of electricity distribution assets.

## **Nicola McCheyne**



is the Head of Ideas Lab at Centrica. Nicola's mission is to make Centrica more entrepreneurial and she is responsible for the incubation of business ideas that help invent Centrica's future. Nicola was one half of the team that built the Cornwall Local Energy Market, a £20m demonstrator to build the energy system of the future. Prior to Centrica, Nicola spent seven years working in a sustainable energy charity and is passionate about social impact and purpose led organisations. Nicola has an MSc in Sustainable Development from the University of Exeter and a BEng (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering and Business. When not working, Nicola is a long distance sea swimmer and in 2017 completed a solo crossing of the English Channel.

## **Maria McKavanagh**



is the COO of Verv. Creators of a smart energy hub, Verv have combined AI, IoT and blockchain technology to form a renewable energy trading solution that improves access to affordable, low carbon energy. As a prominent figure in the industry, Maria was recently nominated for the Computer Weekly top 50 Most Influential Women in Tech. She has a background in Field Sales Engineering at National Instruments where she was responsible for a multi-million pound sales territory across a wide range of industries from Aerospace and Defence to Consumer Electronics. Maria holds an MEng degree in Electronic Systems Engineering from The University of Manchester.

## **Professor Catherine Mitchell**



Catherine Mitchell is Professor of Energy Policy at the University of Exeter. Previous to that, she worked at the Universities of Warwick, Sussex and California, Berkeley. She holds an Established Career Fellowship with the EPSRC. Phase 1 (2012-2016) was Innovation and Governance for a Sustainable, Secure and Affordable Economy, and Phase 2 (2016-2019) is Innovation and Governance in Future Energy Systems. She was PI of the ESRC/EPSRC interdisciplinary research cluster into Energy Security in a Multi-Polar World; and was PI responsible for policy and regulation within the supply theme of UKERC Phase 1 and 2. Catherine is Chair of the Regulatory Assistance Project; a Trustee of the Centre for Sustainable Energy; and on the Board of the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit. She

has advised Governments on energy issues for over 20 years. Catherine was a Lead Author in the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report in the Policy and Institutions Chapter of WG3 (published 2014), and a Co-ordinating Lead Author of the Policy, Financing and Implementation Chapter of IPCC's Special Report on Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation (published 2011). She was a Lead Analyst of sub-Chapter 13 (Policy) of Chapter 11 (Renewable Energy) of the Global Energy Assessment undertaken through the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) published in 2012. She has also advised numerous national and international companies, NGOs and institutions on various aspects of the transition to a sustainable energy system.

## **Dawn Muspratt**



is an effective social entrepreneur and senior manager of public, private and voluntary organisations. She has proven achievements in delivering business and social enterprise start up and development; complex operations and organisational change; through a blend of leadership, policy knowledge, technical skill and stakeholder management. A founding member of Our Power, Dawn has deep experience in the energy sector with a focus on retail supply and renewable generation. Dawn started her career as a community development worker and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice; BA (Hons) Social Science (Law Major); and Certificate in Community and Youth Work.

## Vidia Pallaram



joined Electron in January 2018 to head-up community energy projects using blockchain technology. She has 10+ years' experience in the UK energy industry and has supplier, network operator and start-up experience. Since 2011 she has worked on innovation projects that gained knowledge of consumer attitudes towards energy as we prepare Great Britain for smart grids, smart meters and the transition towards a low carbon future. Highlights include: successful delivery of domestic demand-side project – The Sunshine Tariff at Tempus Energy; and successfully leading the knowledge dissemination strategy for Flexible Plug and Play at UK Power Networks, a project that offered customers an alternative electricity connection choice.

## Helen Poulter



Helen is the PhD student associated with the IGov project. Her research is examining how distributed energy resources are affecting the utility business model in Australia and how lessons learnt from this could help shape future energy systems. Previously to this Helen studied Renewable Energy at Exeter, although in earlier studies she concentrated on conservation and habitat management. This has given her a more holistic approach to technological problems and an interest in the social science aspect of renewable energy transitions. Her main interests are in the field of integration of renewables, both within the environment and population, as well as the energy infrastructure and how policy needs to be flexible to accommodate advances in technology and socio-economic thinking.

## Alice Tyler



is Co-founder and CPO (Chief Product Officer) of Open Utility. She brings user centred design practises to the whole company, from product design to strategy. Open Utility has been innovating in the energy industry since 2013, launching the UK's first peer-to-peer energy marketplace in 2015, and set to launch a flexibility marketplace for smart grid operators later this year. Alice works closely with the people who use their products to make sure Open Utility continues to build useful, scalable and delightful software. Previously Alice was a UX designer at Mint Digital and Carbon Culture and has a BDes in Product Design from Glasgow School of Art.

## Charlotte Ramsay



works for the Electricity System Operator in National Grid, where she is Programme Director for the "Future of the System Operator" Programme, defining and coordinating the role of the SO across a number of areas facilitating the transition to a smart, flexible energy system. Charlotte joined National Grid in 2013, leading the commercial and regulatory team supporting the development of National Grid's Non-regulated business portfolio. Charlotte previously worked for Ofgem as Head of European Electricity Transmission and led the initial Ofgem work on Introducing Competition in Transmission. She has also held a number of academic and advisory posts promoting energy innovation, smart grids and integration of renewables. She has a PhD in Power System Economics from Imperial College London.

## **Dr Afsheen Kabir Rashid (Hon) MBE**



is a community energy specialist with over 10 years experience of working with communities and Local Authorities. She is Co-founder Director at Repowering London and sits as Chair of the Brixton Energy Solar Co-operatives, the UK's first inner city community-owned solar power stations. A former Senior Policy Advisor at DECC and current Chair of Community Energy England Afsheen remains influential in both local and national community energy decision making. Afsheen is a Trustee of Friends of the Earth and an advisor to several organisations including the UK100 city network, the IGOV2 research project and the Community Business Panel for Power to Change. Afsheen has a MA in Geography, a MEnv in Environment, Science and Society and an Honorary Doctorate. Afsheen was awarded an MBE in the 2016 New Year's Honours List for her work in renewable energy in deprived London communities.

## **Laura Sandys**



runs a consultancy firm, Challenging Ideas, advising on new business models and innovative public policy solutions across the energy, food and resources sectors. Laura is Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency and runs the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Regulatory Commission with Imperial College and the Energy Systems Catapult. She was appointed as a member of the Advisory Panel for the Government's Cost of Energy Review, is on the Council and taskforce for Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage and has a regular column in Utility Week. She is also an advisory board member of the Carbon Capture and Storage Group at Imperial College, co-founder of POWERful Women, a Visiting Senior Fellow at Kings College and a Fellow of the Energy Institute. She was previously a Member of Parliament for South Thanet and was a member of the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Energy and Climate Change.

## **Cathryn Scott**



joined Ofgem in 2013 as the legal director for E-Serve environmental schemes and offshore transmission tenders regime, and has headed up the legal team advising on energy system issues since 2016. She has also been Partner for Wholesale Markets, leading on Ofgem's oversight of the wholesale energy market, gas systems issues and settlement reform. Cathryn has worked in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining Ofgem, Cathryn was the Deputy General Counsel at the Department for Transport, having previously headed up teams advising on aviation and rail regulation. She has extensive competition, regulatory and procurement law experience, having also worked for the Competition Commission and Linklaters EU and Competition Group. Previously, she worked in the litigation division of the Treasury Solicitor's Department and as Assistant European Speakers Counsel at the House of Commons. She holds a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence.

## **Meghna Tewari**



is the head of Ofgem's retail markets team which covers consumer policy issues across household, vulnerable and business consumers. Previous to this she led the consumer vulnerability strategy and also the business retail markets and the Third Party Intermediary policy teams. Meghna is an economist with a background in competition policy and has significant experience in developmental finance and banking.

## Rebecca Willis



is an independent researcher with twenty years' experience in environment and sustainability policy and practice. She fosters collaboration between the research community, politics, government, business and the third sector, in order to further sustainability goals. In 2009 Rebecca founded Green Alliance's Climate Leadership Programme. With Lancaster University, she is conducting research into political responses to climate change. She advises the Lake District National Park. Rebecca is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of RCUK's Energy Programme and advises the iGov initiative at the University of Exeter. She is a Fellow of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) and a Trustee of the New Economics Foundation.

## Janet Wood



is editor of New Power, a monthly report and database on UK power sector development.

She has been a journalist covering the power and energy sector for 20 years, covering technology, policy and politics as editor of magazines including Power Engineering, Asian Electricity, Middle East Electricity and Utility Week. She has a BSc in Physics and Chemistry and is the author of two books for the IET, on nuclear energy and on local-scale heat and power projects in the UK.



# International Women's Day