

Do we Need a Sociology of Energy Development?

Photini Papatheodorou and Fivos Spathopoulos
France (photinipapa@orange.fr)

The presentation discusses the need of developing a new area of scientific study, namely the “Sociology of Energy Development”. It presents our knowledge gaps, regarding the reaction of societies towards energy projects. The presentation proposes that the first steps will be to study the “ethnography” of the energy companies and acquire a clear understanding of their specific cultures.

In particular, the presentation argues for a need to raise meaningful questions about the values and attitudes of energy companies in areas such as environmental awareness; gender; cultural differences and other issues of conflict.

It will also propose that a new conceptual framework is developed for the specific analysis of the relationship between society and energy companies, in the fields of public perception and trust.

Finally, the presentation will conclude with an exploration of key principles, which may guide the development of new ethical practices in the field of energy.