

## **The dynamics of household car ownership**

**Fully funded three year ESRC funded PhD studentship** “The dynamics of household low carbon vehicle ownership and use”

The Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds

Supervised by Professor Jillian Anable and Professor Susan Grant-Muller

**Application deadline:** Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016

This fully funded three year ESRC studentship will focus on what happens to mobility patterns and energy demand in the home once a low carbon or alternatively fuelled vehicle is acquired. Research and policy related to the uptake of low carbon vehicles has tended to focus on the consumer *adoption* process with much less attention paid to the dynamic interaction between the new technology and patterns of *use*. This project can be addressed by a variety of approaches such as:

- applying a socio-technical perspective to the household adoption of low carbon vehicles
- undertaking a longitudinal statistical and/or ethnographic study with households as they acquire and assimilate a low carbon vehicle as a first, additional or substitute car
- examining changes in mobility-related energy demand linked to changes in travel patterns of any household members
- exploring changes in domestic energy demand related to vehicle charging and any knock-on impacts on energy literacy and energy use behaviour in and outside the home.

This studentship will be linked to the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC [www.ukerc.ac.uk](http://www.ukerc.ac.uk)), which is the largest inter-disciplinary energy investment of the UK Research Councils’ Energy Programme. The primary objective of UKERC Phase 3 is to explore the UK energy transition in an uncertain world, and the synergies and trade-offs between the key drivers for this transition. The studentship will be funded by ESRC through the White Rose Social Science Doctoral Training Centre (WRDTC <http://wrdtc.ac.uk/>) through the accredited pathway for Environment and Sustainability.

### **Eligibility for funding**

These awards are only available to nationals from the UK and EU. Funding eligibility is according to ESRC criteria. UK applicants will be eligible for a full award (paying fees and maintenance at standard Research Council rates) if they meet the residency criteria. The maintenance rate for 2015/16 is £14,057. EU applicants are normally eligible for a fees only award, unless they have been resident in the UK for 3 years immediately preceding the date of the award.

Please note that this funding is only available on a +3 basis. This means that funding is only available for three years of PhD study.

Applicants must hold at least a UK Upper Second Class Honours degree or equivalent, and it is preferred that they will also hold a Masters degree with at least merit. Degree qualifications gained from outside

the UK, or a combination of qualifications and/or experience that is equivalent to a relevant UK degree, may be accepted.

We are open to high quality proposals from people with a strong background in any area of the social sciences. Methodologies could include micro or macro-level statistical methods as well as in depth qualitative work. The strongest candidates will have a proven aptitude for combining quantitative and qualitative methodological and analytical approaches.

For further information on eligibility see: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/skills-and-careers/studentships/prospective-students/am-i-eligible-for-an-esrc-studentship/>

### **How to make an application**

Applicants in the first instance are encouraged to contact Professor Jillian Anable by email ([J.L.Anable@Leeds.ac.uk](mailto:J.L.Anable@Leeds.ac.uk)) or phone: 0113 3439925.

Applicants must complete the University's ESRC WR DTC Studentships Application Form, which can be downloaded here: [www.leeds.ac.uk/rsa/postgraduate\\_scholarships/ESRCAppForm16](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/rsa/postgraduate_scholarships/ESRCAppForm16). The form must be typed, and should be returned in either Word or pdf format by email to [pg\\_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pg_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk) by the deadline. You should select 'Associated Studentship' as the studentship type.

Applications must also submit an application for a PhD place by 31<sup>st</sup> July. Instructions can be found here: <http://www.its.leeds.ac.uk/courses/phd/apply/>

### **Closing date for applications – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

As this is a funded studentship, it is expected that there will be a subsequent competitive process with interviews held at the beginning of August 2016.

- Cresswell, T. (2006) *On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World*, Routledge, New York.
- Kemp, R., Geels, F. and Dudley, G. (2011) *Automobility in transition? A socio-technical analysis of sustainable transport*, Routledge, Abingdon.
- Mackay, H. (ed) (1997) *Consumption and everyday life*. Sage Publications and Open University.
- Shove, E. (2003) Users, Technologies and Expectations of Comfort, Cleanliness and Convenience. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, 16(2), pp193-206.
- Trentmann, F. (ed.) (2012) *Oxford Handbook of the History of Consumption*. Oxford University Press.