

Science-society relations in the context of energy transitions: how scientist working on renewable energy technologies perceive their role in society?

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Science-society relations become particularly important when they involve a subject as prominent in contemporary societies as renewable energies. They are integral part of an ongoing sociotechnical transition that is both tied to powerful private interests and to public concerns frequently discussed within civil society and the media. In this context scientists' engagement with society is embedded in this broader political discussion.

This presentation aims to understand how scientists working in renewable energies perceive the role of science and of their particular field in a society engaged in a profound energy transition. This works draws on semi-directed interviews with Portuguese researchers working on a range of different renewable energies technologies.