



### Fellow's Individual Project

Fellow	Host Institution	PhD enrolment	Start Date	Duration
ESR 5	UofB	Y	Month 9	36 months

**Project title and related WP(s):** Drilling through the Anthropocene: fracking, land and expertise in contemporary Britain (WP2, WP7).

**Objectives:** Shale gas extraction via hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') has recently been presented as an important element in Britain's search for energy security and 'green growth'. Shale gas has been described as the 'cleanest fossil fuel' available, essential for securing a 'much greener future'. The UK has also implemented legal changes, which allow for the extraction of subsurface hydrocarbon resources at depths in excess of 300m without landowner permission following a public consultation, the outcome of which was not supportive of the proposed changes. Concerns have also been raised about the extent to which the legal definition of fracking, under the UK Infrastructure Act (2015), exempts most shale gas extraction from legislation governing planning permission. The ESR project will explore shale gas extraction in contemporary Britain via a 'polymorphous engagement' with home and landowners in fracking sites, anti-fracking campaign groups, geological and legal experts and policymakers. It will draw on FPE and feminist postcolonial science and technology studies in order to explore how techno scientific expertise and authority is empowered and contested by those whose land and relationships with nature are likely to be reconfigured by shale gas extraction, in a context where scientific expertise is increasingly disputed in political arenas.

**Expected results:** The study will provide an opportunity for theory-building on the interface between post colonialism, feminist science and technology studies and FPE.

**Planned secondments:** ISS (3 months) to work on theories of techno-science and PF (3 months) to learn about anti-fracking campaign groups in Italy and responses to them at UN entities in Rome.