Abstract

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This doctoral dissertation examines the justice aspects manifested in citizens' acceptance of energy programs in Indonesia and applies it in social science research by utilising social acceptance and energy justice theories. Social acceptance and energy justice are two intertwined terminologies that capture the social acceptance of energy technologies in the energy system that fairly disseminates the costs and benefits of energy service and has impartial decision-making mechanisms. They aim to cover some new light on factors influencing community acceptance by highlighting the relative importance of three justice dimensions: distributional justice (fair allocation of cost and benefits), procedural justice (fair decision-making process), and justice as recognition. Their moral responsibility shapes justice as an ethical concern of individuals and their environment.

This dissertation offers a situated, particularistic analysis of energy programs in Indonesia between 2014-2021. The case studies include five energy programs of low carbon energy sources that the government of Indonesia is currently prioritising, including the solar panel policy, electricity charging stations, nuclear power, green electricity, and extractive industries (geothermal and coal). Each study case has distinct target respondents based on their relevance to the energy programs, proximity with energy facilities and knowledge about the energy sector.

Using qualitative and quantitative methodologies, my findings show how distributional and procedural justice conceptions are insufficient to ensure social acceptance without considering justice as recognition. The results also identify the principles of distributional and recognition justice that influence social acceptance, such as affordability, accessibility, environmental impacts and recognition.

The novelty of this study is that it presents how the target respondents within each study case weigh the three-justice dimensions and identifies the conditions under which social acceptance increases or decreases, associated with renewable or non-renewable energy sources. Overall, this study offers useful recommendations of how energy decision-making can mitigate the environmental impacts of energy production and use and do so in a sustainable and socially just way.

Keywords: energy, energy justice, social acceptance, energy transition, renewable