

**Residential Training Course**

# Loyola Autumn Research School

**17 - 19 September 2025**

Sala Europa - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

Course Director:

**Marzia Sesini** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI

Training Coordinator:

**Elena Bondesan** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI

Teaching Assistant:

**Adrien Nicolle** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI

## Introduction

The Florence School of Regulation and the Loyola de Palacio Chair are organizing this Autumn School for Researchers in consortium with the Fraunhofer Cluster of Excellence “Integrated Energy Systems” and Turin Polytechnic University.

This Autumn School is for researchers with modeling skills who want to support the policy and regulatory debate. We will have presentations by researchers that are using modeling to assess policies and regulations, we will also have testimonials by (former) policymakers that will share their experience in working with academics, and we will have presentations by journal editors in the field of energy economics and engineering where you can publish your work. We will also discuss what researchers can do when there is no time to do modeling, but still want to make a valuable contribution to the debate. You will also apply what you have learned by giving feedback on the research papers submitted by other participants, and you will receive feedback from your peers on the paper you submit to this autumn school, with coaching from the instructors.

We will select the researchers that can participate in this autumn school based on the papers you will submit, together with a short motivation letter. We accept working papers, papers under review, and papers that have already been published. Please specify the status of your paper and why you seek additional feedback. By submitting your paper to this Autumn School, you also have the opportunity to win the annual Loyola Award.

## Programme

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### 17 September **Day 1: Using modeling in a policy/regulatory debate**

- 09.00 - 09.30 Welcome to the course, course description, and participants' presentation.
- **Marzia Sesini** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI
- 09.30 - 10.30 Session 1: Presentations by researchers sharing their experience using energy models to support regulatory and policy debates (Part 1).
- **Lena Kitzing** | Technical University of Denmark
  - **Pedro Linares** | Comillas Pontifical University
  - **Hans Auer** | TU Wien
  - **Leonardo Meeus** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI
- 10.30 - 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.00 - 12.30 Session 1: Presentations by researchers sharing their experience using energy models to support regulatory and policy debates (Part 2).
- **Lena Kitzing** | Technical University of Denmark
  - **Pedro Linares** | Comillas Pontifical University
  - **Hans Auer** | TU Wien
  - **Leonardo Meeus** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI
- 12.30 - 14.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 - 16.00 Session 2: Applied Workshop with peer-to-peer feedback and coaching by the instructors.
- **Lena Kitzing** | Technical University of Denmark
  - **Pedro Linares** | Comillas Pontifical University
  - **Hans Auer** | TU Wien
  - **Leonardo Meeus** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI
- 16.00 - 16.30 *Coffee break*
- 16.30 - 17.30 Session 3: Testimonial on working with academics for applied research.
- **Kristine Vlagsma** | Head of unit of the Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- 18.00 - *Welcome cocktail*

### 18 September **Day 2: No time for modeling? Using conceptual frameworks in a policy/regulatory debate.**

- 9.30 - 10.30 Session 4: Presentations by researchers sharing their experience using conceptual frameworks that capture the main policy and regulatory options and their pros and cons (Part 1).
- **Marzia Sesini** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI
  - **Leonardo Meeus** | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI
  - **Lena Kitzing** | Technical University of Denmark
  - **Jochen Markard** | ETH Zurich
- 10.30 - 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 - 12.30	<p>Session 4: Presentations by researchers sharing their experience using conceptual frameworks that capture the main policy and regulatory options and their pros and cons (Part 2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marzia Sesini</b>   Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI</li> <li>• <b>Leonardo Meeus</b>   Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI</li> <li>• <b>Lena Kitzing</b>   Technical University of Denmark</li> <li>• <b>Jochen Markard</b>   ETH Zurich</li> </ul>
12.30 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 - 16.00	<p>Session 5: Applied Workshop with peer-to-peer feedback and coaching by the instructors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marzia Sesini</b>   Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI</li> <li>• <b>Leonardo Meeus</b>   Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI</li> <li>• <b>Lena Kitzing</b>   Technical University of Denmark</li> <li>• <b>Jochen Markard</b>   ETH Zurich</li> </ul>
16.00 - 16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30 - 17.30	<p>Session 6: Testimonial on working with academics for applied research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timo Gerres</b>   Enagás</li> </ul>
<b>19 September</b>	<b>Day 3: How to publish and build an academic career with applied research</b>
09.30 - 11.00	<p>Tips from Journal Editors in the field of energy economics and engineering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pedro Linares</b>   The Energy Journal</li> <li>• <b>Monica Contestabile</b>   Nature Sustainability</li> </ul>
11.00 - 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 - 12.30	<p>Loyola Lecture: passing wisdom on to the next researchers' generation &amp; Loyola Award.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aaron Praktijnjo</b>   RWTH Aachen University</li> </ul>
12.30 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 - 16.30	<p>Applied Workshop on how to disseminate the research work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chiara Canestrini</b>   Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI</li> <li>• <b>Cyril Nehme</b>   Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI</li> <li>• <b>Michele Pinto</b>   Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI</li> </ul>

# Loyola Autumn Research School



## **Marzia Sesini | Florence School of Regulation**

Marzia Sesini is the Research Team Leader – Gas & Hydrogen at the Florence School of Regulation (FSR) and Course Director of the Loyola Autumn Research School – LARS and of the EU Gas Network Codes course. Her research interests span from energy security and security of supply to the decarbonisation of the energy system, renewable gas, and technologies for the energy sector, to cross infrastructure integration and distribution network optimisation modeling. An engineer by training, she has accrued extensive experience in the energy industry both at the academic and at the corporate levels. Prior to joining the FSR, she has worked at the Chaire Economie du Climat at Université Paris-Dauphine; Institut Europlace de Finance, in the Corporate Strategy Department at Snam, in the Department of Management and Technology at Bocconi University, and at the Oxford Institute of Energy Studies (OIES). She holds a Ph.D. in Process Systems Engineering | Chemical Engineering Department from Imperial College London, with research investigating the costs and political implications of shared and coordinated natural gas storage services within the European Union in case of supply/demand shocks; as well as an M.S. in Sustainability Management from the Earth Institute of Columbia University in NYC and an M.S. in Engineering from Pavia State University.



## **Lena Kitzing | Technical University of Denmark**

Lena Kitzing is Associate Professor in Energy Economics and Policy, and Head of Section 'Society, Market and Policy' at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Department of Wind and Energy Systems. Her research spans across the energy-economy-society nexus and especially concerns the effective governance of energy systems through policy instruments, with particular focus on deployment and financing of renewables and their integration into the energy system. Lena is a leading expert in auction design for renewable energy procurement and the economics and policy for offshore wind energy. She has participated in and coordinated many international research projects, often gives scientific advice to public and private organisations, is regularly invited to key note speeches and panels, and appears in the Danish national media on energy related issues. Lena is an experienced lecturer, having developed and conducted university courses for more than ten years at five different institutions. Lena's work is highly impact-oriented. She has been board member of the Joint Programme for wind energy of the European Energy Research Alliance, and serves on the board on several energy initiatives in Denmark. Lena is member of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, which advises European policymakers and stakeholders on climate and energy related decisions.



### **Pedro Linares | Comillas Pontifical University**

Pedro Linares is a Professor of Industrial Engineering at the ICAI School of Engineering, Director of the bp Chair for a Sustainable Net Zero, and co-founder and Director of Economics for Energy. He is also a researcher at the Institute for Technology Research (IIT), an Affiliate Researcher at the MIT CEEPR and the University of Cambridge EPRG, and a Senior Fellow at Esade EcPol. Currently, he serves as Director of the International Doctoral School of Comillas Pontifical University and as Editor in Chief of The Energy Journal. Regarding his teaching and research, he defines himself as a jack of all trades (acknowledging, of course, the downside of this approach). He is interested in many topics, most of them connected by a broad idea of sustainability, understood as an integral concept that encompasses economics, the environment, social capital, innovation, and justice. His research primarily focuses on the relationship between energy, economics, and the environment, with particular emphasis on sustainable energy policy, energy efficiency, and energy models. He is also interested in decision making (particularly multiple criteria decision methods), social justice, higher education policy, and several other areas. He has published on most of these topics in the leading journals in the field. Additionally, he has served as a consultant for various private and public firms and institutions across Spain, Europe, and Latin America.



### **Hans Auer | Technische Universität Wien**

Hans Auer is Professor in Energy System Economics at Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien) and Adjunct Professor (International Chair in the Energy Transition Programme) at Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Hans has been with Energy Economics Group (EEG) at TU Wien since 1995. After studying Electrical Engineering (1996, MSc), he graduated in Energy Economics (2000, PhD and 2012, Venia Docendi). Hans also was on research leave several times (e.g., TU Berlin, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Since the beginning of his academic career, Hans has been focusing on various aspects of energy market design, energy system modelling and energy system decarbonisation, notably in the context of grid and market integration of renewable energy technologies as well as energy sector coupling at several granularity levels. In the last 25 years, Hans has been coordinating a series of European and national projects in the energy transition field for a variety of different clients. He has comprehensive teaching, supervision, reviewing and examination experience of bachelor, master and PhD students, a significant amount of energy conferences contributions worldwide and also authored more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and book contributions. Hans is an active member in different academic and scientific committees and associations.



### **Leonardo Meeus | Florence School of Regulation**

Leonardo Meeus is an academic who engages with EU policy and regulation, with a focus on the energy sector, and electricity markets. He is a professor at the European University Institute where he is the Director of the Florence School of Regulation and the Loyola de Palacio Chair in the Robert Schuman Centre. He is also part-time professor at the KU Leuven in the engineering department. Leonardo contributed as author, reviewer and editor to academic journals in regulatory economics, energy economics, energy law, electrical engineering, operations research and management. He published the open access book "The Evolution of Electricity Markets in Europe". He blogs about how researchers can engage with decision makers to create impact. [www.leonardomeeus.com](http://www.leonardomeeus.com)



### **Kristine Vlagsma | Joint Research Centre**

Kristine Vlagsma is an experienced EU civil servant, bringing over two decades of dedicated service to the European Commission. Currently, she holds the position of Head of the Energy Security, Distribution, and Markets unit at the Joint Research Centre (JRC). She also chairs The Supervisory Board at Rēzekne Academy of Technologies, showcasing her leadership in both academia and policy.

Ms. Vlagsma's expertise covers economics, evaluation and impact assessment, and environmental sustainability, making her a versatile expert. Throughout her career, she's excelled in managing critical functions and played a key role in important negotiations. Her work focuses on research and economic policy design, and she's been an EU Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence during the 2019/2020 academic year.



### **Jochen Markard | ETH Zurich**

Jochen Markard is a Privatdozent (Habilitation and Venia Legendi) at ETH Zurich and works as a senior researcher at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences. He holds a PhD in innovation studies and degrees in electrical engineering and energy industry studies. In his research, Jochen focuses on sustainability transitions: large scale sectoral changes of e.g. energy and transport systems to more sustainable modes of production and consumption. Jochen studies the interaction of technological change, actor strategies, policy and institutional change. Current research topics: Net-zero, hard-to-abate sectors, politics of transitions, advocacy coalitions, unsustainable transitions.



### **Timo Gerres | Enagás**

Timo Gerres is currently working as Coordinator Energy Policy at Enagás. After obtaining his B.Sc. in Business Administration and Engineering at the Universität Paderborn (DE) in 2011, he gained first insights into the energy sector while working as a business analyst for the EuroDev Group (NL). He received his M.Sc. in Systems Engineering, Policy Analysis and Management from TU Delft (NL) in 2014. After working for 2.5 years as a project manager for TenneT in Germany, he joined the ITT, Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid (ES). In January 2022, he defended his PhD thesis, titled "Understanding the implications of industrial decarbonisation: a multidisciplinary approach towards the transition of the basic materials industry and its impact on our energy systems." During his 6 years at the IIT he took part and led numerous research and consultancy projects covering a broad field of topics, such as, the electricity system transition, energy and industrial policy, sector coupling and the hydrogen economy, authoring numerous journal publications and reports. Since October 2023, he is part of the Directorate of Energy Policy and EU Regulation at Enagás, coordinating the TSO's participation in the European 10-year network development plan (TYNDP) by ENTSOG and ENTSO-E and working on the H2med project. He is also visiting researcher and lecturer at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas.





### **Monica Contestabile | Nature Sustainability**

Monica joined the Nature family in 2011 as a Senior Editor at Nature Climate Change, where she handled original research and review articles across the entire breadth of social sciences, and interdisciplinary articles integrating natural and social science disciplines in the context of climate and global environmental change. She became the launching Chief Editor of Nature Sustainability in 2016. Monica completed her doctoral studies in environmental and development economics at the University of Naples Federico II, Italy; she then held a visiting professor position at University Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico, and subsequently joined the sustainable consumption team at WWF-UK where she gained invaluable experience about the challenges of bridging the gap between research and policy domains. Monica is based in Berlin.



### **Aaron Praktiknjo | RWTH Aachen University**

Prof. Aaron Praktiknjo holds the Chair for Energy Systems Economics and is Co-Director of the E.ON Energy Research Center at RWTH Aachen University. He is President of the German Association for Energy Sciences and Energy Policy (GEE) and President-Elect of the International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE). Prof. Aaron Praktiknjo is member of the editorial board of "Scientific Data" (Nature Portfolio) and member of the scientific advisory boards of "Forschungsstelle für Energiewirtschaft" (FfE) as well as "Zeitschrift für Energiewirtschaft" (Springer). Together with Prof. Peter Zweifel and Prof. Georg Erdmann, he is co-author of the textbook "Energy Economics - Theory and Application".



### **Chiara Canestrini | Florence School of Regulation**

Chiara Canestrini is the Communications Officer at the Florence School of Regulation. Chiara is a content strategist and content creator specialising in digital communications, research dissemination, and e-learning communications. Throughout her career, she has developed international communication campaigns for both private companies and public institutions. She holds an MA in philosophy, complemented by a background in advertising and professional training in creative writing and web content writing.



### **Cyril Nehme | Florence School of Regulation**

Cyril is an award-winning filmmaker and audiovisual professional, skilled in concept development, video production, post-production and project management. His work touches on identity, culture, language, music, human rights and education. With a background in lyrical singing and cello playing, he pours his heart into every project he leads. After 3 years working at LinkedIn, both as an employee and freelancer, Cyril is excited to join the EUI and support its mission of making a positive impact on society. Engaged in sustainable actions, he's eager to bring fresh ideas to the Florence School of Regulation and lead innovative projects.



## **Michele Pinto | Florence School of Regulation**

Michele Pinto is a filmmaker with extensive international experience in both film and media production. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Bologna. His filmmaking career began as a self-taught videographer, collaborating with migrant organisations in Greece. In 2019, he completed a Master's degree in Filmmaking from the University of the West of Scotland in Glasgow, where he honed his technical expertise in production and post-production, while gaining critical insights into pre-production processes. In recent years, Michele has worked with the Multimedia Unit of the European Parliament and the communications team at Schuman Associates, in Brussels, focusing on the creation of innovative video content for European institutions and companies.