

Professor Mark Davis

Chair in Economic Sociology
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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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Brief Bio

My research investigates the potential of alternative finance models to build a fairer, greener economy and is committed to sustainable place-based investment. My *Financing for Society* project led to the co-creation of the Community Municipal Investment (CMI) structure. Brought to market as 'Local Climate Bonds', CMIs help councils to finance green and social infrastructure projects in local economies and by Spring 2023 had raised £7 million. In 2017, I worked with colleagues at University of Cambridge and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to change rules on new investor protections in UK crowdfunding markets.

As a co-investigator on PROSEU (2018-2021), a large EC Horizon 2020 project, I tested new 'prosumer' business models and innovative finance options to promote the active participation of local citizens in investing in place-based projects to support the continent's green energy transition. Since 2021, thanks to UK Energy Research Centre, I have co-led two projects to understand barriers and opportunities to domestic retrofit uptake, specifically how social relations shape the customer journey to establish trust in both retrofit technologies and trades, and how those relations shape decisions over financing energy efficiency measures in the home.

Qualifications

2002-2006 (f/t)	PhD in Sociology, passed with minor corrections, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds Thesis Title: <i>Freedom in the English-language Writings of Zygmunt Bauman</i>
2000-2001 (f/t)	MA Sociology, passed with Distinction, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
1997-2000 (f/t)	BA (Hons) Social Sciences, upper-second (69.6% average), Department of Sociology, Social Policy, and Anthropology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Employment History

2023	Deputy Head of School (Strategy), School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Leeds
2022	Professor of Economic Sociology, School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Leeds
2019	Expert Evaluator for the European Commission's Horizon Europe and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programmes, Brussels, Belgium
2014	Associate Professor of Sociology, School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Leeds
2013	Director of Building Sustainable Societies, University of Leeds
2009	Director of the Bauman Institute, School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Leeds
2008	Expert Advisor to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Funding Total Awarded: £2,002,594.84

Research Grants Held

- 2021: UKRI/EP SRC UK Energy Research Council (UKERC) Flexible Fund Programme (Co-I) *Finance and Procurement for Net-Zero (FIPRO)*, with Universities of Bristol, Edinburgh and Oxford, 24 months. Total Value: £338,433.05
- 2021: UKRI/EP SRC UK Energy Research Council (UKERC) Flexible Fund Programme (Co-I) *Whole Person, Whole Place: Net-Zero Neighbourhoods*, with Universities of Strathclyde and Sussex, 20 months. Total Value: £458,079.03
- 2019: WRDTP/ESRC Collaborative Award (Lead Supervisor) *Evaluating the Social Value of Innovative Finance: A Case Study of Community Municipal Investments (CMIs)*, 36 months. Total Value: £62,676.00
- 2018: Horizon 2020 / Social Sciences and Humanities Support for the Energy Union (Scope 2017) (Co-PI) *PROSumers for the Energy Union: mainstreaming active participation of citizens in the energy transition (PROSEU)*. Total Value: £2,744,566.39 (Value to Leeds: £307,676.92)
- 2017: UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Society (DCMS) (PI) *Financing for Society: Crowdfunding Public Infrastructure*. Total Value: £369,999.00.

Selected Recent Scholarship

Books

- Davis, M and Davis, B (2021) *Crowdfunding and the Democratization of Finance*. Bristol: Bristol University Press.

Articles

- Owen, A, Middlemiss, L, Brown, D, Davis, M, Hall, S, Bookbinder, R, Brisbois, M-C, Cairns, I, Hannon, M, and Mininni, G (forthcoming, 2023) 'Who applies for Energy Grants?', *Energy Research and Social Science*.
- Bolton, E, Middlemiss, L, Bookbinder, R, Hall, S, Davis, M, Owen, A (2023) 'The relational dimensions of renovation: Implications for retrofit policy', *Energy Research and Social Science*, 96, Article No. 102916.
- Sugar, K, Moya Mose, T, Nolden, C, Davis, M, Eyre, N, Sanchez-Graells, A and Van der Horst, D (2022) 'Local decarbonisation opportunities and barriers: UK public procurement legislation', *Buildings and Cities*, 3, 1: 895–911.
- Brown, D, Hall, S, Martiskainen, M, and Davis, M (2022) 'Conceptualising domestic energy service business models: A typology and policy recommendations', *Energy Policy*, 161. Article No. 112704
- Davis, M, Brauholtz-Speight, T and Wardrop, R (2020) 'Crowdfunding as Democratic Finance? Understanding How and Why UK Investors Trust these Markets', *Revista Internacional de Sociología*, 78, 4.
- Hall, S, Roelich, K, Davis, M, and Holstenkamp, L (2018) 'Finance and justice in low-carbon energy transitions', *Applied Energy*. 222: 772-780.

Reports

- Davis, M (2021) *A Green Transformation Fund for Wales*. Cardiff: Wales Green Party.
- Davis, M (2021) *Community Municipal Investments: Accelerating the Potential of Local Net Zero Strategies*, University of Leeds/Innovate UK, pp. 1-27.

Presentations

- Davis, M (2022) 'Crowdfunding and the Local Climate Bonds experience in the UK', Money in Transformation, EC Network, Universidade da Coruña, Spain.
- Davis, M (2022) 'Local Climate Bonds: Crowdfunding and the Democratization of Finance', Broadoak Asset Management / North of Tyne Combined Authority, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Davis, M (2021) 'Unlocking the financial levers for a local just transition', Community Wealth Building Summit, Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), Manchester.
- Davis, M (2021) 'Local Climate Bonds: A Solution for West Yorkshire's Climate Emergency', Climate Action North, MPs Roundtable, Leeds (online).