



**COMPLEXiTY**  
research seminar

***Transition Towns and Tradable Energy Quotas:  
Frameworks to support a diversity of small-scale solutions  
to the large-scale problems of peak oil and climate change***

**Shaun Chamberlin and Dr David Fleming**

Thursday 1 July 2010  
14:00-16:30 at the LSE

**Abstract:**

Both Tradable Energy Quotas (TEQs) and the Transition Towns movement are responses to climate change and energy resource depletion (peak oil), and are also applications of the System-Scale Rule: "Large-scale tasks do not require large-scale solutions. They require small-scale solutions working within a large-scale framework".

This principle recognises that interdependent subsystems (such as local communities) respond most effectively to challenges when they are free to innovate and be creative in solving their problems. In doing so, they exhibit an ingenuity and creativity which it would be impossible for an external controller to impose on them, no matter how well-informed it was.

In this seminar Shaun Chamberlin will explain and explore the Transition Towns approach, which has engaged thousands of communities around the world in its first few years, and will consider how it might sit within a sufficient response to our energy and climate predicament.

Dr David Fleming will then discuss TEQs, which is a proposed national policy framework, supported by the Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Climate Change and Peak Oil, for distributing entitlements to fossil fuels to all energy users. It is designed to complement the Transition approach by supporting communities in reducing their reliance on fossil fuels fast while guaranteeing that nations meet their agreed emissions obligations.

**Bios:**

**Shaun Chamberlin** is the TEQs Development Director at The Lean Economy Connection and the author of *The Transition Timeline*. His specialism is the interaction between climate science and the energy crisis, and he has been involved with the Transition Network since its inception, as well as being a founding member of Transition Town Kingston. He writes at [www.darkoptimism.org](http://www.darkoptimism.org)

**Dr David Fleming** is the Founder Director of the Lean Economy Connection, formerly economics spokesman and press secretary of the Green Party, chairman of the Soil Association and consultant on investment fund management and marketing in the UK and Eastern Europe. He completed his economics PhD with a study of the market for positional goods in 1988. He was one of the whistle blowers on the possibility of peak oil's approach and first published the system of Tradable Energy Quotas (TEQs) in 1996, later expanding on this in his *Energy and the Common Purpose* in 2006.

Please contact Rahoul Masrani at [complexitygroup@lse.ac.uk](mailto:complexitygroup@lse.ac.uk) if you wish to attend. The seminar is free but places are limited.

Details of this event and the others in the Series are available on our website, [www.lse.ac.uk/complexity](http://www.lse.ac.uk/complexity)