

## Reflections on the PCF-Summerschool

### Arina Aleksejeva

As a beginner to this academic field, this summer school on post-carbon futures was loaded with different concepts, theories and ways of thinking about the topic, which I have not heard of before. In six days, my understanding of our present and future has altered and expanded drastically. During the summer school, I tried not only to embrace all the new information but also to connect the general discourse to the topic of my future research. Some of the concepts that stayed with me are “utopias” and “dystopias” of the futures and the ways they are imagined by people, and the concept of multitudes of pasts and futures. In the context of my research in Estonia and the transition some parts of the population will be facing, one of the aspects for me to focus on would be how the population and the local government imagine and construct their future in the light of social, cultural and economic changes.

In addition to that, learning about contemporary energy management in Germany on site – at the power plant and the mine pit – was very interesting on its own, but also in terms of drawing parallels with Estonia. However, I should confess that during the week itself, I was mostly confused and overloaded with, though still excited about, information not only from the lectures, discussions and field trips, but also from the on-going conversations with other participants beyond the lecture hall. It was only when I arrived home and continued with my study routine, it started to settle down and I realised how cohesively it connects to my studies, research and life in general.

### About the Author

Arina Aleksejeva is a first-year Master’s student of Anthropology at Tallinn University. Her research field is located in the North-Eastern region of Estonia, Ida-Virumaa, where the closing of oil shale mines is expected within less than 20 years. The changes that this closure is bringing, the framework of just transition and its impact on the people is what Arina is planning to focus on. Her research is a part of the [CINTRAN project](#), which is engaged with the issues of just transition in carbon-intensive energy production sites.