

Dear readers of the Sustainable Welfare List,

here comes the fifth edition of our Sustainable Welfare & Eco-social Policy Network Newsletter! If you have any comments on the newsletter or relevant information for the next edition, please do not hesitate to send an email to ecosocial.wiso@uni-hamburg.de.

Best regards
Katharina Zimmermann

Sustainable Welfare & Eco-social Policy Network Newsletter

Edition 5 – October 2023

Dear readers,

Welcome to the Sustainable Welfare & Eco-social Policy Network Newsletter. Here we present information on new publications, events, projects and calls in the research area of climate and social policy. If you have any relevant information (events, jobs, CfP etc.) to be included in the next newsletter, please email to: ecosocial.wiso@uni-hamburg.de.

Best regards,
Katharina Zimmermann, University of Hamburg
Katharina Bohnenberger, University of Duisburg-Essen
Benedetta Cotta, University of Padova
Matteo Mandelli, Sciences Po Paris
Tuuli Hirvilammi, University of Tampere

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- Online presentation of the book "Es brennt – Armut bekämpfen, Klima retten" [It's burning - fight poverty, save the climate] (Online, 21st November 2023)

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PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

- Bal, M. et al. (2023). *A fairway to fairness: Toward a richer conceptualization of fairness perceptions for just energy transitions*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103213.
- Boekelo, M. and Kloppenburg, S. (2023). *Energy platforms and the future of energy citizenship*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 102: 103165.
- Bonderup, S. and Middlemiss, L. (2023). *Mould or cold? Contrasting representations of unhealthy housing in Denmark and England and the relation to energy poverty*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 102: 103176.
- Bridgen, P. (2023). *An eco-social solution to energy poverty? Substance and symbolism in England's use of domestic energy efficiency policy to achieve social and environmental synergies, 1997-2023*. *European Journal of Social Security*, online first.
- Bridgen, P. and Robinson, C. (2023). *A decade of fuel poverty in England: A spatio-temporal analysis of needs-based targeting of domestic energy efficiency obligations*. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 101: 103139
- Byskov Lindberg, M. and Inderberg, T. H. J. (2023). *Just sharing? Energy injustices in the Norwegian solar policy mix for collective presuming*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103219.
- Carrosio, G. and De Vidovich, L. (2023). *Towards eco-social policies to tackle the socio-ecological crisis: energy poverty as an interface between welfare and environment*. *Environmental Sociology* 9(3): 243-256.
- Chan, C. and Delina, L. L. (2023). *Energy poverty and beyond: The state, contexts, and trajectories of energy poverty studies in Asia*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 102: 103168.
- Chapman, A. et al. (2023). *The Just Transition in Japan: Awareness and desires for the future*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103228.
- Delicado, A. et al. (2023). *David against Goliath? Challenges and opportunities for energy cooperatives in Southern Europe*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103220.
- Diezmartínez, C. V. and Zhang, A. (2023). *Powering just energy transitions: A review of the justice implications of community choice aggregation*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103221.
- Dunlap, A. and Tornel, C. (2023). *Pluralizing energy justice? Towards cultivating an unruly, autonomous and insurrectionary research agenda*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103217.
- Greenleaf, Maron et al. (2023): *Tool for a just transition? Community choice aggregation and energy justice in New Hampshire and beyond*. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 105: 103287.
- Hanke, F. et al. (2023). *Excluded despite their support - The perspectives of energy-poor households on their participation in the German energy transition narrative*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 104: 103259.
- Kaufmann, M. et al. (2023). *How policy instruments reproduce energy vulnerability - A qualitative study of Dutch household energy efficiency measures*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103206.
- Kashour, M. (2023). *A step towards a just transition in the EU: Conclusions of a regression-based energy inequality decomposition*. *Energy Policy*, 183: 113816.
- Kilian, L. et al. (2023). *Achieving emission reductions without furthering social inequality: Lessons from the 2007 economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic*. *Energy Research & Social Sciences*, 105: 103286.
- Komatsu, H. and Rappleye, J. (2023). *Well-Being in Times of Decline: The Feasibility and Effectiveness of Degrowth for Sustainability*. *Journal of Future Studies*.
- Kraaijvanger, C W. et al. (2023). *Does the sun shine for all? Revealing socio-spatial inequalities in the transition to solar energy in The Hague, The Netherlands*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 104: 103245.

- Lage, J. et al. (2023): *Citizens call for sufficiency and regulation — A comparison of European citizen assemblies and National Energy and Climate Plans*. *Energy Research & Social Sciences* 104: 103254.
- Leduchowicz-Municio, A. et al. (2023). *Women, equality, and energy access: Emerging lessons for last-mile rural electrification in Brazil*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 102: 103181.
- Mason, Namoi and Büchs, Milena (2023). *Barriers to adopting wellbeing-economy narratives: comparing the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and Wellbeing Economy Governments*. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* 19(01).
- Middlemiss, L. et al. (2023). *Conceptualising socially inclusive environmental policy: a just transition to Net Zero*. *Social Policy and Society*, online first.
- Osička, J. et al. (2023). *Energy justice and energy democracy: Separated twins, rival concepts or just buzzwords?* *Energy Research & Social Science* 104: 103266.
- Papadopoulou, D. and Teloni, D. D. (2023). *Climate change, disasters and social work practice in Greece*. *Critical and Radical Social Work* Volume 11: Issue 2.
- Pedrosa, A. P. and Xerez, Romana (2023). *Social policy and environment in Brazil: Why does community-supported agriculture matter?* *Global Social Policy* Volume 23: Issue 2
- Schuster, Antonia et al. (2023). *The unjust just transition? Exploring different dimensions of justice in the lignite regions of Lusatia, Eastern Greater Poland, and Gorj*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 104: 103227.
- Shiradkar, S. et al. (2023). *Can community based solar energy initiatives deliver on women's empowerment in India? Evidence from rural Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 104: 103225.
- Stock, R. et al. (2023). *Volta photovoltaics: Ruptures in resource access as gendered injustices for solar energy in Ghana*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103222.
- Vibrans, L. et al. (2023). *Same same, but different: Explaining heterogeneity among potential photovoltaic adopters in Germany using milieu segmentation*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 103: 103212.
- Wang, X. et al. (2023). *Living with energy poverty: Uncovering older people's fuel choices in urban China*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 104: 103247.

Book Chapters

- Bridgen, P. and Büchs, M. (2023). *The Climate Crisis and Taxation*. In: A. Lymer, M. May, and A. Sinfield (eds). *Taxation and Social Policy*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Laurent, Éloi (2023): *Climate change and social justice*. In: Padilla Rosa, Emilio and Ramos-Martín, Jesús (eds): *Elgar Encyclopedia of Ecological Economics*. Edward Elgar.

Books

- Laurent, Éloi (2023): *Toward Social-Ecological Well-Being. Rethinking Sustainability Economics for the 21st Century*. Palgrave MacMillan.

Announcements of the Network

Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Colloquium (Online, November 29th)

The Network starts into its next colloquium round! We will announce speaker and content soon, but so far please save the date: November 29th, 2023; 15:00 – 16:30 CET.

Online participation link: <https://tuni.zoom.us/j/4243508254>

Further information can be found [here](#).

General Assembly of the Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Network (Online, November 29th)

One year after its foundation, the Network would like to invite you for a General Assembly. All those on the mailing list (and all those who want to join) are invited to the online gathering. We will recap the past year and discuss the upcoming year. The General Assembly will take place online right after the Colloquium, on November 29th, 2023; 16:30 – 17:00 CET.

Online participation link: <https://tuni.zoom.us/j/4243508254>

Further information can be found [here](#).

Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Network Young Scholars' Meeting Network (Online, November 29th)

Students, PhD scholars and early-career researchers are invited to the 4th Young Scholars Meeting organized by the Sustainable Welfare and Eco-social Policy Network. This get-together should provide an informal opportunity for young scholars to share personal experiences and discuss together topics related to sustainable welfare. The meeting will take place online right after the General Assembly, on November 29th, 2023; 17:00 – 18:00 CET.

Online participation link: <https://tuni.zoom.us/j/4243508254>
Further information can be found [here](#).

Publication of the first report of the Stakeholder Roundtable series about Climate & Healthcare

The Sustainable Welfare and Eco-social Policy Network is currently promoting a series of Stakeholder Roundtables aimed at boosting informal dialogue and at strengthening the cooperation between academics and civil society/political actors. The first of these thematic Roundtables, focused on climate and healthcare, took place virtually on June 26th, 2023. It was organized jointly by our Network and the Competence Centre for Climate and Health at the Austrian National Public Health Institute. Participants included representatives from the European Commission, the European Environment Agency, the World Health Organization, the OECD, as well as several Universities and research centers.

The summary document by the hosts of this Roundtable - Matteo Mandelli, Andrea E. Schmidt and Ernest Aigner - provides a short recap of the main challenges, best practices and recommendations for green healthcare in Europe, as identified in the discussion. It also provides a series of useful links, as well as a description of the initiative and the complete list of participants. It can be found [here](#). A second Stakeholder Roundtable focused on Italy has taken place on September 22nd, 2023 and a third one about the EU is scheduled for December 2023. A summary document for both roundtables will follow. If you would like to know more about this series or to be involved in organizing one of the upcoming Roundtables, please do not hesitate to reach out to matteo.mandelli005@gmail.com

External Events

Planetary Health Forum (Berlin, Germany, 30th November – 1st December, 2023)

Under the patronage of the German Federal Minister of Health, Prof Karl Lauterbach, and Steffi Lemke, the German Federal Minister for the Environment, the Centre for Planetary Health Policy (CPHP) and KLUG e.V. (Deutsche Allianz Klimawandel und Gesundheit) invite to the the Planetary Health Forum, the first conference on planetary health in Germany. The event brings together stakeholders from health, climate, and environmental protection, and representing diverse sectors including politics, industry, academia, and civil society. Preparatory workshops will be held on 19 October and 2 November 2023.

Programme details, an overview of confirmed speakers, information about our Youth Sponsorship Programme and participation possibilities can be found here: <https://planetaryhealthforum.de/en>

WINIR Workshop on Regulation & the Common Good: Examining Regulatory Justifications (WINIR, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, 18th October 2023)

WINIR hosts a one-day workshop about the justification for regulation in different policy fields, addressing contemporary challenges such as COVID-19, digital markets and the climate emergency. The WINIR workshop is organized in collaboration with the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA), the University of Sheffield's School of Law and Reform.

Further information can be found at [WINIR](#)

Ageing, Sustainable Societies and Climate change: Opportunities and Threats for Societies, Research and Policy (Research Network on Aging in Europe, Universidad de Málaga, Spain, 2nd – 3rd November 2023)

The *Research Network on Aging in Europe (European Sociological Association)* is organizing a Symposium "Ageing, Sustainable Societies and Climate change: Opportunities and Threats for Societies, Research and Policy". The event takes place at the University of Málaga, on 2nd – 3rd November 2023.

Further information can be found at [Aging in Europe](#)

UK Political Studies Association (PSA) Annual Conference (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 25th – 27th March 2024)

The Political Studies Association (PSA) hosts its 74th annual conference at the University of Strathclyde. A specialist group will hold a series of panels. The conference will take place in Glasgow from 25th to 27th March 2024.

Further information can be found at [PSA](#)

Rethinking Prosperity: business and welfare in a postgrowth economy (Lund, Sweden/Online, 20th October 2023)

Economic growth has underpinned our economic model for two centuries, promising material prosperity and wellbeing while causing resource depletion, pollution, biodiversity loss, climate change, and global inequalities. Academics and practitioners alike are increasingly questioning the availability and sustainability of perpetual growth. They advocate for postgrowth and degrowth approaches that aim to ensure social and ecological wellbeing within planetary boundaries. The need for alternatives to current production, consumption and lifestyle patterns is widely acknowledged among decision-makers, researchers, and civil society, the role of businesses and organisations in a postgrowth economy, however, remains largely unexplored.

During this half-day workshop event, we explore the implications of degrowth for organisations and their role in manoeuvring change processes, how to organise for a postgrowth economy and society, and the emerging scholarship in the field. Bringing together practitioners and academics, we aim to co-create an improved understanding of the role of post growth and degrowth for business and society, what it means for organisations, and what the challenges are for welfare provision. We will also explore how organisations can contribute to the functioning of society, independent of economic growth.

Further information can be found at [CUSP](#)

Regional Events

15th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference (Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), Berlin, Germany, 4th – 5th July 2024)

The 15th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference (SOEP2024) will be taking place in the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) in Berlin. The Conference also celebrates the 40th anniversary of the SOEP.

Further information can be found at [DIW](#)

Online presentation of the book “Es brennt – Armut bekämpfen, Klima retten” [It's burning - fight poverty, save the climate]

The Austrian Armutskonferenz has published a book on the interrelation between climate change and poverty. The book will be launched on an online event with a roundtable (discussants: Karin Fischer, Alban Knecht, Caroline Schmitt; moderation: Alexander Brenner-Skazedonig). The event will take place on 21st November 2023. Please register with renate.bojanov@aau.at

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Call for Papers: The Sage Handbook of Eco-Social Policies and Politics

This publication aims to present a collection of diverse contributions from academics, practitioners, and activists, representing multiple approaches and traditions that recognize the inter-relationship between the social and the environmental. It will provide a global outlook on eco-social politics and policy through author contributions produced in, and/or produced about, a variety of countries from across the Global South and North. The volume will reflect on existing scholarship on eco-social policy and politics, while proposing radical and transformational approaches to environmental governance.

The book will be edited by Emma Foster (University of Birmingham); Karen Bell (University of Glasgow) and Silpa Satheesh (Mahatma Gandhi University). The deadline for abstracts is 27th November 2023.

If you would like to contribute a chapter to this volume, please send title and abstracts (approx. 250 words) to Emma Foster (e.a.foster@bham.ac.uk). Contributions can cover concepts, theories, regional policy or politics, eco-social movements, and specific micro and macro policies and programmes, such as '15-minute cities' or 'Just Transition'. The chapter will need to be 8,000 to 10,000 words long, including abstract and references, and written in accessible language. The deadline for 1st draft chapter submissions will be 1st July 2024.

Call for Papers: Global South Solutions to Global Social Problems

The edited volume aims to bring together authors from different parts of the world to discuss their views of both old and new societal challenges and possible solutions to address them. The goal of this project is not to invalidate the knowledge produced by the Global North but to showcase how the Global South, with its incredible diversity in knowledge base and traditions, can also contribute meaningfully to solving the problems of people and planet. This book will cover the most pressing social issues of our time from an interdisciplinary perspective, bringing together authors from different backgrounds and disciplines, to provide solutions and alternatives to the current state of emergency we are living in. Ideally, this book would be divided into five thematic areas: (I). Global Inequality and Social Justice; (II). Climate Change and Environmental Problems; (III). Unsafe and Irregular Migration; (IV). Peace, conflict and Violence; (V). Negative Impacts of Technology. The deadline for abstracts is 25th November 2023.

Editors: Erick da Luz Scherf, BA, MS, PhD student (The University of Alabama School of Social Work); Dr. Rajendra Baikady, PhD (Central University of Kerala).

Further information can be found [here](#).

Call for Papers: Bringing the Ecological and the Social Together in the Green Transition: A Multilevel Analysis

"Regulation & Governance" is launching a call for papers for a Special Issue entitled "Bringing the Ecological and the Social Together in the Green Transition: A Multilevel Analysis". Guest editors are Ekaterina Domorenok, Paolo Graziano, Matteo Mandelli, and Katharina Zimmermann.

The Special issue addresses the theoretically, analytically and politically salient issues of how social and environmental policies combine in the multilevel context of the European Union's ambitious decarbonization agenda. Particularly, the aim is to gather contributions about eco-social politics and policies, focusing specifically on the interplay of institutional and noninstitutional factors that determine transformative dynamics at the different territorial levels (supranational, national, regional-local, etc.). The deadline for the submission of abstracts is November 1st, 2023. Abstracts (max. 150 words) should be sent via e-mail to Paolo Graziano at the following address: paolo.graziano@unipd.it. Conditional acceptance will be communicated by November 15th 2023, whereas the deadline for the submission of papers is March 1st, 2024. Manuscripts should be between 6,000 to 11,000 words and they will undergo a double-blinded review process based on the journal's criteria.

Call for Papers: "The Digital Divide" (socialpolicy.ch)

The Socialpolicy.ch Journal calls for papers for the special issue "The Digital Divide". Welcomed are conceptual or methodological papers on the study of the digital divide, empirical articles on digital inequalities from a temporal perspective (e.g., the development in the 20th century or during the Covid19 pandemic) and/or international perspective and empirical studies on social policies with a focus on the reduction of digital inequalities, or on the interplay between social work and social policy practices with digital inequalities. Abstracts can be submitted between until 30th October 2023.

Further information can be found at [Socialpolicy.ch](https://socialpolicy.ch)

Call for Papers: War, Economic Strife, Climate Change: Understanding Intersectional Threats to Inclusion and Security (Social Inclusion and (In)Justice International)

War, climate change and economic instability pose unpredictable security threats in today's world. Are, for example, societies safe, and if they are, safe for whom? In this 5th Joint Issue with *Social Inclusion, (In)Justice International* requests papers which examine the difficulties and problems that minorities and others with marginal positions in societies and mainstream cultures have had to face and try to overcome. Abstracts can be submitted between 1st December 2023 and 15th December 2023.

Further information can be found at [\(In\)Justice International](https://injusticeinternational.com)

Call for Papers: 15th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference

For the SOEP 2024 Conference researchers who use the SOEP are invited to present and discuss their work with their peers. Submission of various subjects and from researchers of all disciplines are welcome, but *the individual and collective response to a changing world* and submissions using the longitudinal features of SOEP as well as papers on survey methodology and cross-national comparative analysis are of a great interest. The event takes place at Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) in Berlin, from 4th to 5th July 2024. Abstracts can be submitted until 5th February 2024.

Further information can be found at [DIW](https://www.diw.de)

Call for Contributions: Guest lecture on eco-social issues

The Research Group on Eco-welfare at the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Trieste is organizing the third webinar series dedicated to energy transition. The first two series mainly addressed the topic of energy poverty, with four guest lectures each, both in English and in Italian (further info, recordings and slides available here). The third webinar series will be held in February 2024 and will still focus on energy, with the aim of broadening the debate to other eco-social issues. The organization is ongoing, and it is open for contributions for a guest lecture on eco-welfare, sustainable welfare and eco-social issues. The call is limited to this research network and is opened to both advanced and early-career researchers. If you are interested in joining the webinar series please send a short abstract of the proposed contribution at this email: lorenzoraimondo.devidovich@dispes.units.it. Do not hesitate to reach out for further info or requests about the webinars.

JOBS

Call for Researcher in the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies (University of Padova)

The Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies (SPGI) of the University of Padova (Italy) has a job opening for a research assistant or post-doc in the project "Governing the 'Just transition': Eco-Social Politics and Policies in the EU" led by Paolo Graziano, Ekaterina Domorenok and the collaboration of Benedetta Cotta. The duration of the post is 22 months, total gross salary of 27000 euro.

The research project aims to make three main contributions: 1) advance the conceptual and analytical understanding of eco-social politics and policies; 2) enrich empirical knowledge on the political and policy challenges of socio-ecological transitions at the EU level and in a comparative perspective; 3) deliver policy recommendations regarding eco-social politics and policies at EU and domestic level.

The tasks of the post holder will be: a) identification and analysis of eco-social policies at the EU level; b) preliminary identification and analysis of eco-social policies in six EU countries (Poland, Italy, Ireland, Germany, Sweden and Spain) and in twelve subnational territories within the six EU countries; c) drafting of a questionnaire to be used for interviews at EU and subnational level in at least three of the above-mentioned EU countries; de) conducting interviews at key decisionmakers at the EU and subnational level; e) writing of a research report based on the above-mentioned interviews.

Requirements for application: Ph.D. graduates in the fields of political science or sociology, or graduates with master's degrees (LM-87 Social Service and Social Policy, LM-62 Political Science, LM-63 Public Administration Science, LM-88 Sociology and Social Research, LM-77 Economics and Business Science, or an equivalent degree under the law)

The application procedure opens on 25th October, for online application check [here](#) (the website is in Italian, please contact Benedetta Cotta at benedetta.cotta@unipd.it for information on the call and the application procedure)

The final deadline for applying online is 9 November 2023.

Call for PhD in the Department of Political Science (University of Connecticut)

The *University of Connecticut* invites applications for their PhD in the Department of Political Science to contribute to ongoing projects on US and comparative social welfare policy. Applicants should be interested in contributing to the Comparative Welfare Entitlements Project (cwep.us, PI Lyle Scruggs) or the Structure of Social Welfare in Africa project (SSWA) (PI, Yoni Morse). The deadline for applications is 15th January 2024.

Further information can be found at [University of Connecticut](#)

Call for PhD in the Department of Plural Economics (Europa-University Flensburg)

The *Europa-University Flensburg* is looking for applicants for a PhD position in the Department of Plural Economics. Possible topics for the doctorate would include: Issues of socio-ecological transformations, especially in its international dimension and in relation to issues of global inequality; comparative developmental dynamics in Europe and the world, especially the role of economic complexity and technological change, domestic and international institutions, and/or structural interdependencies; a critical-constructive examination of the topic area "post-growth," especially from a global perspective; foundational questions in the philosophy and sociology of pluralist economics and empirical analyses of the status quo of economics, especially with regard to its plurality (qualitative and quantitative). The deadline for applications is 10th October 2023.

Further information can be found at [Europa-University Flensburg](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

“A fairway to fairness: Toward a richer conceptualization of fairness perceptions for just energy transitions” by Michèlle Bal et al.

The review article “A fairway to fairness: Toward a richer conceptualization of fairness perceptions for just energy transitions” by Michèlle Bal et al. ha been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103213>

Abstract

Current energy justice literature has developed a strong empirical approach to describe how justice plays a role in energy transitions. We argue that the individual-level perception measures are insufficiently developed within this field, while they are vital for a successful just energy transition. Reviewing studies on how people (citizens, users or consumers) perceive fairness in the context of the energy transition, we first investigate how fairness perceptions are currently studied within energy social science.

Subsequently, we look into social and environmental justice research and interdependent decision-experiments, to map potential extensions of fairness conceptualizations and measures. Following the triumvirate model of energy justice – distinguishing distributive, procedural, and recognitive justice – we found that only recently studies also contained recognition justice aspects, while the majority of energy social science studies focuses on either distributive or procedural aspects. Extending these insights, we argue that environmental justice research provides a potential way of specifying groups to be recognized in the energy transition (i.e., future generations, non-human species, humans worldwide). Moreover, we propose that interactional justice could be an additional tenet of citizen's fairness perceptions to consider. Importantly, for a successful global energy transition, in-depth insight into the principles underlying people's justice judgments is necessary. Social justice theorizing and interdependent decision-experiments offer concrete ways of tapping into these principles. Interdependent decision-experiments in particular pose a way of measuring fairness tendencies that could be applied to the specific context of the energy transition and be expanded beyond the current research focus measuring distributive justice perceptions.

“Energy platforms and the future of energy citizenship” by Marten Boekelo and Sanneke Kloppenburg

The research article “Energy platforms and the future of energy citizenship” by Marten Boekelo and Sanneke Kloppenburg has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103165>

Abstract

Energy platforms involve citizens in the energy system by creating and orchestrating virtual energy collectives that can support energy system governance. In such an energy collective, households pool their resources to engage in energy trading, collective self-consumption, or grid balancing. In this paper we draw on the theory of material participation to examine how everyday interactions with energy platform technologies enable people to enact energy citizenship. Our findings from interviews and workshops in a demonstration project of an energy platform show that energy platforms complicate the notion of being an energy citizen. For the householders in our research, engaging in new collective energy practices disturbed the existing link between domestic energy practices and energy citizenship. Where people's energy citizenship used to be centred around their own domestic domain, engagement with platform technologies required them to reflect on their position in relation to new issues such as the ‘greenness’ of various energy markets. Moreover, people were confused about the relation between their own agency and goals as an energy citizen, vis-a-vis the collective agency that results from the bundling of energy practices, and the power and motivations of platform providers and energy system actors. Uncertainties around agency and responsibility need to be reduced if platform-based energy collectives are to play a role in fostering meaningful citizen participation in the energy transition. For platform providers, this implies acknowledging people's existing practices and trajectories of energy citizenship, and providing feedback about the contributions people are making.

“Mould or cold? Contrasting representations of unhealthy housing in Denmark and England and the relation to energy poverty” by Sirid Bonderup and Lucie Middlemiss

The research article “Mould or cold? Contrasting representations of unhealthy housing in Denmark and England and the relation to energy poverty” by Sirid Bonderup and Lucie Middlemiss has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103176>

Abstract

Both mould growth and underheating in housing are widely recognised as health concerns, but the problematisation and handling of these issues varies greatly in different nations. In this paper we compare Danish and English understandings of mould and cold in homes. Drawing on Bacchi's ‘What is the problem represented to be?’ framework, we ask how mould is understood in the two national contexts by analysing how it is problematised in key national policy documents, uncovering the effects of these contrasting problematisations on the way in which mould is managed in rental housing. Following Bacchi's approach, we find that contrasting problematisations of mould lead to highly divergent management approaches, in turn shaping public health consequences for those living with mould and cold. While in Denmark mould is central to rental housing management, and considered an important issue in its own right, in England mould is seen as a by-product of under-heating as a result of fuel poverty. In Denmark,

a discourse of poverty is suppressed, since mould is framed as a building issue rather than related to income inequality, while in England mould in buildings is not adequately addressed due to a strong focus on access to warmth. By showing how policy problematisations shape housing management, our work suggests the value of a critical approach to housing and energy policy, which has salience to contexts beyond the UK and Denmark. We finish by identifying the risks of these narrow problematisations, suggesting the productive possibility of tackling both mould and cold together.

„Just sharing? Energy injustices in the Norwegian solar policy mix for collective presuming” by Marie Byskov Lindberg and Tor Håkon Jackson Inderberg

The research article „Just sharing? Energy injustices in the Norwegian solar policy mix for collective presuming” by Marie Byskov Lindberg and Tor Håkon Jackson Inderberg has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103219>

Abstract

There is increasing evidence that the energy transition incorporates new types of inequalities for different types of energy consumers. In many places, detached dwellings are highly overrepresented among the building types with solar PV installed. Based on document analysis and high-level interviews, this article analyses the policy mix for rooftop solar energy in Norway through an energy justice lens, focusing on multi-apartment buildings and housing cooperatives. Such cooperatives resemble both a Renewable Energy Community and a Citizen Energy Community as defined in the EU's ‘Clean Energy for all Europeans’-package. We identify several energy injustices in the solar PV policy mix, which effectively impede residents in multi-apartment buildings from collectively producing their own electricity. As a result, very few multi-apartment buildings and housing cooperatives produce their own electricity. Most importantly, current regulations add electricity taxes, grid fees and VAT to the collectively self-consumed electricity as soon as it enters each individual dwelling. By contrast, detached households are allowed to practise hourly net-metering, thereby consuming their self-produced electricity behind the meter without any additional taxes or fees. Finally, our findings show that perceptions of a ‘fair’ policy mix vary considerably, and that equal rules affect various groups of residents differently.

“Towards eco-social policies to tackle the socio-ecological crisis: energy poverty as an interface between welfare and environment” by Giovanni Carrosio and Lorenzo De Vidovich

The research article “Towards eco-social policies to tackle the socio-ecological crisis: energy poverty as an interface between welfare and environment” by Giovanni Carrosio and Lorenzo De Vidovich has been published in “Environmental Sociology”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2023.2207707>

The interplay between the environmental issues – embedded in the climate crisis – and the sustainability of welfare systems is a recent research topic that is unfolding the complexities behind the environmental and the fiscal crises. Drawing on an extensive literature, this paper fits in this debate with a theoretical focus on ‘eco-welfare’ and the relevant eco-social policies seen as viable solutions to tackle the twofold socio-ecological crisis. The article discusses how the two crises are addressed by mainstream policies, and then it sets out the eco-welfare framework. In so doing, the paper enhances the relevance of pre-distribution factors in recognizing the interdependencies between social and environmental sustainability. Subsequently, the paper identifies energy poverty as a meaningful research topic to be addressed through an eco-welfare framework, by posing a peculiar attention to the social determinants behind the notion of ‘fuel poor’. Overall, the paper discusses both the contents of the environmental welfare state at a time of socio-ecological crisis, and the multidimensional aspects of energy poverty.

“Energy poverty and beyond: The state, contexts, and trajectories of energy poverty studies in Asia” by Chloe Chan and and Laurence L. Delina

The review article “Energy poverty and beyond: The state, contexts, and trajectories of energy poverty studies in Asia” by Chloe Chan and Laurence L. Delina has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103168>

Abstract

There is a dichotomy in the understanding of energy poverty between Asia and the rest of the world, especially in the Global North. While there has been considerable discourse regarding energy poverty in the Global North, particularly the emergence of affordable cooling, the development of energy poverty studies in the Global South has received less attention. This review article explores energy poverty within Asia reviewing energy poverty studies in 23 countries and territories in South, East, and Southeast Asia, using bibliometric analysis to identify emerging discussions and researchers. We highlight the concepts of ‘hidden energy poverty’, ‘urban energy poverty’, and ‘cooling poverty’ to outline potential areas for future research that contextualises energy poverty into using a more encompassing term, ‘energy insecurity,’ which consolidates the wide gamut of energy-related sufferings. To investigate other drivers and impacts of energy insecurity, qualitative research can extend previously identified elements of accessibility and affordability. New research directions may also include contextualising energy insecurity in the context of a just energy transition.

“The Just Transition in Japan: Awareness and desires for the future” by A. Chapman et al.

The research article “The Just Transition in Japan: Awareness and desires for the future” by A. Chapman et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103228>

Abstract

As with many advanced economies, Japan is currently undergoing an energy transition, aiming to deploy the maximum amount of renewable energy in order to reduce reliance on energy imports from abroad. Ideally, this transition will not only increase energy security for Japan, but will also improve the living standards of its people and be representative of a ‘just’ transition. In order to determine the nature of the Japanese energy transition, it is important to recognize the awareness of concepts such as the Just Transition, and to understand people’s desires for the future. This research investigates the relationship between these factors, i.e., uncovering whether or not awareness of the Just Transition concept affects peoples desired outcomes, personal behaviors or preferences toward energy policies which engender a transition. Here we analyze a large sample survey (n = 6000) of the Japanese public to understand desires, behaviors and preferences, to attempt to extract policy implications and effective strategies to promote desirable behaviors which promote a Just Transition. Our results show that demographics impact upon Just Transition knowledge levels, and that these knowledge levels themselves then impact upon propensity to undertake desirable behaviors, or to allow for the deployment of conducive technologies at the local or regional level. A greater level of understanding of the concept of a Just Transition, perhaps via targeted education may help to align people’s behavior, desires and expectations toward the development of a fairer future energy system in Japan and more broadly for other advanced economies.

“David against Goliath? Challenges and opportunities for energy cooperatives in Southern Europe” by Ana Delicado et al.

The research article “David against Goliath? Challenges and opportunities for energy cooperatives in Southern Europe” by Ana Delicado et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103220>

Abstract

Unlike in some northern European countries, renewable energy cooperatives in Portugal, Spain and Italy are few and represent a very small share of the energy market. This article aims to understand the social, political, economic and cultural factors that affect the development of renewable energy cooperatives in southern Europe, but also the opportunities and benefits cooperatives offer over other energy providers in the energy transition. It is based on a comparative analysis of four case studies of cooperatives in

Portugal, Spain and Italy, relying on document analysis, observation and interviews with cooperative representatives, complemented with legal, policy and statistical data for contextualisation.

We ascertain that energy policies have favoured large utility companies and concentrated energy generation, while a lack of civic culture of participation and mistrust of cooperatives have also hindered their development. Furthermore, we show how cooperatives have unique features that make them valuable actors in energy systems: promotion of environmental and social values, local embeddedness, flexibility to diversify activities, ability to mobilise networks of similar organisations and fostering democratic governance and participation.

“Powering just energy transitions: A review of the justice implications of community choice aggregation” by C. V. Diezmartínez and A. Zhang

The review article “Powering just energy transitions: A review of the justice implications of community choice aggregation” by C. V. Diezmartínez and A. Zhang has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103221>

Abstract

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is an alternative energy supply model that enables municipalities to procure electricity on behalf of their residents. By expanding access to affordable clean energy and enhancing energy decision-making at the local level, CCA has emerged as a promising policy instrument to pursue just energy transitions. CCA programs are already serving more than 5 million customers across the U.S., and they are expected to expand in the following years. Here, we review existing literature on CCA through an energy justice lens, synthesize existing evidence on the justice implications of CCA programs, and present a framework for scholars to empirically evaluate the justice impacts of CCA in future research. We find that while many CCA programs across the U.S. may be successful at providing affordable energy rates to customers, regulatory barriers in most states limit the ability of these programs to address other justice and equity issues that could contribute to a broader transformation of our energy systems. Legislative reforms are necessary to enable a transition towards more just CCA programs.

“Pluralizing energy justice? Towards cultivating an unruly, autonomous and insurrectionary research agenda” by Alexander Dunlap and Carlos Tornel

The Mini review “Pluralizing energy justice? Towards cultivating an unruly, autonomous and insurrectionary research agenda” by Alexander Dunlap and Carlos Tornel has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103217>

Abstract

This Perspective article responds to the article ‘Pluralizing energy justice: Incorporating feminist, anti-racist, Indigenous, and postcolonial perspectives’ (Sovacool et al., 2023). While Sovacool and colleagues seeks to expand and, rightfully, address criticism of energy justice, we contend that by maintaining the framework of justice within the article implicitly maintains the Eurocentric developmental models (e.g., statist modernism). As the article is currently phrased, issues of the state (e.g., statism), extractivism (e.g., modernist development) and capitalism, as they intersect, are not adequately confronted. This, we contend, relates to how the ‘colonial’ is conceptualized in relationship to the state. This conceptualization will impact how (neo)colonialism is identified and decolonial or anti-colonial struggle is understood. We position energy justice as the ‘bare political minimum’ or starting point, meanwhile rooting ourselves in post-development and visions of total liberation to advocate for an insurrection in energy research and developing energy autonomy. Energy justice, we worry, risks thwarting real possibilities towards post-development and total liberation: the active struggle against domination for all—humans, nonhumans, (non)genders and peoples. This article seeks to advance a constructive conversation with the authors of ‘Pluralizing Energy Justice’ by discussing the critical challenge to how terms like feminist, anti-racist, Indigenous, and postcolonial perspectives are employed in academia and are absorbed by the statist institutions capitalist operations.

“Tool for a just transition? Community choice aggregation and energy justice in New Hampshire and beyond” by Maron Greenleaf et al.

The research article “Tool for a just transition? Community choice aggregation and energy justice in New Hampshire and beyond” has been published by Maron Greenleaf, Sara H. Kelly, Reed Cole, Julia Griffin, Donald Kreis, April Salas, and Sydney Wu in Energy Research and Social Science

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103287>

Abstract: A number of energy policies are being used to facilitate the transition away from climate-changing fossil fuels. But the extent to which these policies either address or exacerbate existing inequities and other forms of injustice often remains unclear. Among these policies is community choice aggregation (CCA) through which local governments and related institutions purchase energy for residents and small businesses. CCA promises access to more renewable energy and at a lower cost than traditional electric utilities. This paper offers the first analysis of CCA's energy justice dimensions and thus its capacity to contribute to socially just transitions to renewable energy. It draws primarily from qualitative research on CCA's development in the politically diverse state of New Hampshire. We examine how CCA can advance energy justice by expanding access to affordable, renewable energy for renters and other types of residents, as well as enabling forms of participation. We also assess how CCA's reliance on local governmental capacity—which reflects unequal resources—can entrench energy injustice. Additionally, we examine how CCA in NH demonstrates the limits of neoliberal models of consumer engagement with energy markets and of some other models of energy participation, as well as the benefits of what we call “networked aggregation.” Through this analysis, we show how CCA in NH holds lessons about how to pursue a just transition in the context of polarized politics—like those that shape much of the energy and climate policy in the US and elsewhere.

“Excluded despite their support - The perspectives of energy-poor households on their participation in the German energy transition narrative” by Florian Hanke et al.

The research article “Excluded despite their support - The perspectives of energy-poor households on their participation in the German energy transition narrative” by Florian Hanke et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103259>

Abstract

EU policy documents pursue a win-win outcome for climate policies and the combatting of energy poverty. Yet current policies do not achieve the full participation of the energy-poor in regard to energy transitions. Structural factors like welfare policy, housing- and energy-market mechanisms, and tenancy prevent the energy poor from benefitting from energy transitions. Based on document analyses and in-depth interviews with 35 German households, we describe how the energy poor perceive the sustainability narrative associated with the German energy transition. Being part of this narrative creates a sense of belonging, while being deprived of the opportunity manifests yet another dimension of social exclusion. We portray three household types: those supporting climate action and energy transition with limited possibility for participation beyond energy saving; indifferent households with low energy consumption due to financial precarity; and extremely overburdened households with (mental) health issues. All groups express support for energy transitions yet remain excluded by its policies that fail to account for multidimensional vulnerability and that remain restricted to either energy-saving or one-time relief measures, both of which quickly reach their limits, especially during energy crises. Highlighting the exclusion of these groups requires specifying that distributional justice debates to include access to measures designed to enhance participation in this narrative. Such measures would enable the fair distribution of coping mechanisms to manage rising energy prices and often determine whether households can contribute to climate action while maintaining the basic comforts of life. On a policy level, only a radical shift towards inclusive, democratic policy design can help overcome the exclusion.

“How policy instruments reproduce energy vulnerability - A qualitative study of Dutch household energy efficiency measures” by Maria Kaufmann et al.

The research article “How policy instruments reproduce energy vulnerability - A qualitative study of Dutch household energy efficiency measures” by Maria Kaufmann et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103206>

Abstract

Rising energy prices threaten households' access to affordable energy services and increase the risk of energy vulnerability. One way to reduce the cost of access to energy is to implement energy efficiency measures at the household level (e.g. solar panels). However, not all households have the capacity to do this. Households that are unable to implement energy efficiency measures are vulnerable in two ways: 1) they may not enjoy the benefits of these measures (such as lower energy costs, healthier and more comfortable living conditions), and 2) they may face increasing costs due to fluctuating market prices for non-renewable energy sources or taxes on non-renewable energy sources. Although public authorities use different policy instruments to support citizens in implementing energy efficiency measures, it turns out that these policy instruments can (re)produce energy vulnerability in an uneven way. However, how exactly this happens remains unclear. The aim of this paper is to use the capability approach to identify mechanisms that explain how policy instruments (re)produce energy vulnerability. By combining three qualitative methods to analyse two Dutch neighbourhoods, this article illustrates how institutional arrangements affect capabilities unequally, depending on spatial scale, language skills, socio-economic characteristics and housing situation. Finally, it presents three subsequent mechanisms through which policy instruments may negatively affect citizens' capabilities and increase the risk of energy vulnerability: 1) by precluding citizens from relevant information about the energy transition; 2) by raising the thresholds for citizens to implement energy-efficient measures; and 3) by miscalculating policy consequences, i.e. citizens' poor anticipation of long-term policy implications, aggravated by legal and financial uncertainty or changing individual circumstances.

“A step towards a just transition in the EU: Conclusions of a regression-based energy inequality decomposition” by Mohammad Kashour

The research article “A step towards a just transition in the EU: Conclusions of a regression-based energy inequality decomposition” has been published by Mohammad Kashour in Energy Policy.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2023.113816>

Abstract: The conceptual and regulatory framework of the European just transition does not consider inequality in household energy consumption. This study addresses the causes of this inequality across the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) in the period 2010–2020 to contribute to its reduction. To identify these causes, the regression-based inequality decomposition approach is used. The results show that the variation in per capita gross domestic product (GDP), which contributes 38.76% to the inequality of household energy consumption, is the main cause of this inequality. Moreover, the average contribution of GDP per capita in the inequality of household energy consumption is almost negligible in the most developed states. In contrast, it is much higher in the least developed states, suggesting that decoupling between household energy consumption and economic development has not been achieved in all Member States. To promote a just transition to climate neutrality by 2050, the energy transition framework should therefore be broadened to help the least developed states achieve decoupling and align their energy consumption with that of the most developed states.

“Achieving emission reductions without furthering social inequality: Lessons from the 2007 economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic” by Lena Kilian

The research article “Achieving emission reductions without furthering social inequality: Lessons from the 2007 economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic” by Lena Kilian, Anne Owen, Andy Newing and Diana Ivanova has been published in “Energy Research & Social Sciences”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103286>

Abstract: To meet global climate goals, such as limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, urgent and substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions are needed. From a consumption-based perspective, such measures include a radical reduction of emissions from private households. Despite this urgency, attention must be paid to achieve such reductions without furthering social inequalities. To address these issues, this research looks at consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions of UK households longitudinally, with a particular focus on changes that occurred after the 2007/08 economic crisis and the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns. Analysing these two events allows us to learn how emissions from different social

cohorts are impacted by external shocks, providing a learning for policy. We find significant ($p < 0.05$) differences in the relationships between income and emissions of some age and income groups, as well as substantial descriptive differences between how age and income groups are impacted at a product-level. Importantly, we also find that despite existing levels of carbon inequality, substantial emission reductions are needed for all social cohorts assessed. However, to avoid further increasing existing inequalities and to make policies more effective, we propose interventions targeted at specific social cohorts. While an income reduction may reduce emissions of high-income households, increased access to high quality housing and public services may help reduce emissions of low-income households, whose emissions are already decoupled from income. Finally, age and income-specific interventions targeting specific consumption categories may reduce the impact of rebound effects, as well as reduce emission overall.

“Well-Being in Times of Decline: The Feasibility and Effectiveness of Degrowth for Sustainability” by Hikaru Komatsu and Jeremy Rappleye

The research article “Well-Being in Times of Decline: The Feasibility and Effectiveness of Degrowth for Sustainability” has been published by Hikaru Komatsu and Jeremy Rappleye in “Journal of Future Studies”

[Link](#)

Abstract: In the intensifying debate between degrowth and green growth, many recognize that degrowth is more effective in meeting the climate catastrophe. However, concerns about degrowth persist in regard to public acceptance of declining economic standards. Analyzing the experience of Greece during a long-term economic decline, this study finds that subjective well-being temporarily decreased but eventually rebounded to pre-decline levels. This indicates that a decline in economic standards does not necessarily result in a long-term well-being decline. Furthermore, Greece outperformed other European countries that pursued green growth policies in environmental reductions. Greece highlights the feasibility and effectiveness of degrowth for sustainability.

“Does the sun shine for all? Revealing socio-spatial inequalities in the transition to solar energy in The Hague, The Netherlands” by Chiem W. Kraaijvanger et al.

The research article “Does the sun shine for all? Revealing socio-spatial inequalities in the transition to solar energy in The Hague, The Netherlands” by Chiem W. Kraaijvanger et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103245>

Abstract

With technological advances and decreasing prices, solar energy is a key technology in the urban energy transition. However, the focus on increasing the overall installed capacity has overshadowed energy justice considerations, leading to inequalities in solar energy adoption. This paper adopts an equity perspective to analyse the transition to solar (photovoltaic) energy in the city of The Hague, The Netherlands. Access to solar energy is at the core of the research, encapsulating factors that influence the ability of a household to adopt solar energy. Through a socio-spatial analysis at the postcode level, we identify four distinct groups with varying levels of access to solar energy. Our results show that these groups are not only strongly segregated across the city but also overlap with existing socio-spatial inequalities. The four levels of access to solar energy are then compared to current solar adoption rates and technical rooftop energy potential in the city. Results show that decreasing levels of access to solar energy align with decreasing adoption rates, revealing that current policies fail to provide equitable access to solar energy leading to inequalities in adoption rates. Furthermore, we show that most of the technical potential available in The Hague is in areas where access to solar energy is limited, representing opportunities to exploit a significant amount of untapped technical potential while addressing existing socio-spatial inequalities. Here, we also identify two groups of interest and related leverage points for future policy interventions to address equity in the transition to solar energy in The Hague.

“Citizens call for sufficiency and regulation — A comparison of European citizen assemblies and National Energy and Climate Plans” by Jonas Lage et al.

The research article “Citizens call for sufficiency and regulation — A comparison of European citizen assemblies and National Energy and Climate Plans” by Lage, Jonas; Thema, Johannes; Zell-Ziegler, Carina; Best, Benjamin; Cordroch, Luisa and Wiese, Frauke has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103254>

Abstract: There is a growing body of scientific evidence supporting sufficiency as an inevitable strategy for mitigating climate change. Despite this, sufficiency plays a minor role in existing climate and energy policies. Following previous work on the National Energy and Climate Plans of EU countries, we conduct a similar content analysis of the recommendations made by citizen assemblies on climate change mitigation in ten European countries and the EU, and compare the results of these studies. Citizen assemblies are representative mini-publics and enjoy a high level of legitimacy.

We identify a total of 860 mitigation policy recommendations in the citizen assemblies’ documents, of which 332 (39 %) include sufficiency. Most of the sufficiency policies relate to the mobility sector, the least relate to the buildings sector. Regulatory instruments are the most often proposed means for achieving sufficiency, followed by fiscal and economic instruments. The average approval rate of sufficiency policies is high (93 %), with the highest rates for regulatory policies.

Compared to National Energy and Climate Plans, the citizen assembly recommendations include a significantly higher share of sufficiency policies (factor three to six) with a stronger focus on regulatory policies. Consequently, the recommendations can be interpreted as a call for a *sufficiency turn* and a *regulatory turn* in climate mitigation politics. These results suggest that the observed lack of sufficiency in climate policy making is not due to a lack of legitimacy, but rather reflects a reluctance to implement sufficiency policies, the constitution of the policy making process and competing interests.

“Women, equality, and energy access: Emerging lessons for last-mile rural electrification in Brazil” by A. Leduchowicz-Municio et al.

The research article “Women, equality, and energy access: Emerging lessons for last-mile rural electrification in Brazil” by A. Leduchowicz-Municio et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103181>

Abstract

The inaccessibility to clean and affordable energy, as well as large gender inequalities are two of the greatest challenges faced by rural areas of the Global South. However, the gender approach is still very lacking in energy access literature. This work aims to bridge this gap, by answering two questions: “How do gender inequalities limit women’s access to energy benefits, and how can this be counteracted to ensure equal benefit from energy access for both genders?” and “To what extent do energy access initiatives reduce or increase the gender gap and how can these initiatives be improved to correct gender inequalities?”. To respond to these questions, field research has been carried out in 19 remote traditional communities in the semi-arid region of Bahia (Brazil), where a last-mile rural electrification program was launched a decade ago. The collection of mixed empirical evidence permitted a multi-criteria analysis of the impact of energy at the residential, community and productive levels. The results highlighted that, to benefit both genders equally, there is a need for higher energy capacities, capable of running household electrical appliances and electrifying community services where women play a fundamental role. In addition, the incorporation of energy affordability mechanisms for women and the continuous local provision of gender-sensitive services are transformative vectors in reversing gender inequalities through energy access initiatives.

“Conceptualising socially inclusive environmental policy: a just transition to Net Zero” by Lucie Middlemiss et al.

The research article “Conceptualising socially inclusive environmental policy: a just transition to Net Zero” was published by Lucie Middlemiss, Carolyn Snell, Emily Morrison, Yekaterina Chzhen, Anne Owen, Kelli Kenned, Samantha Theminimulle, Tania Carregha in “Social Policy and Society”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746423000180>

Abstract: The policy area addressing the climate crisis in the UK, 'Net Zero', will affect many aspects of people's everyday life. Given that policy builds from where we are now, which for some (post austerity, and mid cost of living crisis) means in financial crisis, there is work to be done in enabling a socially inclusive Net Zero. In this article, we modify the Bristol Social Exclusion Matrix's four forms of participation for social inclusion, drawing on the existing literature on the social risks of environmental policy, to articulate the risks of social exclusion in transition to Net Zero. This enables us to develop a 'person-centred' approach to understanding the risks of Net Zero, articulating the risks of exclusion, and who is likely to be affected by them. We conclude by outlining a framework for an inclusive transition, and commenting on the policy and research implications of our thinking.

“Barriers to adopting wellbeing-economy narratives: comparing the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and Wellbeing Economy Governments” by Naomi Mason and Milena Büchs

The research article “Barriers to adopting wellbeing-economy narratives: comparing the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and Wellbeing Economy Governments” was published by Naomi Mason and Milena Büchs in Sustainability: “Science, Practice and Policy”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2023.2222624>

Abstract: The reliance of current economic systems on economic growth is increasingly being questioned by academics and environmental organizations in the context of the climate emergency and rising social inequalities and conflicts. While political backing for post-growth initiatives has been limited to date, advocacy work by the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) aims to shift narratives around the purpose of the economy away from a focus on economic growth. WEAll also facilitated the formation of the Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGos). Early research in the field indicates that while WEGos have made some steps toward adopting wellbeing economy narratives, limitations to full adoption remain. What these barriers consist of remains poorly understood by researchers. With the aim to contribute to research on understanding (barriers to) social transformation, this article compares the wellbeing economy narratives that WEAll and WEGos have adopted and then examines reasons for differences between them. We find that disparities in narratives exist: while WEAll promotes the deprioritization of economic growth as a policy objective and criticizes capitalism, WEGos remains more narrowly focused on complementing GDP as a measure of performance with other indicators. The dominance of neoclassical economics training within policymaking institutions, siloed and short-termist approaches to policymaking, and the role of vested interests emerged as the main barriers to the adoption of more radical wellbeing economy narratives among WEGos.

“Energy justice and energy democracy: Separated twins, rival concepts or just buzzwords?” by Jan Osička et al.

The research article “Energy justice and energy democracy: Separated twins, rival concepts or just buzzwords?” by Jan Osička et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103266>

Abstract

Many new concepts have emerged to better capture socio-technical change in energy systems from a normative perspective. Two of the most visible, popularized, and politically charged are Energy Justice and Energy Democracy, but it is the tension between them that has drawn recent controversy. Instead of arguing for the superiority of one over the other, this paper's aim is to demonstrate their differential contribution and areas of productive overlap using both quantitative and qualitative measures. It presents the results of the systematic review of 495 articles on Energy Democracy and Energy Justice in the Web of Science database, with attention to the geographical focus, scale, technology, and social groups dominant in both literatures. We find that both the concepts and literatures employing them are very closely related, almost like twins. The key difference is the failure of the Energy Democracy literature to engage with questions of energy poverty and distributional (in)justice. For Energy Justice, we find that despite lip service paid to, for example, the Global South, normative research in energy transitions sphere remains highly Western-centric. We highlight, too, that both terms are most often used as buzzwords and that this undermines knowledge building and the radical potential for change which is inherent in the two concepts and their applications.

“Climate change, disasters and social work practice in Greece” by Dimitra Papadopoulou and Dimitra-Dora Teloni

The research paper “Climate change, disasters and social work practice in Greece” by Dimitra Papadopoulou and Dimitra-Dora Teloni has been published in “Critical and Radical Social Work”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1332/204986021X16632560995141>

Abstract

In times of repeated crises, social work is more than ever linked with politics. In contemporary societies, neoliberal welfare, health policies (such as the case of COVID-19), climate change, poverty and wars have a direct impact on people and nature, as well as social services, professionals and users. Particularly in regard to climate change, we need to accentuate its implication for people’s lives, animals and nature, as well as its connection with social work. In this direction, this article presents the findings of research that took place in 2019 in Greece regarding social work practice in disasters and suggests the reclaiming of community work by a radical perspective and in coalition with environmental justice movements.

“Gender and sustainability in our home: a collaborative autoethnography linking experience, scholarship and progressive politics” by Sarah Perry and Joseph Murphy

The research paper “Gender and sustainability in our home: a collaborative autoethnography linking experience, scholarship and progressive politics” by Sarah Perry and Joseph Murphy has been published in “Families, Relationships and Societies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1332/204674321X16669559148344>

Abstract

Households are sites where a progressive politics of change towards sustainability can be nourished. Efforts to do so, however, must attend to gender dynamics. Our aim is to improve our understanding of how gender and sustainability intersect at the household level and engage with progressive politics in this context. To do so, we present a collaborative autoethnography focused on gender and sustainability in our household covering five years during which we experienced multiple lifecourse transitions. Building on this we answer two questions. First, how does the encounter between personal experiences and scholarship shape conceptual refinement? Second, how do personal experiences and scholarship combine to shape what we understand as progressive politics? This article not only advances the understanding of gender and sustainability in households and progressive politics in this context but also shows that collaborative autoethnography offers a valuable methodological toolkit for advancing research towards progressive politics.

“Social policy and environment in Brazil: Why does community-supported agriculture matter?” by Ana Paula Pedrosa and Romana Xerez

The research article “Social policy and environment in Brazil: Why does community-supported agriculture matter?” by Ana Paula Pedrosa and Romana Xerez has been published in “Global Social Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14680181231161989>

Abstract

Recent political measures in Brazil, in conjunction with new environmental policies, could reverse previous achievements that had put the country at the forefront of social policy making. This article discusses the implications of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) for social policy. It is based on qualitative methods, namely, semi-structured interviews with subscribers from six administrative regions who participated through digital platforms. The results indicate that the factors determining consumer participation in CSA are health impact, strengthening local production, environmental concerns, and eating as a human right and political act. This article also demonstrates the need to promote participation among low-income and socially vulnerable families in CSA and to firmly connect food and nutrition security policy with health, and environment aimed at poverty alleviation. The novelty of this research lies in its

consideration of the implications of CSA for environmental preservation and the promotion of a healthier and sustainable food system, namely for the low-income population, which can lead to the growth of eco-social policies in developing welfare states in the global south.

“The unjust just transition? Exploring different dimensions of justice in the lignite regions of Lusatia, Eastern Greater Poland, and Gorj” by Antonia Schuster et al.

The research article “The unjust just transition? Exploring different dimensions of justice in the lignite regions of Lusatia, Eastern Greater Poland, and Gorj” by Antonia Schuster et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103227>

Abstract

The European Green Deal has been designed to make the European Union the world's first carbon-neutral union by 2050. Changing to fossil fuel-free energy systems is a priority for European Member States. A highly discussed and challenging topic is the phase-out of lignite, which is causing drastic changes on the ground. The European Commission has introduced the Just Transition Mechanism, an instrument designed to help ensure that the transition is fair and socially just. However, what fair and just truly means for citizens in affected regions remains unresolved. Thus, this study was conducted to ask how the policy package is perceived by stakeholders in the lignite regions of Lusatia (Germany), Eastern Greater Poland (Poland), and Gorj (Romania). We applied a qualitative research design conducting 91 semi-structured interviews which were focused on exploring different dimensions of justice, namely procedural, distributional, restorative and recognition justice. Our results show that most interviewees perceive the ongoing transition as unfair. Among the greatest challenges faced are the needs to holistically involve all stakeholders in the process and to implement their needs and demands. Major difficulties are obtaining the necessary funding and spreading the benefits to all stakeholders, as well as dealing with socio-demographic pressures, geographic isolation, or poverty. Especially the creation of a new identity and a shared vision for the post-mining era, i.e., one that is not only based on technical innovation, is lacking. The findings show that the Just Transition Mechanism does not sufficiently address its objectives to achieve justice, and major shortcomings need to be tackled by the national and regional decision-makers.

“Can community based solar energy initiatives deliver on women's empowerment in India? Evidence from rural Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh” by Sayli Shiradkar et al.

The research article “Can community based solar energy initiatives deliver on women's empowerment in India? Evidence from rural Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh” by Sayli Shiradkar et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103225>

Abstract

The empowerment of women as an outcome of efforts towards realizing clean energy access is understudied and merits systematic investigation. To develop a local ecosystem for sales and services of energy technologies, a multi-state solar lamp initiative provided technical and entrepreneurial training to assemble, sell and repair solar lamps in rural communities of India. At the end of the project, women were encouraged to start their own energy enterprises. This study explores the impact of providing skills-based training through a solar lamp initiative on women's empowerment. Longitudinal data from 313 women associated with the solar initiative in the states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, were collected. Linear regression models to predict three indicators of women's empowerment — assertiveness, decision-making, and satisfaction, were developed. This study observed the progress of women providers over one year and found that their perception of assertiveness, satisfaction, and decision-making ability significantly changed. Skills positively and significantly predicted women's ability to express their opinion in public. Decision-making on work, children, mobility, and control over money was significantly associated with the skills and occupations of women. Satisfaction was strongly associated with education, income, and occupation. The study demonstrated that as skill level increased, assertiveness and decision-making improved. Empowerment is a complex, multi-dimensional, and long-term process. However, results from this yearlong study indicate that the solar energy initiative in providing skills

and training for women could be instrumental towards their empowerment. Results suggest the significant potential of energy programs in empowering women as energy providers in rural areas of India.

“Volta photovoltaics: Ruptures in resource access as gendered injustices for solar energy in Ghana” by Ryan Stock et al.

The research article “Volta photovoltaics: Ruptures in resource access as gendered injustices for solar energy in Ghana” by Ryan Stock et al. has been published in "Energy Research & Social Science".

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103222>

Abstract

Increasing renewable energy capacity to achieve climate goals will necessitate the rapid development of utility-scale solar plants throughout Ghana. Situated in the impoverished Upper West region, the Kaleo Lawra solar plant serves as a grim admonition. Drawing from mixed methods fieldwork and the literatures of feminist political ecology and critical energy geography, we examine the following research question: How has the development of the Kaleo Lawra solar plant influenced gendered livelihoods and resource access? The solar plant was developed to mitigate the climate crisis and combat energy poverty but actually exacerbates social vulnerabilities through energy and resource dispossessions. Although the government of Ghana has committed to mainstream gender considerations within all national climate and energy policies and development processes, solar enclosures in the agrarian Upper West have effectively produced a gendered surplus population without resources and livelihoods. Yet respondents had an overall “neutral to favorable” perception about the solar park. Maintaining optimism in the face of deprivation is a demonstration of courage and resilience, a renewable resource more valuable than farmed photons on fenced fields.

“Same same, but different: Explaining heterogeneity among potential photovoltaic adopters in Germany using milieu segmentation” by Luise Vibrans et al.

The research article “Same same, but different: Explaining heterogeneity among potential photovoltaic adopters in Germany using milieu segmentation” by Luise Vibrans et al. has been published in "Energy Research & Social Science".

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103212>

Abstract

Adoption of new technologies necessitates changes in behaviours, attitudes, and social norms that cannot be sufficiently explained by a single predictor or group of predictors, particularly in heterogeneous populations. Aiming to add a greater understanding of intention to adopt Rooftop Photovoltaic (PV), this paper utilised an established population segmentation tool, the Sinus-Milieus and the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) to account for population heterogeneity of the sample of German homeowners (n = 1800). By employing partial least squares structural equation modelling, we confirmed that attitudes, social norms, and financial evaluation significantly influence adoption intention at the population level. A multi-group analysis revealed noteworthy variations in the relative impact of attitudes and social norms on adoption intention across different milieugroups. Notably, even milieugroups sharing the same broad social status and/or values, as defined by the Sinus-Milieu tool, exhibited significant differences in the influence of attitudes and social norms on adoption intention. Moreover, a Kruskal–Wallis H-test indicated significant differences in the reported level of adoption intention among milieugroups, with the Leading milieus showing the highest intention and the Deprived the lowest. Differences were also observed for the determinants of social norms, attitudes, environmental concern, and novelty-seeking behaviour. Our findings confirm the relevance of considering potential adopters as a heterogeneous group in terms of overall lifestyle characteristics. Tailoring communication strategies to target the underlying motivations of specific milieus can lead to more effective interventions.

“Living with energy poverty: Uncovering older people’s fuel choices in urban China” by Xinyi Wang et al.

The research article “Living with energy poverty: Uncovering older people’s fuel choices in urban China” et al. has been published in "Energy Research & Social Science".

Abstract

Cities are front-runners and essential actors in the household energy transition from traditional solid to modern non-solid fuels. However, achieving an equitable and just transition in cities presents challenges, particularly for vulnerable populations. Among these vulnerable groups, older people are particularly affected by energy poverty, facing inadequate access to clean and modern energy. Yet, the linkages between their energy poverty and fuel choices remain underexplored, especially in urban areas outside the Global North context. This study focuses on China, a fastest-aging country, and aims to understand why some older people in affluent urban areas continue to burn honeycomb coal briquettes. By analyzing older people's subjective experiences and objective connections to their fuel use, we uncover their lived experiences with energy poverty. We extended the 'Energy Cultures Framework' by including older people's vulnerability attributes alongside their material culture, norms, practices, and external influences. Using semi-structured interviews and participant observations in urban Wuhan, we found two patterns of dirty fuel stacking among older people facing energy poverty: passive and active dirty stacking. Passive dirty stacking is mainly caused by older energy-poor individuals' material culture, external influences, and vulnerability attributes; whereas active dirty stacking is primarily associated with their norms, practices, vulnerability attributes, and related external factors. Our findings provide strong implications for social and energy policy, particularly regarding the characterization of energy poverty, regulatory and infrastructural responses, social justice, grassroots governance, energy literacy, and cultural compatibility.

Book chapters

“The Climate Crisis and Taxation” by Paul Bridgen and Milena Büchs

The book chapter “The Climate Crisis and Taxation” was published by Paul Bridgen and Milena Büchs in the book “Taxation and Social Policy”, edited by In: Andy Lymer, Margaret May, and Adrian Sinfield

Abstract: Few commentators believe the UK government's policy framework for achieving its target to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero by 2050 is sufficient. There is a strong case for a carbon or energy tax, but from a social policy perspective such taxes raise distributive concerns. Yet, as this chapter shows, taxation of carbon already exists in the UK in a range of fiscal instruments that affect the cost/price of GHG emissions. These have emerged uncoordinated with little concerted analysis of their distributive impact or the adequacy of benefit payments that mitigate impact. The chapter shows existing UK carbon taxation to be highly regressive with mitigation efforts wholly insufficient, particularly with respect to the lowest-income decile households. What is required, it is suggested, is a re-consideration of domestic energy taxation encompassing the development of fully worked through compensatory mechanisms, including universal services delivering basic needs.

Further info can be found [here](#).

“Climate change and social justice” by Éloi Laurent

The book chapter “Climate change and social justice” was published by Éloi Laurent

Abstract: In this chapter, I attempt to give theoretical and empirical meaning to the intersection of climate change and social justice highlighting two intricate issues: climate justice understood as global social justice (or justice between) and climate justice understood as national social justice (or justice within).

Further information can be found [here](#).

Books

“Toward Social-Ecological Well-Being. Rethinking Sustainability Economics for the 21st Century” by Éloi Laurent

The book “Toward Social-Ecological Well-Being. Rethinking Sustainability Economics for the 21st Century” was published by Éloi Laurent

This book investigates the deep economic causes of environmental unsustainability and offers a new vision to rebuild sustainability economics. While sustainability scholars are hard at work with documenting the tangible systemic crisis of our Biosphere, the economic roots of this crisis are rarely exposed, examined nor addressed. This book's central contribution to sustainability studies is to argue that what we should sustain is not economic growth but social-ecological well-being defined as a combination of planetary health, cooperation and justice resulting in human holistic prosperity. The long-term prosperity of humanity indeed relies on generating health and fostering cooperation informed by justice: social-ecological well-being should be the cornerstone of sustainability economics for the 21st century. Within this framework, this book attempts to explain why the three key dimensions of sustainability are jointly in crisis, show what vision can articulate those dimensions to rethink sustainability economics for our century, what practical policies should be undertaken to give life to these visions before concluding on the need to reinvent the narratives that sustain economic analysis.

Further information can be found [here](#).