

Dear readers of the Sustainable Welfare List,

here comes the fourth 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 4 – August 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 context 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
Matteo Mandelli, University of Milano
Tuuli Hirvilammi, University of Tampere
Katharina Bohnenberger, University of Duisburg-Essen

CONTENT IN SHORT (please scroll down for more information)

EVENTS

Announcements of the Network

- Stakeholder Roundtables series: "Climate & Healthcare"

External Events

- "People, Planet, Care: it spells degrowth!" (degrowth, Zagreb, Croatia, 29th August – 2nd September 2023)
- ECPR General Conference (ECPR, Charles University, Prague, Czechia, 4th – 8th September 2023)
- "Energy, Environment and Societies in Crises." (European Sociological Association Research Network 12/Energy and Society Network, University of Trento, Italy, 6th – 8th September 2023)
- 6th Foundational Economy Conference "Exploring the Foundational Economy for a Just Transition" (TU Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 14th - 16th September 2023)
- "Social Work and Social Policy in times of Global Crises" (Institute of Social Work and Social Policy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Ohrid, North Macedonia, 19th – 22nd September 2023)
- XII International Conference on Economic Development and Social Sustainability (Universidad de Castilla La Mancha/Universidade da Coruña, Cuenca, Spain, 28th–30th September 2023)
- 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)

Regional Events

- 16th ESPAnet Italy Conference "Welfare systems in transitions: between equity & sustainability" (ESPAnet, Milan, 13th – 15th September 2023)
- "Transformation processes from a rural justice perspective" (DKG, Frankfurt, Germany, 19th – 23rd September 2023)
- „Sozialpolitik für die nächste(n) Generation(en)“ (FIS-Forum, Berlin, Germany, 21st - 22nd September 2023)
- „Labora.A: In Arbeit: Die nächste Stufe der sozial-ökologischen Transformation!“ (Hans-Böckler Foundation, Berlin, Germany, 27th September 2023)

CALL FOR PAPERS

- Call for Papers: Ageing, Sustainable Societies and Climate change: Opportunities and Threats for Societies, Research and Policy (Network on Ageing in Europe; European Sociological Association)
- Call for Papers: EPG Online Autumn '23 (Environmental Politics and Governance Network)
- Call for Papers: War, Economic Strife, Climate Change: Understanding Intersectional Threats to Inclusion and Security (Social Inclusion and (In)Justice International)
- Call for Papers: Panel on Social inequality and climate crisis (DVPW)

JOBS

- Professor for Transformative Change in a Social Science and Humanities Perspective (Johannes Kepler University Linz)
- Full Professorship (W3) in Socio-Ecological Transformation Research (Europa-Universität Flensburg)
- Call for PhD in "Social Sciences for Sustainability and Wellbeing" (University of Florence, Academic Year 2023/2024)
- Master of Arts (M.A.) – Environment, Climate and Health (University of Bayreuth, October 2023)
- 2 Postdoc Positions in ERC Horizon 2030 research project on social-ecological sufficiency and planetary boundaries (Leuphana University, November 2023)
- Postdoc Position in the Division of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work (University of Fribourg, Switzerland, January 2024)
- 3 PhD Positions in ERC Horizon 2030 research project on social-ecological sufficiency and planetary boundaries (Leuphana University, February 2024)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

- Antje, K. et al. (2023). *Calling energy inequalities into the transition agenda*. Energy Research & Social Science 101: 103144.
- Arora, S. (2023). *Colonial modernity and sustainability transitions: A conceptualisation in six dimensions*. Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions 48: 100733.
- Bärnthaler, R. and Dengler, C. (2023). *Universal basic income, services, or time politics? A critical realist analysis of (potentially) transformative responses to the care crisis*. Journal of Critical Realism.
- Bärnthaler, R. and Gough, I. (2023). *Provisioning for sufficiency: envisaging production corridors*. Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy 19(1).
- Benegiamo, M. et al. (2023, Eds.). *Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023.
 - Benegiamo, M. et al. (2023). *Work and welfare transformations in the climate crisis: A research pathway towards an ecological, just transition*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 9-29.
 - Méda, D. and Benegiamo, M. (2023). *The ecological conversion: an opportunity to overcome the dual crisis of work and employment*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 30-45.
 - Galgóczi, B. and Pochet, P. (2023). *Just transition and welfare states: a largely unexplored realtion*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 46-67.
 - Bonetti, M. (2023). *Alle prese con la transizione: tensioni e prospettive in un'azienda toscana del settore automotive*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 68-89.
 - Aguiari, I. and Guardigli, F. (2023). *Ecoprearity: exploring the nexus between labor and ecological struggles*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 90-110.
 - Andreas, V. and Stefanos, P. (2023). *(Un)just transitions and working-class environmentalism: a collaborative ethnography on the trade union Labour Solidarity in Western Macedonia*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 111-132.
 - Andretta, M. et al. (2023). *A working-class environmentalism. The GKN case study*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 133-154.
 - Leonardi, E. (2023). *Workers' experience of ecology and labour environmentalism at Italsider/Ilva in Taranto. From the 1950s to 2018*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 155-177.
 - Ghelfi, A. (2023). *The Work of Agroecological Transition*. Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work 165/2023: 178-197.
- Boss, G. et al. (2023). *Politics, voice and just transition: who has a say in climate change decision making, and who does not*. Global Social Challenges Journal XX: 1-19.

- Büchs, M. et al. (2023). *Emissions savings from equitable energy demand reduction*. *Nature Energy* 8: 758-769.
- Chang, 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,
- Cucca, R. et al. (2023, Eds.). *Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transitions*. Special Issue in *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1.
 - Cucca, R. et al. (2023). *Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transitions*. *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1: 3-26.
 - Koch, M. et al. (2023). *Towards a New Generation of Social Policy: Commonalities between Sustainable Welfare and the IPCC*. *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1: 27-42.
 - Carrosio, G. and De Vidovich, L. (2023). *Eco-welfare tra crisi socio-ecologica e campi d'applicazione per politiche eco-sociali*. *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1: 43-62.
 - Ruser, A. (2023). *Undeserving and Dangerous: The Construction of Outsiders and the Return of the Third Way in Green Welfare State Debates*. *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1: 63-80.
 - Mandelli, M. et al. (2023). *EU Eco-social Policies for a «Just Transition»: Comparing the Just Transition Fund and the Social Climate Fund*. *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1: 81-98.
 - Natali, D. (2023). *Le pensioni e la transizione verde: nuove disuguaglianze e ulteriori sfide per l'adeguatezza e la sostenibilità della previdenza*. *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1: 99-122.
 - Volturo, S. (2023). *Verso un welfare sostenibile? Il contributo del lavoro sociale nella lotta alla povertà in prospettiva eco-sociale*. *Politiche Sociali/Social Policies* 1: 123-142.
- Hanbury, H. et al. (2023). Working less for more? A systematic review of the social, economic, and ecological effects of working time reduction policies in the global North. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* 19(1): 2222595.
- Hasanaj, V. (2023). *The shift towards an eco-welfare state: Growing stronger together*. *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy* 39(1): 42-63.
- Hasselbalch, J. A. et al. (2023). Organizing for transformation: post-growth in International Political Economy. *Review of International Political Economy*: 1-18.
- Kendrick, J. et al. (2023, Eds.). *Up in Arms: Environmental Divides Reshaping Politics*. *Green European Journal* 25.
 - Kendrick, J. (2023). *Divided in Ecology*. *Green European Journal* 25: 4-8.
 - Chancel, L. (2023). *Who Pays for a Warming World?* *Green European Journal* 25: 8-15.
 - Fernández, C. (2023). *The Cities Feeling the Heat*. *Green European Journal* 25: 31-39
 - Schultz, N. (2023). *Class Politics for the Eco-Anxious*. *Green European Journal* 25: 40-45.
 - Franssen, M-M. (2023). *If the water disappears, life will disappear*. *Green European Journal* 25: 50-59.
 - Momčilović, P. (2023). *Serbia's Lithium: Sacrifice Zones or Opportunity for Europe's Peripheries?* *Green European Journal* 25: 60-66.
 - Vince, G. (2023). "Countries will soon be competing for migrants": Preparing for Climate Migration. *Green European Journal* 25: 67-71.
 - Samuel, O. (2023). *A Convenient Transition for Europe*. *Green European Journal* 25: 72-79.
 - Galgóczi, B. (2023). *A Fight for Every Job: Decarbonising Europe's Cars*. *Green European Journal* 25: 10-110.
- Kappeler, J. et al. (2023). *Can a European wealth tax close the green investment gap?* *Ecological Economics* 209: 107849.
- Koskimäki, T. (2023). *Targeting socioeconomic transformations to achieve global sustainability*. *Ecological Economics* 211: 107871.
- Li, J. (2023). *Fuel or power Africa? The impact of Chinese foreign aid on energy poverty*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 102: 103192.
- Maczka, K. et al. (2023). *Epistemic justice impossible? Expert perceptions of the participatory monitoring of geo-energy projects in Poland*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 102: 103154.
- Mason, N. and Büchs, M. (2023). Barriers to adopting wellbeing-economy narratives: comparing the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and Wellbeing Economy Governments. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* 19(1): 2222624.
- Mirzania, P. et al. (2023). *Barriers to powering past coal: Implications for a just energy transition in South Africa*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 101: 103122.
- Morris, E. et al. (2023). *Transformation and recognition: Planning just climate havens in New York State*. *Environmental Science & Policy* 146: 57-65.

- Natili, M. and Visconti, F. (2023). *A different logic of polity building? The Russian invasion of Ukraine and EU citizens' demand for social security*. *Journal of European Public Policy* 30(8): 1699-1713.
- Pichler, M. (2023). *Political dimensions of social-ecological transformations: polity, politics, policy*. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* 19(1): 2222612.
- Ronchi, S. et al. (2023). *A European eco-social investment constituency? Unpacking public opinion towards EU green, social investment and social protection policies in 15 countries*. *Stato e Mercato* 1: 105-136.
- Sareen, S. et al. (2023). *Enabling a just energy transition through solidarity in research*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 101: 103143.
- Silvester, B. R. and Fisker, J. K. (2023). *A relational approach to the role of the state in societal transitions and transformations towards sustainability*. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 47: 100717.
- Smith, A. (2023). *Inclusive innovation in just transitions: The case of smart local energy systems in the UK*. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 47: 100719.
- Snep, R. P. H. et al. (2023). *Social housing as focus area for Nature-based Solutions to strengthen urban resilience and justice: Lessons from practice in the Netherlands*. *Environmental Science & Policy* 145: 164-174.
- Stam, K. et al. (2023). *How does learning drive sustainability transitions? Perspectives, problems and prospects from a systematic literature review*. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 48: 100734.
- Svartdal, I. H. and Kristoffersen, B. (2023). *Why in my backyard (WIMBY): Forging the link to community futures when energy transition projects are met with indifference*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 101: 103138.
- Wang, J. et al. (2023). *Environmental justice, infrastructure provisioning, and environmental impact assessment: Evidence from the California Environmental Quality Act*. *Environmental Science & Policy* 146: 66.75.
- Withouck, I. et al. (2023). *Diving into a just transition: How are fisheries considered during the emergence of renewable energy production in Scottish waters?* *Energy Research & Social Science* 101: 103135.
- Zhao, M. et al. (2023). *Housing wealth and household carbon emissions: The role of homeownership in China*. *Ecological Economics* 212: 107908.

Books

- Matutini, E. (2023, Eds.). *Eco-social work. Lavoro sociale, giustizia ambientale e sostenibilità ecologica*. Varazze: PM Edizioni.
- Novy, A. et al. (2023). *Zukunftsfähiges Wirtschaften. Herausforderungen der sozialökologischen Transformation*. Weinheim Basel: Beltz Juventa.

Research Reports

- Carrosio, G. and De Vidovich, L. (2023). *Povert  energetica tra welfare e ambiente. Esiti di una ricerca in quattro quartieri ater di Trieste*. https://www2.units.it/ecowelfare/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/PE-TS_report-finale.pdf.

EVENTS

Announcements of the Network

Stakeholder Roundtables series: "Climate & Healthcare"

The Sustainable Welfare & Eco-social Policy Network promotes a Stakeholder Roundtables series. The inaugural roundtable, organized jointly with the Competence Centre for Climate and Health at the Austrian National Public Health Institute, was about "Climate & Healthcare" and it took place virtually on June 26th, 2023. This roundtable gathered researchers, as well as high-level representatives of international organizations and civil society, inviting them to engage in a closed-doors, informal debate about the challenges and opportunities for European healthcare systems facing the climate crisis and the green transition. A short public document summarizing the main challenges, best practices and recommendations identified during this roundtable will be circulated in September 2023 through the network's mailing list.

The Stakeholder Roundtables series aims at promoting dialogue, as well as at strengthening the strategic cooperation between academic and institutional-societal actors interested in the eco-social nexus. The next roundtables will address eco-social policies in Italy and the EU.

If you would like to know more, or engage with this series please do not hesitate to contact Matteo Mandelli (matteo.mandelli005@gmail.com).

External Events

“People, Planet, Care: it spells degrowth!” (degrowth, Zagreb, Croatia, 29th August – 2nd September 2023)

From 29th August to 2nd September 2023 the 9th International Degrowth Conference hosted by *degrowth* will take place in Zagreb. Details will be announced through the Newsletters and on the conference website.

Further information can be found at [degrowth](https://degrowth.org/)

ECPR General Conference (ECPR, Charles University, Prague, Czechia, 4th – 8th September 2023)

ECPR hosts its General Conference from 4th – 8th September 2023 in Prague. There will be a Panel on “Social and ecological conflicts and connections after the European Green Deal: from grassroots to governance” and “Green and just transition in south European countries: policy reforms and political challenges”. The observer registration deadline is the 1st August.

Further information can be found at [ECPR General Conference](https://ecpr.eu/conference)

"Energy, Environment and Societies in Crises." (European Sociological Association Research Network 12/Energy and Society Network, University of Trento, Italy, 6th – 8th September 2023)

The European Sociological Association Research Network 12 and the Energy and Society Network are hosting their 6th international joint conference from 6th September – 8th September 2023 at the University of Trento.

Further information can be found at [Università di Trento](https://www.univer.it/)

6th Foundational Economy Conference “Exploring the Foundational Economy for a Just Transition” (TU Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 14th-16th September 2023)

From 14th - 16th September 2023 the *Vienna University of Technology* hosts the 6th Foundational Economy Conference. A key concern is to put approaches to the Foundational Economy in conversation with feminist and intersectional perspectives on social provisioning and eco-social transformation. The registration, is now open and possible until 5th September 2023. Participation to the conference is free of charge.

Further information can be found at [Vienna University of Technology](https://www.tuwien.at/en/foundational-economy-conference)

"Social Work and Social Policy in times of Global Crises" (Institute of Social Work and Social Policy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Ohrid, North Macedonia, 19th-22nd September 2023)

The *Institute of Social Work and Social Policy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje* is organizing an International Conference "Social Work and Social Policy in times of Global Crises". Some of the thematic sessions of the CfP include: Adaptability of social protection in times of crisis and impact of energy and climate crises on vulnerable households. The event will be held from 19th -23rd September 2023 in Ohrid, North Macedonia.

The call for papers, the registration form and other conference details can be found on the following link: [International Conference: Social Work and Social Policy in Times of Global Crises](#)

XII International Conference on Economic Development and Social Sustainability (Universidad de Castilla La Mancha/Universidade da Coruña, Cuenca, Spain, 28th–30th September 2023)

EDaSS International Conference “Economic Development and Social Sustainability” in its XII edition aims to promote reflection and discussion about the new holistic view of sustainability. The central theme of this edition is “sustainable, sustained and inclusive economic development for more equalitarian societies”. The conference will take place from 28th-30th September 2023 in Cuenca, Spain and online via Zoom. Further information will be announced on the conference website soon.

Further information can be found at [XII EDaSS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE](#)

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](#)

REGIONAL EVENTS

16th ESPANet Italy Conference "Welfare systems in transitions: between equity & sustainability" (Espanet Italy, Milan, Italy, 13th – 15th September 2023)

The 16th ESPANET ITALY Conference "Welfare systems in transitions: between equity & sustainability" will be organized at the University of Milan, 13th – 15th September 2023.

Further information can be found at [16th ESPANet Italy Conference](#)

“Transformation processes from a rural justice perspective” (DKG, Frankfurt, Germany, 19th – 23rd September 2023)

At the German Congress of Geography there will be a session on "Transformation processes from a rural justice perspective". The session will highlight the potential of shifting the focus of the justice debate to rural areas and rural justice, as well as the need to integrate different spatial and temporal scales. The conference will take place from 19th – 23rd September 2023 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Further information can be found at [DKG 2023 - Transformation processes from a rural justice perspective](#)

„Sozialpolitik für die nächste(n) Generation(en)“ (FIS-Forum, Berlin, Germany, 21st - 22nd September 2023)

This year's *FIS Forum* asks about the possibilities of shaping social policy for the next generation(s). The topics selected are based on the six research fields defined in the *DIFIS* research program as well as the Issue Networks and the content-related objectives. It will take place in Berlin from the 21st – 22nd September 2023.

Further information can be found at [FIS-Forum 2023](#)

„LABOR.A. In Arbeit: Die nächste Stufe der sozial-ökologischen Transformation!“ (Hans-Böckler Foundation, Berlin, Germany, 27th September 2023)

On 27th September 2023, the conference "LABOR.A. Arbeit: Die nächste Stufe der sozial-ökologischen Transformation!" of the *Hans Böckler Foundation* will take place as a platform conference. It will be held at Café Moskau in Berlin and broadcasted live.

Further information can be found at [Labora.A 2023](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Papers: Ageing, Sustainable Societies and Climate change: Opportunities and Threats for Societies, Research and Policy (Network on Ageing in Europe; European Sociological Association)

Are you a sustainable welfare researcher interested in ageing and/or sociology? The *Research Network on Ageing of the European Sociological Association (ESA RN 01)* is holding a Symposium titled "Ageing, Sustainable Societies and Climate change: Opportunities and Threats for Societies, Research and Policy". The event takes place at the University of Málaga, from 2nd to 3rd November 2023. Abstracts can be submitted until 31st August 2023.

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

Call for Papers: EPG Online Autumn '23 (Environmental Politics and Governance Network)

The *Environmental Politics and Governance Network* welcomes submissions for their Autumn 2023 EPG Online seminar series. EPG Online is an online seminar series dedicated to showcasing the latest research on the political, institutional, and societal dimensions of environmental challenges from a variety of disciplines. The seminar typically runs on Thursdays every two weeks, during the Autumn and Spring semesters, via Zoom. The deadline for submissions is 1st September 2023. To apply please fill out the form available here: <https://forms.gle/ytA8p7WAwZ7DSi7t7>

Further information can be found at [EPG Network](#)

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](#)

Call for Papers: Social inequality and climate crisis (DVPW; Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft)

The climate crisis leads to an increase in social inequalities, as population groups are unequally exposed to environmental risks. Vulnerable groups are more exposed to the consequences of the climate crisis than affluent groups, which is why welfare state research studies the ability of social security systems to cushion these inequalities. What is more, economically disadvantaged groups perceive the climate crisis as less threatening, while at the same time citizens reject energy policies that are particularly burdensome for poorer groups and prefer political parties with moderate and balanced environmental policy proposals. In addition to these intra-societal inequalities (e.g. between social classes and age cohorts),

transnational inequalities between the Global South and North play an important role in the global context. Furthermore, environmental policy instruments that aim to adapt to and reduce the climate crisis can further exacerbate existing inequalities. Even if transition policies (such as the European Green Deal or national strategies) explicitly take social aspects into account, there is still a risk that policies will not achieve the desired egalitarian effects, or that labour markets will simply collapse and the cost of living will rise. The necessary transition towards climate neutrality requires new approaches to political economy, in which not only social but also ecological-social risks and solutions are considered. Issues of social justice and climate justice need to be more closely interlinked. The panel invites empirical contributions in the field of political economy that deal with the interaction between social inequalities and the climate crisis. Examples would be research on attitudes towards socio-environmental risks, the illumination of climate aspects in distribution policies, research on specific inequality dimensions such as gender, the role of tax systems in the welfare-environment nexus, or the evaluation of individual socio-environmental policies.

Further information can be found at : <https://www.dvpw.de/dvpw2024/call-for-papers/abstracts>

JOBS

Professor for Transformative Change in a Social Science and Humanities Perspective (Johannes Kepler University Linz)

The *Johannes Kepler University Linz (Austria)* is hiring a full professor for Transformative Change in a Social Science and Humanities Perspective. Applications from social policy scholars are highly welcome. The successful candidate is expected to focus on the conditions, trajectories and consequences of past and present transformation processes with regard to future challenges. The complexities of the economic, social, political, cultural, ecological, etc. dimensions of transformations are to be taken into account to the greatest extent possible. An area of concentration in one or more of the following areas is highly desirable: Socio-ecological transition and transformation, the relationships between socio-economic transition, transformation, and political order, systemic transition and transformation as part of national, transnational, and global conflicts and collaborative relations, the methodological and theoretical foundations in the study of transformation. The deadline for applications is 30th August 2023.

Further information can be found at [Johannes Kepler University Linz - Job Openings](#)

Full Professorship (W3) in Socio-Ecological Transformation Research (Europa-Universität Flensburg)

The *Norbert Elias Center for Transformation Design and Research at Europa-Universität Flensburg* seeks to fill the position for a full Professorship (W3) in Socio-Ecological Transformation Research as soon as possible. They are looking for a person who can represent the broad spectrum of social science research on sustainability and transformation in teaching and research. The deadline for applications is 20th August 2023.

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

Call for PhD in "Social Sciences for Sustainability and Wellbeing" (University of Florence, Academic Year 2023/2024)

The *University of Florence* invites applications for their PhD program in "Social Sciences for Sustainability and Wellbeing". With 15 GRANTS (10 on specific topics) available for three years, this interdisciplinary program welcomes students from diverse backgrounds to explore ecological economics and collaborate with local organizations. The submission period started on 7th July and the deadline for applications is 4th August 2023.

Further information can be found at [S3W PhD Program - Call for Applications](#)

Master of Arts (M.A.) – Environment, Climate and Health (University of Bayreuth, October 2023)

The postgraduate programme M.A. Environment, Climate and Health aims in particular to promote the action competences of leaders and multipliers in the field of planetary health from different disciplines and sectors in order to enable them to take transdisciplinary transformative action. The M.A. is a five-semester master program (90 ECTS). It starts in the fall semester. The application deadline for the coming fall semester is 31st August 2023.

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

2 Postdoc Positions in ERC Horizon 2030 research project on social-ecological sufficiency and planetary boundaries (Leuphana University, November 2023)

The research project “*Mainstreaming Social-Ecological Sufficiency (MaSES)*” at the *Leuphana University* in northern Germany is looking for expressions of interest. In MaSES, the notion of social-ecological sufficiency—a socially satisfactory standard of living within ecologically sustainable natural resource usage—will be developed as vital strategy for shifting towards an economy within a ‘safe operating space for humanity’. Environmental extended material and energy flow analysis will be combined with consensual deprivation assessments to quantify ‘ecologically and socially sufficient’ levels of household consumption of key planetary boundaries. MaSES will then assess the feasibility of different strategies for closing the gap between ecologically ‘safe’ and socially ‘acceptable’ levels of household consumption. One Postdoc position will focus on quantifying ecological sufficiency while the other will focus on quantifying social sufficiency. To register your interest in one of the positions send a copy of your CV (without a photo) and a short motivational letter (max one page) as a single pdf file to abson@leuphana.de with the position you are interested in as the subject line of the email. The official advertisement will go online in the coming weeks.

For all positions and general information, email abson@leuphana.de

Postdoc Position in the Division of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work (University of Fribourg, Switzerland, January 2024)

The interdisciplinary division of sociology, social policy and social work at the *University of Fribourg* in Switzerland is offering a position for a postdoctoral researcher. They are an international team with quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods expertise researching a broad array of social issues in global perspective and drawing on sociological, social policy and social work approaches. The deadline for applications is 14th August 2023.

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

3 PhD Positions in ERC Horizon 2030 research project on social-ecological sufficiency and planetary boundaries (Leuphana University, February 2024)

The research project “*Mainstreaming Social-Ecological Sufficiency (MaSES)*” at the *Leuphana University* in northern Germany is looking for expressions of interest. In MaSES, the notion of social-ecological sufficiency—a socially satisfactory standard of living within ecologically sustainable natural resource usage—will be developed as vital strategy for shifting towards an economy within a ‘safe operating space for humanity’. Environmental extended material and energy flow analysis will be combined with consensual deprivation assessments to quantify ‘ecologically and socially sufficient’ levels of household consumption of key planetary boundaries. MaSES will then assess the feasibility of different strategies for closing the gap between ecologically ‘safe’ and socially ‘acceptable’ levels of household consumption. One PhD position will focus on quantifying ecological sufficiency while the other will focus on quantifying social sufficiency. The third PhD position will focus on assessing strategies for closing the social-ecological sufficiency gap. To register your interest in one of the positions send a copy of your CV (without a photo) and a short motivational letter (max one page) as a single pdf file to abson@leuphana.de with the position you are interested in as the subject line of the email. The official advertisement will go online in the coming weeks.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

“Calling energy inequalities into the transition agenda” by Klitkou Antje et al.

The article “Calling energy inequalities into the transition agenda” by Klitkou Antje et al has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103144>

Abstract

The presented perspective paper delivers insights into the complex problem of energy inequalities in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The war resulted in a loss of stability in Europe's energy system and increased social issues and difficulties in meeting energy transition targets. The perspective presented calls for a broader framework for analyzing energy inequalities. It delivers an attempt at such a framework through which three specific cases of energy transitions—Norway, Germany, and Poland—are investigated. These countries represent three energy regimes, different socioeconomic and energy systems, and face other challenges. Despite these differences, the outbreak of the war shows the need for a common policy agenda to avoid negative repercussions, such as social cohesion crises. Therefore, this paper argues that European solidarity, energy justice, and coherent policies are prerequisites if the goals of climate neutrality, energy stability, and a just energy system are to be achieved in each country and Europe.

“Colonial modernity and sustainability transitions: A conceptualisation in six dimensions” by Saurabh Arora and Andy Stirling

The article Colonial modernity and sustainability transitions: A conceptualisation in six dimensions” by Saurabh Arora and Andy Stirling has been published in “Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2023.100733>

Abstract

Through European colonialisms spanning five centuries, coloniality – as intersectional stratification and violence directed against ‘other worlds’ – has been central to the making of modern societies worldwide. However, these colonial modernities are very rarely addressed within studies on sustainability transitions. This dearth of attention means that transitions scholars risk failing to challenge the reproduction of colonially accumulated power and privilege in innovation and niche development processes. Building on theoretical insights from postcolonial and decolonial studies, alongside multiple other strands of critical social theory, we conceptualise six dimensions of colonial modernities. These are: assumptions of comprehensive ‘superiority’; appropriation of cultural privileges; assertions of military supremacy; enforcement of gendered domination; extension of controlling imaginations; and expansion of toxic extraction. Interrogating colonial modernities in such ways can help unsettle – and perhaps remedy – intersectional injustices, while also contributing to political struggles for a convivial pluriverse as ‘a world in which many worlds flourish together in difference’.

“Universal basic income, services, or time politics? A critical realist analysis of (potentially) transformative responses to the care crisis” by Richard Bärnthaler and Corinna Dengler

The article “Universal basic income, services, or time politics? A critical real-ist analysis of (potentially) transformative responses to the care crisis” by Richard Bärnthaler and Corinna Dengler has been published in the “Journal of Critical Realism”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14767430.2023.2229179>

Abstract

Using an (eco-)feminist Marxist-Polanyian theoretical lens, this article explores the diverse relations between contemporary care-crisis symptoms in Western Europe and its generative structures. It investigates the potential of three possible responses to the crisis to transform rather than reproduce these structures: (un)conditional cash transfers, universal basic services, and time politics. Drawing upon critical realism and the evolutionary mechanisms of variation, selection, and retention, we seek to make sense of the dynamic between competing crisis construals and their effects on actuality. To answer our research question What are the transformative potentials of different responses to the contemporary care crisis in Western Europe?, we move from meta-theoretical abstractions to a theoretically grounded, concrete application of critical realism in the social sciences. We conclude that a symbiosis of time politics and universal basic services together with a universal, but not unconditional, guaranteed (minimum) income offers substantial transformative potentials.

“Provisioning for sufficiency: envisaging production corridors” by Richard Bärnthaler and Ian Gough

The article “Provisioning for sufficiency: envisaging production corridors” by Richard Bärnthaler and Ian Gough has been published in “Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2023.2218690>

Abstract

This article deepens the framework of a sufficiency economy, defining sufficiency as the space between a floor of meeting needs and a ceiling of ungeneralizable excess. This framework can be applied to the domains of consumption and production. Complementing existing research on consumption corridors, our aim is to conceptualize the idea of a production corridor. To develop this notion, we survey a range of helpful concepts starting with objective and universal human needs to establish a “floor” and planetary boundaries to establish a “ceiling.” We then assess in some detail a range of conceptual debates that pertain to production: 1) Marxian categories of labor, 2) the production boundary, 3) provisioning and the foundational economy, 4) social reproduction, and 5) unnecessary labor. These debates permit us to start identifying essential production, which enables the satisfaction of human needs within planetary boundaries, and excess production, which contributes neither to need satisfaction nor human flourishing but drives planetary overshoot. This distinction further allows for an “in-between” domain of the economy, situated between the floor and ceiling. This discussion concludes with a more detailed model of production embedded in the framework of the sufficiency economy. We then “dynamize” this model to sketch a production corridor under climate-mitigation imperatives. It considers in turn the essential economy, the excess economy, and the in-between economy. The final section summarizes our depiction of the production corridor leading to rapid but fair decarbonization of the economy.

Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice” by Maura Benegiamo et al.

The Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice” by Maura Benegiamo et al. has been published in “Sociologia del lavoro/Sociology of work”.

“Work and welfare transformations in the climate crisis: A research pathway towards an ecological, just transition” by Maura Benegiamo et al.

The article “Work and welfare transformations in the climate crisis: A re-search pathway towards an ecological, just transition” by Maura Benegiamo et al. has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165001oa](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165001oa)

Abstract

In this introduction to the special issue of Sociologia del lavoro, devoted to labour transformations and welfare policies in the context of the ecological crisis, the authors review the state of the debate, focusing on three emerging concepts: climate justice, just transition and sustainable welfare. They provide an

analysis of the academic and non-academic contexts in which these concepts have emerged and the kinds of programmatic questions that they raise for the study of labour transformations, social movements and welfare policies. After discussing how the collected contributions operationalise the three concepts in different empirical and research contexts, the article outlines some critical gaps that warrant being addressed or explored further and propose a few methodological and analytical pointers that are useful for the continuation of the debate and, thus, the growth of a field of analysis that is destined to occupy a major space in the sociology of labour.

“The ecological conversion: an opportunity to overcome the dual crisis of work and employment” by Dominique Méda and Maura Benegiamo

The article “The ecological conversion: an opportunity to overcome the dual crisis of work and employment” by Dominique Méda and Maura Benegiamo has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165002](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165002)

Abstract

The ecological transition may represent both a catastrophe and a great opportunity for employment and work. Accordingly, the idea of a "triple dividend" is sometimes recalled: if properly carried out, the ecological transition could not only make it possible to deal with climate change and threats to biodiversity, but it will also lead to the creation of many useful jobs and make it possible to change the way work is organised. Although associations and unions have these issues in their sights, these remain for the moment insufficiently developed and equipped. In this article, I will first explore the diverse impact of ecological transition processes on employment (1), then move on to explore the actions of trade unions and associations in favour of a just transition (2) and finally discuss how ecological conversion can be an opportunity for new perspectives on changing work to emerge (3). I will particularly focus on the France case which, in turn, can be extended to other contexts.

“Just transition and welfare states: a largely unexplored relation” by Béla Galgóczi and Philippe Pochet

The article “Just transition and welfare states: a largely unexplored relation” by Béla Galgóczi and Philippe Pochet has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165003](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165003)

Abstract

Climate emergency has been recognised as a top policy priority by more and more policy-makers and the restructuring process it entails is seen as the main challenge of the coming decades. The welfare state that emerged in the context of a fossil fuel-based extractive economic model, based on a belief in sustained growth, cannot remain unaffected by the ongoing transition to a net-zero economy (Gough et al., 2008). Possible linkages between the welfare state and climate and environmental issues largely remain unexplored and until very recently discussion of social welfare systems in Europe has been disconnected from ecological concerns and policies and as well from the just transition narrative that took a prominent role in shaping the social dimension of climate policies. Both on the other hand assume continuing economic growth. This article aims to present a broad mapping of the current debates mainly at EU level, highlighting possible alternative directions (from green growth to sustainable welfare; from technology to behavioural changes). It proceeds through selected literature reviews offering a dialogue between different perspectives and opening successive routes of questioning. It also highlights the current limitations in the analysis of the role and the shape of welfare states in tackling environmental challenges and labour market transitions.

“Struggling with transition: Tensions and perspectives in an automotive company in Tuscany” by Marta Bonetti

The article “Struggling with transition: Tensions and perspectives in an automotive company in Tuscany” by Marta Bonetti has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165004](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165004)

Abstract

L'articolo analizza il programma di ristrutturazione e riconversione avviato da una multinazionale del settore automobilistico con sede in Toscana, nel passaggio alla mobilità elettrica. Il caso si interroga su concettualizzazioni e caratteristiche delle strategie promosse dai diversi attori per mitigare effetti sociali avversi e nuovi rischi occupazionali connessi alla transizione verso un'economia a bassa intensità di carbonio. Il riferimento alla recente letteratura sulla just transition consente di evidenziare il permanere di strutture di governance e approcci localizzati alla crisi e alla sua gestione riparativa che sembrano impedire un ripensamento più generale delle strutture di welfare e di protezione sociale.

“Ecoprecarity: exploring the nexus between labor and ecological struggles” by Irina Aguiari and Federica Guardigli

The article “Ecoprecarity: exploring the nexus between labor and ecological struggles” by Irina Aguiari and Federica Guardigli has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165005](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165005)

Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic represented a critical conjuncture for investigating the nexus between ecological and labor struggles. To grasp this nexus, the authors reinterpret the concept of ecoprecarity. Ecoprecarity considers precariousness from an ecosystemic perspective to describe the vulnerabilities of working relations, human existence and ecological balance. The analysis focuses on whether and how ecoprecarity was discursively represented by trade unions and grassroots organizations in labor struggles during the pandemic. Through the observation of two case studies in Italy, the agrifood and logistic sectors, empirical results from a discursive scrutiny show that the contiguity of ecological and labor struggles is seldom present. Yet, ecoprecarity seems to emerge as an effective mobilizing frame when employed as it builds solidaristic connections among different claims.

“(Un)just transitions and working-class environmentalism: a collaborative ethnography on the trade union Labour Solidarity in Western Macedonia” by Vavvos Andreas and Prassos Stefanos

The article “(Un)just transitions and working-class environmentalism: a col-laborative ethnography on the trade union Labour Solidarity in Western Macedonia” by Vavvos Andreas and Prassos Stefanos has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165006](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165006)

Abstract

Energy transition in Greece has been a divisive apple of discord concerning the trajectory of the ongoing labour and ecological transitions. This paper comprises a collaborative ethnography between a Ph.D. student and a unionist coal miner and investigates the political strategies of the trade union “Labour Solidarity” in the context of the energy transition in Western Macedonia. Employing a diverse data corpus, the co-researchers explore how the trade union represents the different types of injustices that the unfolding energy transition in Western Macedonia brings about. The authors reflect on different aspects of labour environmentalism to highlight the connection between the protection of health, workers’ rights and the environment in trade union claims and their representation as interconnected demands. Particular attention will be paid to the union’s dual interpretation of lignite elimination as labour precarization and environmental degradation.

“A working-class environmentalism. The GKN case study” by Massimiliano Andretta et al.

“A working-class environmentalism. The GKN case study” by Massimiliano Andretta et al. has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165007](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165007)

Abstract

The closure of lots of industrial plants, such as the GKN Driveline factory of Campi Bisenzio (Florence), and the collective dismissals have been defined as «the natural consequence of the ecological transition», an interpretation reproducing the environment-labour dichotomy. This nonetheless, in a few

months the mobilization of the GKN workers succeeded in overturning this paradigm and articulating a new imaginary able to rethink the ecological transition. By means of ethnographic analysis, this contribution highlights how the industrial conversion plan, elaborated by the GKN workers and some supporting academics, reflects a just transition conception which is drawn on the (often forgotten) working class ecologist tradition, by showing the concrete possibility of a transition from below, driven by the workers' voice and knowledge and by a creative integration between the factory, the academy and the territory.

“Workers’ experience of ecology and labour environmentalism at Italsider/Ilva in Taranto. From the 1950s to 2018” by Emanuele Leonardi

The article “Workers’ experience of ecology and labour environmentalism at Italsider/Ilva in Taranto. From the 1950s to 2018” by Emanuele Leonardi has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165008](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165008)

Abstract

The article explores the contradictory relationship between workers’ experience of ecology and working-class environmentalism in the case study of Italsider/(ex)Ilva in Taranto (Apulia, Italy), on the methodological basis of social ethnography. The main thesis is that a new – qualitative and historically solid – analysis of such, complex relationship makes it possible on the one hand to deconstruct the seemingly natural opposition between employment and health, and on the other hand to open up unprecedented scenarios for the development of a different labor-based perspective on the ecological crisis. The structure of the article is as follows: the first paragraph situates the research from a theoretical point of view, against the background of an emerging field of investigation: environmental labor studies (§1). The second makes its methodology explicit (§2). The following ones examine two phases of Taranto’s industrial, steel-based development – the public management (§3) and the private one, during which the eco-sanitary crisis deflagrates (§4) – in an attempt to articulate the elusive and non-linear relationship between workers’ experience of ecology and working-class environmentalism – until the agreement with Arcelor Mittal in September 2018, starting from which a largely different story opens up. Such story is briefly referred to in the conclusions, recalling more recent events and sketching possible lines of future research.

“The Work of Agroecological Transition” by Andrea Ghelfi

The article “The Work of Agroecological Transition” by Andrea Ghelfi has been published in the Special Issue “Labor transformations and ecological transition: Work, welfare and social movements in the era of climate justice”.

DOI: [10.3280/SL2023-165009](https://doi.org/10.3280/SL2023-165009)

Abstract

In this article the concept of work comes into tension with some agroecological experiences that populate the Genuino Clandestino network. Three vectors of analysis are developed through an investigation of peasant practices: the unstable borders between productive and reproductive labour in favour of a “practicability of life”; the decentralisation of human exceptionalism in favour of the experimentation of agronomic practices that recognise the active role of multiple more-than-human entities; the commons as a community of practices in which social transformation is inseparable from material regeneration. Through the analysis of the agroecological practices developed by the commoners of Mondeggi Bene Comune, in this article the author situates the challenge of ecological transition within the work and the practices of care that characterise the back to the land movement in Italy.

“Politics, voice and just transition: who has a say in climate change decision making, and who does not” by George Boss et al.

The article “Politics, voice and just transition: who has a say in climate change decision making, and who does not” by George Boss et al. has been published in the “Global Social Challenges Journal”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1332/EWME8953>

Abstract

The city of Bristol, UK, set out to pursue a just transition to climate change in 2020. This paper explores what happened next. We set out to study how just transition is unfolding politically on the ground,

focusing on procedural justice. Over the course of a year, we conducted interviews and observations to study decision making at three levels – public sector, private sector and civil society. Here, we set out our findings and reflect on what they mean for just transition more broadly. The paper begins with a brief overview of the literature, where we argue that the concept of just transition has become ever more pliable, which indicates the importance of procedural justice for understanding the local context. However, we find literature exploring issues of procedural justice, especially at the city scale, lacking. Next, we turn to discussing the reasons for choosing the city scale and Bristol, in particular, and outline our mixed-methods approach. Following this, we discuss our two main findings: first, decision making around just transition in Bristol is exclusionary, and second, the concept of just transition is not easily defined, even by climate stakeholders. We therefore argue there is an urgency to revise decision-making procedures and ensure that there is ample opportunity to feed into decision-making processes by those who are typically excluded. Inclusive decision making must be embedded into the process of just transition from the beginning and throughout its implementation – it is not a step that can be ‘ticked off’ and then abandoned, but rather an ongoing process that must be consistently returned to. Finally, we conclude that cities have the unique opportunity to make space for bottom-up participatory approaches for the conceptualisation of just transitions and what this means for the diverse community groups they represent, and to feed into the process of just transitions at the global level.

“Emissions savings from equitable energy demand reduction” by Milena Büchs et al.

The article “Emissions savings from equitable energy demand reduction” by Milena Büchs et al. has been published in “Nature energy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-023-01283-y>

Abstract

Energy demand reduction (EDR) will be required to reach climate targets in the Global North. To be compatible with just transitions principles, EDR needs to be equitable. Equitable EDR may involve targeting high energy users while ensuring the satisfaction of needs for all, which could require increasing consumption of low users. Emissions impacts of equitable EDR approaches have not yet been assessed. This Article finds that capping energy use of the top quintile of consumers across 27 European countries can achieve considerable greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 11.4% from domestic energy, 16.8% from transport and 9.7% from total energy consumption. Increasing consumption of low energy users in poverty reduces these savings by only 1.2, 0.9 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively. Additional high annual emissions cuts of 7.3–24.0% would be required for Europe to meet globally equitable 2050 emissions budgets. Equitable EDR could make an important contribution to increasing public acceptance of such transformative action.

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

The 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.

Special Issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition” by Roberta Cucca et al.

The special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition” by Roberta Cucca et al. has been published in “Social Policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107136>

“Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition” by Roberta Cucca et al.

The article “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition” by Roberta Cucca et al. has been published in the special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107136>

Abstract

In the last fifteen years, we have witnessed the development and subsequent major growth of the literature on the role of welfare policies in the ecological crisis and the so called green transition. Concepts such as sustainable welfare, just transition, eco-social policies and eco-social justice, to name just a few, have been used to portray the need for a paradigm shift. This has led some scholars to acknowledge the urgency to challenge the current unsustainable growth model and to investigate how sustainable welfare policies should address societal needs within ecological limits and from an intergenerational and global perspective. The paper highlights the foundations, challenges and current research gaps in the literature on sustainable welfare, such as empirical weaknesses; uncertainty and ambiguity; the complexity of multilevel governance arrangements; and the emerging inequalities associated with the green transition. It also introduces the main topics discussed and analysed in the six contributions collected in the Focus: Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transitions published of the Journal Politiche Sociali/Social Policies. The Focus is gathering contributions from both Italian and international researchers belonging to different disciplinary communities and providing an interesting contribution to the debate.

“Towards a New Generation of Social Policy: Commonalities between Sustainable Welfare and the IPCC” by Max Koch et al.

The article “Towards a New Generation of Social Policy: Commonalities between Sustainable Welfare and the IPCC” by Max Koch et al. has been published in the special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107137>

Abstract

The climate crisis calls for a new generation of social policy compatible with planetary limits and economic postgrowth circumstances. This article analyses how some of the pillars of such a new generation of social policy may be conceptualized by highlighting commonalities between the most recent IPCC report and the sustainable welfare literature. Methodologically triangulating content analysis of the IPCC report, literature review and qualitative data analysis from citizen forums, we argue that this convergence is particularly evident in four areas central to policymaking: the importance of human needs in eco-social policymaking; the identification of governance structures suitable for a social-ecological transformation; the requirement to co-develop policies via a deliberative, «bottom-up» element; and the need to decouple welfare provision from economic growth.

“Eco-welfare tra crisi socio-ecologica e campi d’applicazione per politiche eco-sociali” by Giovanni Carrosio and Lorenzo De Vidovich

The article “Eco-welfare tra crisi socio-ecologica e campi d’applicazione per politiche eco-sociali” by Giovanni Carrosio and Lorenzo De Vidovich has been published in the special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107138>

Abstract

By observing the interdependencies that run between the environmental and the welfare crises, the article identifies and discusses the eco-welfare perspective as a valuable research and policy field to construe and develop contextual responses capable of addressing the social and environmental issues. To outline the main features of eco-welfare, eco-social policies are described with reference to the effects on the distribution of wealth and to the ability or inability to act in a significant way on the accumulation mechanisms. Within this scheme, eco-welfare policies are distinguished from the other typologies, as they contextually act on two strands, through pre-distributive interventions, able to disentangle the economic growth from the wealth provision. To exemplify this policy typology, the article grounds its reflection on energy poverty, by addressing its definition, the measurements, and the possible policy solutions by highlighting how it entails both social and environmental concerns. Ultimately, some fields of interventions are introduced, consistent with the analytical framework of eco-welfare.

“Undeserving and Dangerous: The Construction of Outsiders and the Return of the Third Way in Green Welfare State Debates” by Alexander Ruser

The article “Undeserving and Dangerous: The Construction of Outsiders and the Return of the Third Way in Green Welfare State Debates” by Alexander Ruse has been published in the special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107139>

Abstract

Political and scholarly debate about welfare state reform increasingly acknowledge the need to align social and environmental policies and sustainable welfare state reform. Against the background of urgent environmental problems such as anthropogenic climate change, welfare states must turn green. However, this sheer necessity underpinned by increasingly dire warnings by climate scientists demanding large-scale social transformation not only run the risk of concealing the normative convictions that drive transformative policy agendas and limit the opportunity for legitimate opposition and disagreement but to underestimate negative redistributive effects of green welfare state reform. This article discusses implications of social welfare policy debates against the background of urgent climate change. It argues that tendencies to frame social policy reform as inevitable adjustment has serious implications for the ability to voice dissent. Analogous to discussions about a «Third Way» for the welfare state in the 1990s, the emphasize on functional reforms conceals normative convictions and can thus affect the demarcation criteria between «deserving» and «undeserving» recipients of social support and the shift to a focus on individual (lack of) responsibility.

“EU Eco-social Policies for a ‘Just Transition’: Comparing the Just Transition Fund and the Social Climate Fund” by Matteo Mandelli et al.

The article “EU Eco-social Policies for a ‘Just Transition’: Comparing the Just Transition Fund and the Social Climate Fund” by Matteo Mandelli et al. has been published in the special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107140>

Abstract

Even though research on eco-social policies and just transition is growing, only a few studies have to date performed systematic analyses of concrete policy initiatives. This contribution aims to fill this gap, focussing on the European Union (EU) level. The main objective is to critically investigate the core features of prominent EU policy instruments designed to address the social implications of the green transition, established as part of the 2019 European Green Deal framework. The instruments selected for comparison are the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and the proposal for a Social Climate Fund (SCF). The former strives to alleviate the costs of decarbonisation in heavily affected territories and sectors, while the latter addresses the disproportional distributional impacts of increased energy prices. In order to compare the JTF and the SCF, the article proposes a novel analytical framework based on both the emerging literature on eco-social policies and the policy design framework. Our research uses qualitative methods: a thorough textual analysis of key EU documents related to the two funds, combined with 4 semi-structured interviews with policymakers and stakeholder representatives. The study’s empirical findings indicate that the EU is addressing the social consequences of the green transition by applying a notion of just transition that is mostly reactive and oriented towards a social investment approach. However, more preventive and protection-oriented elements are slowly emerging.

“Le pensioni e la transizione verde: nuove disuguaglianze e ulteriori sfide per l’adeguatezza e la sostenibilità della previdenza” by David Natali et al.

The article “Le pensioni e la transizione verde: nuove disuguaglianze e ulteriori sfide per l’adeguatezza e la sostenibilità della previdenza” by David Natali et al. has been published in the special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107141>

Abstract

Pensions policy in Europe has gone through a long reform process in the last decades. Reforms have mainly addressed the consequences of population aging. Yet in the last years, policymakers have started to focus on new socio-economic challenges, for example those related to the so-called Green Transition – the transition to a neutral economic system with low carbon emissions. The same challenges are expected to be at the core of pension reforms in the future because of the projected impact on pension systems’ sustainability and adequacy. The present article proposes – through a forward-looking approach – the review of the expected impact of the Green Transition on pension policy. The article has a three-fold goal. The first is to review the main effects of the ecological transition on economic growth, labor markets and financial markets. Second, the article sheds light on the expected effects on the long-term viability of pensions and the future reform strategies to address them. Third, the article proposes the reflection on future reform strategies. A useful part to give new communicative polish to a segmented archipelago of local and short-term micro-projects. The essay discusses some conditions that would allow interventions to combat juvenile educational poverty to be a real opportunity to rethink welfare strategies in an innovative way.

“Verso un welfare sostenibile? Il contributo del lavoro sociale nella lotta alla povertà in prospettiva eco-sociale” by Stella Volturo

The article “Verso un welfare sostenibile? Il contributo del lavoro sociale nella lotta alla povertà in prospettiva eco-sociale” by Stella Volturo has been published in the special issue “Towards a Sustainable Welfare System? The Challenges and Scenarios of Eco-social Transition”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7389/107142>

Abstract

In recent years, the challenges posed by climate change and its effects on the planet’s health and on people’s well-being have questioned the current model of economic development and contemporary welfare systems as incompatible with ecological limits. At the same time, social policies can play an important role in the ecological transition, in particular in mitigating the effects on the most disadvantaged social groups and in «accompanying» society towards a model of sustainable development. Within this framework, the article investigates the role of social work in contributing to the shift towards a sustainable welfare paradigm by exploring – through a qualitative investigation – the point of view of social workers involved in the fight against poverty. The empirical results show that, despite a widespread sensitivity among the interviewed social workers, policies to combat poverty are still far from being able to implement interventions that integrate environmental justice and social justice. Among the factors that could facilitate the role of social workers in the path towards sustainable welfare is the need for specific training on environmental risks and sustainability and a more active role of policymakers in designing guidelines that could support and orient eco-social work.

“Working less for more? A systematic review of the social, economic, and ecological effects of working time reduction policies in the global North” by Hugo Hanbury et al.

The article “Working less for more? A systematic review of the social, economic, and ecological effects of working time reduction policies in the global North” by Hugo Hanbury et al. has been published in “Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2023.2222595>

Abstract

The increasingly studied effects of working time reductions (WTR) on social, economic, and ecological sustainability depend on how these reductions are conceptualized in terms of implementation level, form, extent and accompanying wage compensation. Very little research on WTRs considers more than one

sustainability dimension or explores different conceptualizations of WTRs. We thus seek in this article to differentiate the effects of diverse conceptualizations of WTR policies within and across all three sustainability dimensions by conducting a systematic review of longitudinal and (quasi-)experimental research on the ecological, social, and economic effects of WTRs. The studies we reviewed on social sustainability (n = 18) suggest that WTRs have generally well-substantiated positive effects on well-being, health, and work-family conflict. Regarding economic effects (n = 14), however, the findings are mixed: WTRs appear to have small, positive employment effects and unclear productivity effects, on one hand, as well as negative career-trajectory effects, on the other. The only study reviewed concerning ecological sustainability suggests that WTRs have a positive effect on the environment. Research on different conceptualizations of WTRs is scarce but suggests that WTRs might be most beneficial when implemented with a substantial reduction in working hours, on the national or organizational level, in the form of fewer rather than shorter working days, and accompanied by progressive wage compensation. Based on these findings, we also outline a research agenda to address the knowledge gaps in this important field of study.

“The shift towards an eco-welfare state: growing stronger together” by Valon Hasanaj

The article “The shift towards an eco-welfare state: growing stronger together” by Valon Hasanaj has been published in the “Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy”.

Abstract

Poverty, inequality and climate change are profoundly interconnected issues and represent grave threats to the future of our planet and civilization. Failure in one will result in failure in the other; thus, government responses to such threats must be meticulously coordinated, especially across environmental and welfare state programs. In recent years, a growing body of research has examined the links between these two domains, lauding the eco-welfare state as a viable path forward. As the literature on the eco-welfare state is at an early stage, this study proposes two essential theoretical and empirical contributions. First, it examines the most prominent theoretical interpretations of the concept of eco-welfare state and proposes a refined understanding. Second, using model-based cluster analysis for 42 countries, this study empirically unveils a global shift towards and the existence of an eco-welfare state.

“Organizing for transformation: post-growth in International Political Economy” by Jacob A. Hasselbalch et al.

The article “Organizing for transformation: post-growth in International Political Economy” by Jacob A. Hasselbalch et al. has been published in Review of International Political Economy.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2023.2208871>

Abstract

The global political economy is organized around the pursuit of economic growth. Yet scholars of International Political Economy (IPE) have been surprisingly slow to address its wide-ranging implications and, thus, to advance debates about post-growth alternatives. The premise of the article is that for IPE to deepen its grasp of the escalation of contemporary socioecological crises both analytically and normatively, it needs to put the growth question front and center. To problematize the pursuit of economic growth from an IPE perspective, we bring together research on green growth, post-growth/degrowth, sustainability transitions and socioecological transformation. More specifically, we develop an analytical framework that revolves around four pathways of reorganization toward socioecological sustainability: (1) modification, (2) substitution, (3) conversion and (4) prefiguration. We use illustrative examples from the plastics and food sectors to show how the post-growth pathways of conversion and prefiguration could interact to trigger change for sustainability. Notably, our discussion reveals that conversion, which requires a strong state for developing post-growth institutions, is the least traveled pathway in both sectors. This insight points to a strategic priority for post-growth proponents and an urgent research agenda for IPE scholars.

“Up in Arms: Environmental Divides Reshaping Politics” by Jamie Kendrick et al.

The latest issue of the “Green European Journal” has just been published. The issue focuses on the “Environmental Divides Reshaping Politics”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

Climate politics is facing a backlash. New conflicts are emerging and unresolved dilemmas resurfacing around the costs and opportunities of the green transition. The sourcing of critical materials, the deployment of renewables, the management of climate adaptation, reforms in agriculture and food policy, and contrasting narratives on migration and the future of mobility are just a few of the fault lines dividing societies. This edition sets out to map how these competing visions are reshaping politics locally, in Europe, and around the world.

“Divided in Ecology” by Jamie Kendrick

The article “Divided in Ecology” by Jamie Kendrick has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

From national leaders calling for a pause to the European Green Deal to the online Right’s re-invention of the “15-minute city” as an authoritarian project for social control, the signs of an anti-green backlash are growing. Climate politics had been resurgent in Europe since 2018. The need for governments and society to take serious, rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was reflected in public debate, street demonstrations and election results, and the commitments that politicians were increasingly ready to sign up to. The sense of urgency was real, possibly even genuine.

“Who Pays for a Warming World?” by Lucas Chancel

The article “Who Pays for a Warming World?” by Lucas Chancel has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

Economist Lucas Chancel explains why the welfare state must be readied for climate change.

“The Cities Feeling the Heat” by Celia Fernández

The article “The Cities Feeling the Heat” by Celia Fernández has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

Rising temperatures are making European cities increasingly unliveable in the summer months. Access to cool homes and climate-resilient facilities such as parks and pools should not be limited to those who can afford it.

“Class Politics for the Eco-Anxious” by Nikolaj Schultz

The article “Class Politics for the Eco-Anxious” by Nikolaj Schultz has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

Once a symbol of unrestrained freedom, islands are now an outpost of ecosystem loss. Meanwhile, billionaires are taking off into space, leaving behind the existential conflicts of a climate-damaged planet. If eco-anxiety has no earthly escape, argues Nikolaj Schultz, we need to find new ways of organising, and of relating to the non-human forms of life that we depend on to sustain our lives.

“If the water disappears, life will disappear” by Marie-Monique Franssen

The article “If the water disappears, life will disappear” by Marie-Monique Franssen has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

Lithium powers the batteries needed for the energy transition. The Salta and Jujuy regions in northern Argentina have the world's second-largest lithium reserves. But mining it is water intensive, increasing the risks of resource competition and social conflict within nearby communities. Multinationals backed by the Argentinian government set their sights on this "white gold", how can the EU ensure a fair and inclusive energy transition that does not stop at its borders?

“Serbia’s Lithium: Sacrifice Zones or Opportunity for Europe’s Peripheries?” by Predrag Momčilović

The article “Serbia’s Lithium: Sacrifice Zones or Opportunity for Europe’s Peripheries?” by Predrag Momčilović has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

The green transition relies on the use of numerous rare minerals. Lithium is crucial for electrification, in particular for electric cars, and demand is growing. Currently dependant on imports, the EU would like to source the lithium needed for decarbonisation closer to home. But with huge protests in Serbia, it is clear that local communities are asking, “Whose green transition”?

“Countries will soon be competing for migrants’: Preparing for Climate Migration” by Gaia Vince

The article “Countries will soon be competing for migrants’: Preparing for Climate Migration” by Gaia Vince has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

Most climate migrants move within countries or across nearby borders, but they may soon need to travel further as entire regions become unliveable. What awaits them is a system of control and exclusion that is woefully unprepared to meet their needs. Gaia Vince calls for multilateral cooperation and honest leadership that reframes climate migration in adaptation terms, shares responsibility equality, and harnesses its potential in the context of the European demographic crisis.

“A Convenient Transition for Europe” by Olamide Samuel

The article “A Convenient Transition for Europe” by Olamide Samuel has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

From the 1884 Berlin Conference to the EU’s response to the energy crisis, Europe’s strategic priorities have long been tied to the exploitation of African resources. With the European Green Deal, diplomat and expert Olamide Samuel argues the EU falls into the same pattern of relations with Africa, which could sour rather than reset Africa-EU relations.

“A Fight for Every Job: Decarbonising Europe’s Cars” by Bela Galgóczi

The article “A Fight for Every Job: Decarbonising Europe’s Cars” by Bela Galgóczi has been published in the “Green European Journal”.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [Green European Journal](#)

Abstract

The shift to electric cars is gaining momentum, with huge implications for millions of workers. The priority for trade unions is to secure jobs and workers’ rights. But what will a just transition mean for Europe’s automotive industry amid growing market competition between the EU, the US, and China?

“Can a European wealth tax close the green investment gap?” by Jacob Kapeller et al.

The article “Can a European wealth tax close the green investment gap?” by Jacob Kapeller et al. has been published in “Ecological Economics”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2023.107849>

Abstract

This paper analyses the European Commission's assessment of investment needs as implied by the EU's Paris commitment. We find that official estimates of the green investment gap until 2050 are likely to seriously understate actual investment required. Against this backdrop, we assess the potential of a European wealth tax to close this investment gap. In doing so, we first provide a detailed estimate of the wealth distribution across 22 EU member countries and then develop a microsimulation model for recurring wealth taxes in these countries. The model is based on household survey data from the HFCS, but compensates for missing observations at the top of the wealth distribution by means of a Pareto model. Taking different tax designs into account, we generally find a substantial revenue potential that could contribute significantly to closing currently existing green investment gaps. We also find that compensating for the ‘missing rich’ is essential for sensibly evaluating progressive tax designs.

“Targeting socioeconomic transformations to achieve global sustainability” by Teemu Koskimäki

The article “Targeting socioeconomic transformations to achieve global sustainability” by Teemu Koskimäki has been published in “Ecological Economics”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2023.107871>

Abstract

Green growth and post-growth are alternative concepts for transformative change. I investigated the amount of support each enjoys among sustainability scholars by performing a global expert survey (n = 461), in which scholars from around the world evaluated what future pathways they would prefer for different country income groups. Support for post-growth was substantial for high-income (77%) and upper-middle-income countries (59%) for the 2020s, while green growth was the most preferred pathway for lower-middle-income (64%) and low-income (58%) countries. Support for post-growth increased from 2020s to 2030s. On average, preferred future GDP rates were at or above 0% and at or below past average GDP rates regardless of context. I found an interaction between pathway preference and familiarity with post-growth, which helped explain desired future GDP rates in the context of high-income countries. Around 60% of the participants considered GDP to be a bad indicator of societal well-being. My results call for more emphasis on targeted transformational change in research, education, and policymaking, with particular focus on facilitating post-growth approaches for affluent countries. This could help societies find a safe and just way to secure global sustainability.

“Fuel or power Africa? The impact of Chinese foreign aid on energy poverty” by Jia Li

The article “Fuel or power Africa? The impact of Chinese foreign aid on energy poverty” by Jia Li has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103192>

Abstract

We examine the impact of Chinese foreign aid on energy poverty in 11 sub-Saharan African countries by matching data on geo-referenced Chinese aid projects with household information from the Demographic and Health Surveys. We use access to clean cooking fuels and electricity to measure energy poverty, focusing on the accessibility dimension. Using difference-in-differences estimations and propensity score matching methods, we find that Chinese aid projects improve access to clean cooking fuels, but not to electricity, in recipient countries' treatment areas. The effect of Chinese aid on energy poverty is heterogeneous across rural and urban areas. Improvements in access to clean cooking fuels have been driven directly and indirectly by Chinese aid projects. Chinese aid can improve access to clean cooking fuels through employment and education.

“Epistemic justice impossible? Expert perceptions of the participatory monitoring of geo-energy projects in Poland” by Krzysztof Maczka et al.

The article “Epistemic justice impossible? Expert perceptions of the participatory monitoring of geo-energy projects in Poland” by Krzysztof Maczka et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103154>

Abstract

Achieving energy democracy requires public engagement and social inclusion in decision-making, but meaningful conversations between different groups are essential. In this study, we explore the possibility for such conversations through participatory monitoring practices around energy technology, using geo-engineering projects as an example. Despite being central to the attention of local communities, these projects can be conceptually distant and inaccessible because of their subsurface location. This presents a challenge for engaging experts with non-experts. We elaborate the emerging concept of epistemic justice (defined as fair treatment and equal access to knowledge for all stakeholders) and especially one of its dimensions: hermeneutical justice (that emphasizes the need for institutions to respond to the voices of all stakeholders without any prejudices), as preconditions for democratizing energy production. By applying Q-methodology we analyze the attitudes of 22 experts from Poland toward non-experts' participation in common monitoring activities around geo-engineering projects. We identify three types of narratives: “pro-expert”, “pro-partnership”, and “pro-informative” and argue that experts may be uncertain about their responsibility to engage non-experts in energy projects. Through this study, we encourage experts and knowledge producers to reflect critically on their responsibility to engage non-experts in energy projects and implement democratic procedures more efficiently, including future participatory procedures, thus paving the way for energy democracy to thrive.

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

The article “Barriers to adopting wellbeing-economy narratives: comparing the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and Wellbeing Economy Governments” by Naomi Mason and Milena Büchs has been published 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.

“Barriers to powering past coal: Implications for a just energy transition in South Africa” by Pegah Mirzania et al.

The article “Barriers to powering past coal: Implications for a just energy transition in South Africa” by Pegah Mirzania et al. has been published in Energy Research & Social Science.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103122>

Abstract

The feasibility of South Africa's just energy transition, as dictated by the speed of phasing out coal and scaling up renewables, will rest on a range of techno-economic, socio-political, and socio-technical factors. Interactions between these dimensions of the transition carry significant implications for energy justice. In response, this paper proposes the Just Transition Feasibility Framework (JTFF) to better evaluate how feasibility constraints may impact South Africa's energy transition ambitions, and its more recent commitments to energy justice. Drawing on qualitative findings from interviews with South African energy experts, the study provides critical insights on the national- and community-scale implications of current energy policies. The analysis highlights socio-political constraints related to the Renewable Independent Power Producer Programme (REI4P) which aggravate energy vulnerabilities and misrecognition of places. In addition to strategically tackling a range of techno-economic and socio-technical constraints which are seen to exacerbate distributive injustice, the South African government should extend the 50 km radius scheme of the REI4P to a wider and more inclusive regional basis. Foremost, policy interventions must seek to realign South Africa's Minerals Energy Complex towards a just transition pathway committed to renewable electrification, community empowerment, and sustainable socio-economic structures.

“Transformation and recognition: Planning just climate havens in New York State” by Erin Morris et al.

The article “Transformation and recognition: Planning just climate havens in New York State” by Erin Morris et al. has been published in “Environmental Science & Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2023.05.004>

Abstract

Climate change is altering the context of human mobility due to disasters such as sea-level rise, forest fires, and other extreme events. It is also changing how places plan and adapt to these chaotic events. In this paper we examine how climate destinations, or host communities, are preparing for potential climate related in-migration in their climate adaptation planning. While no place will be left untouched by climate change, a number of cities and communities across Upstate New York consider themselves “climate havens” due to their lower risk to many climate impacts, such as sea level rise, access to freshwater resources, and infrastructure to accommodate growth. Within this context, what does it mean to plan a just climate haven? What types of policy and planning might be needed? How are planners and practitioners framing adaptation approaches? Using Q-methodology, we reveal two dominant perspectives among planners and activists in Upstate New York on how to plan just climate havens. The first is a transformational view that looks to address the social, political, and economic drivers of vulnerability. The second is a recognition view that looks to address legal and legislative shortcomings in how to support climate migrants. Points of consensus on how to build just climate havens between the two groups include co-production and co-design, workforce development, food security, and safe and affordable housing. We suggest that these two perspectives frame justice in two distinct—but overlapping—ways and provide a shared basis on how to consider planning a just climate haven.

“A different logic of polity building? The Russian invasion of Ukraine and EU citizens’ demand for social security” by Marcello Natili and Francesco Visconti

The article “A different logic of polity building? The Russian invasion of Ukraine and EU citizens’ demand for social security” by Marcello Natili and Francesco Visconti has been published in Journal of European Public Policy.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2023.2217228>

Abstract

The present study considers whether the Russian invasion of Ukraine constitutes an opportunity for EU policy centralisation and polity-building in non-military domains, according to a social security logic. It argues that the war and growing concerns about energy security and prices have presented EU policy-makers with a transboundary policy puzzle on how to ensure autonomy in energy supply, fight climate change and protect household disposable income. Then, it examines public preferences on energy and social policy options, evaluating whether the war contributed to increasing demand for supra-national

capacity building and investigating the priorities (and divides) across and within EU countries in these policy areas. The findings show that social security concerns related to the war in Ukraine have been translated into greater support for policy centralisation, but they have not helped to overcome divides over conflicting policy goals, leaving policymakers with some difficult decisions.

“Political dimensions of social-ecological transformations: polity, politics, policy” by Melanie Pichler

The article “Political dimensions of social-ecological transformations: polity, politics, policy” by Melanie Pichler has been published in *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2023.2222612>

Abstract

Social-ecological transformations are necessarily political. That is, they are shaped by intentional interventions to steer societies and its metabolism but also by conflicts and power relations over the very strategies to do so. In borrowing from different strands in transition and transformation research, this article systematizes the political dimensions of social-ecological transformations along the lines of polity, politics, and policy. It thus combines the analysis of economic and institutional structures (polity) with a focus on conflicts and power relations (politics) that influence and shape concrete proposals for transformative change (policy). First, with regard to the polity, the article shows that the interplay of capitalism and fossil energy has created institutional structures (e.g., the modern state and liberal consumer democracies) that often constrain—rather than naturally support—transformative change. These structures shape transformation processes in that they prioritize certain political strategies over others and channel policies toward incremental change. Second, in terms of the politics, the article develops a conflict-oriented perspective that helps to better understand the power-laden process of social-ecological transformations. Finally, with respect to the policies, the article discusses characteristics of policies that are able to challenge economic and institutional structures to open up opportunities for transformative change.

“A European eco-social investment constituency? Unpacking public opinion towards EU green, social investment and social protection policies in 15 countries” by Stefano Ronchi et al.

The article “A European eco-social investment constituency? Unpacking public opinion towards EU green, social investment and social protection policies in 15 countries” has been published by Stefano Ronchi et al. in *Stato e mercato*.

DOI: [10.1425/107677](https://doi.org/10.1425/107677)

Abstract

After years of deepening of the so-called European social dimension, green policies to reduce pollution and mitigate the consequences of climate change have recently taken pride of place in the EU’s agenda. What do citizens think of EU green and social policy objectives? Do public preferences for these two policy areas relate, or, by contrast, do trade-offs emerge? Recent research has in fact highlighted that an «eco-social divide» – i.e., a trade-off in public support for social and green policies – is likely to emerge in advanced welfare states. This article bridges the debates on eco-social divides and the EU (eco-)social dimension by analysing original data collected in 2021 across 15 member states. Extant empirical studies on the eco-social divide have conflated all kinds of social policies into a single «social» dimension. We distinguish between preferences towards different types of social policies, which find support among different constituencies: social investment (education, activation, childcare) and social protection (cash transfers to those out of work). Our findings reveal that highly educated middle classes form the core of a potential coalition supporting an «eco-social Europe», as they appreciate both EU social investment and green policies. Lower skilled respondents and those most concerned with job security are generally less supportive of green policies, being potentially afraid of their distributional consequences, and favour social protection against both «old» and «new» social risks. Failure to address their concerns may not only lead to increasing inequalities, but also erode the political bases of the EU green agenda.

“Enabling a just energy transition through solidarity in research” by Siddharth Sareen et al.

The article “Enabling a just energy transition through solidarity in research” by Siddharth Sareen et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103143>

Abstract

A just energy transition is as much about acknowledging and acting on the socio-material needs of marginalised classes and groups as about informing inclusive and deliberative policy-making towards more equitable energy futures. In democracies, energy social scientists hold a privileged position and special responsibility to do both, thus offering critical support to decision-makers and practitioners. We articulate the challenges and opportunities for energy social scientists to embody solidarity in their research orientation and practices. First, we articulate the need to repoliticise, redemocratise, and negotiate a multiplicity of energy transitions. This includes recognising and engaging with multiple scales and contexts of marginality, repoliticising energy transitions, and addressing contestation and negotiation. Then, we argue that by embracing solidarity in research, energy social scientists can meet these needs in a holistic manner. We provide three principles through which social scientists can embrace solidarity to move energy research towards enhancing just transitions. These include (i) taking direct action and relating in solidarity, (ii) recognising responsibilities and limitations of energy social scientists, and (iii) nurturing a political realist culture of solidarity. In espousing these principles, we articulate solidarity as integral to pragmatic research practices in the face of urgency and rapid energy transitions.

“A relational approach to the role of the state in societal transitions and transformations towards sustainability” by Benjamin R. Silvester and Jens K. Fisker

The article “A relational approach to the role of the state in societal transitions and transformations towards sustainability” by Benjamin R. Silvester and Jens K. Fisker has been published in “Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2023.100717>

Abstract

The important role of the state in societal transitions and transformations towards sustainability has long been acknowledged. Yet, existing theoretical frameworks in the field remain only partially capable of providing the necessary analytical support to study this. In response, this article proposes a relational approach to the role of state power in societal transitions based on the strategic-relational approach to state theory as developed by Bob Jessop. The resulting analytical framework is built around six mutually intertwined dimensions of the state: forms of representation, internal organisation, forms of intervention, social basis, state projects, and hegemonic formation. The article relates each of these to recent issues and research within energy and transitions scholarship and specifies how the framework can be used in empirical studies. Through this approach a sophisticated conception of the state is provided, moving beyond understanding it in purely institutional terms or as a singular, unitary, or monolithic actor.

“Inclusive innovation in just transitions: The case of smart local energy systems in the UK” by Adrian Smith et al.

The article “Inclusive innovation in just transitions: The case of smart local energy systems in the UK” by Adrian Smith et al. has been published in “Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2023.100719>

Abstract

Inclusive innovation addresses the challenges and aspirations of poor and marginalised groups in society. Attention towards these groups is also important for social justice in sustainable transitions. How can research insights from inclusive innovation contribute to just transitions? In this paper, based on original mixed methods data, analysis built around levels of inclusion is applied empirically to the case of smart local energy systems in the UK. Despite innovators acknowledging inclusiveness as significant for their decarbonised, decentralised and digitalised transition goals, inclusion operates currently at low

levels owing to the prevalence of a liberal-individualist approach to justice in the electricity regime. Noting efforts (and constraints) in higher-level inclusion in some demonstration projects, we discuss whether and how social-collectivist approaches to justice open up more transformative possibilities. The case illustrates how analysis of relations between justice and inclusion can invite more transformational innovation policies.

“Social housing as focus area for Nature-based Solutions to strengthen urban resilience and justice: Lessons from practice in the Netherlands” by Robbert P.H. Snep et al.

The article “Social housing as focus area for Nature-based Solutions to strengthen urban resilience and justice: Lessons from practice in the Netherlands” by Robbert P.H. Snep et al. has been published in *Environmental Science & Policy*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2023.02.022>

Abstract

Social housing typically encompasses neighbourhoods with low social-economic status. Here, environmental problems like climate change and biodiversity loss have a higher impact than in other neighbourhoods. Applying Nature-based Solutions (NbS) may enhance the resilience of social housing neighbourhoods and as such make cities more just. In this article we explore to what extent NbS can be applied, given the physical, social and financial limitations that define Dutch social housing practice, and - by doing so – what NbS can contribute to environmental justice. Based upon several Living Lab experiences and dialogues with numerous housing corporations, ten NbS measures have been identified that likely will match with current practices in social housing. Implementing NbS contributes to all aspects of environmental justice, with distributional justice as the most straightforward one (more NbS means more environmental benefits). Procedural and recognitional justice were found to be of crucial importance to make greenspaces worthwhile for the residents. Our study draws attention to the fact that NbS knowledge is key but currently still insufficient, both within housing corporations as within the key partners (local authorities, landscaping firms). This means that there is a growing demand to increase NbS knowledge in the social housing sector. We finalize this article with recommendations on how to meet this demand.

“How does learning drive sustainability transitions? Perspectives, problems and prospects from a systematic literature review” by Kees Stam et al.

The article “How does learning drive sustainability transitions? Perspectives, problems and prospects from a systematic literature review” by Kees Stam et al. has been published in *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2023.100734>

Abstract

Learning has been put forward as a critical aspect to achieve sustainable transformation of societal systems. However, there is a lack of a systematic review of empirical evidence on how learning is related to sustainability transitions. To bridge this gap, we systematically reviewed 113 empirical papers that addressed the role of learning in transitions. Our results show that the complexity of the relationship between learning and transitions is not deeply analysed and that there is a need to distinguish more precisely between learning processes and learning outcomes. Further, there is a need to shift the focus towards analysing regime-level learning to increase our understanding of how learning contributes to system transformation. Finally, networks, trust, disagreement, and power are key aspects related to learning that will require further examination, especially in terms of how they play out dynamically in learning for sustainability transitions.

“Why in my backyard (WIMBY): Forging the link to community futures when energy transition projects are met with indifference” by Inger Helene Svartdal and Berit Kristoffersen

The article “Why in my backyard (WIMBY): Forging the link to community futures when energy transition projects are met with indifference” by Inger Helene Svartdal and Berit Kristoffersen has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103138>

Abstract

This paper analytically works towards foregrounding a new concept which can be useful to describe local reception and perceptions related to energy transition projects: Why in my backyard (WIMBY). We define this concept as local indifference to take part in changes in local energy landscapes at the community level. Based on the reception and data from two pilot and demonstration projects in Arctic Norway we show how locals passively accept, or reluctantly support green measures taken in fisheries (Lofoten) and energy systems (Senja). We suggest that these findings might be a symptom of a problem across sites: Even if local publics are in favor of green transitions and recognize the challenges of climate change, they don't necessarily see the relevance to their community. This has several implications besides potential foot-dragging, as pilot and demonstration projects struggle to anchor socio-technical measures in communities. On one hand, we suggest that if a project overlooks local community practices or does not adequately engage with the concerns of the local community, 'Why in my backyard' (WIMBY) can easily turn into 'Not in my backyard' (NIMBY). On the other hand, we suggest that a way forward is to consider stakeholders or involve local communities in solutions when developing new energy landscapes by focusing on how community futures can be sustained and potentially improved by being pilots of change. Building on our data by tying the spatial and material conditions to practices of change, we draw lessons from practices at a community level and show the potential uneven outcomes that socio-technical experimentation entails, drawing on interviews and participant observation in Lofoten and Senja. The paper concludes by reflecting on the theoretical implications of WIMBY and offers some suggestions for enhancing community engagement.

“Environmental justice, infrastructure provisioning, and environmental impact assessment: Evidence from the California Environmental Quality Act” by Jie Wang et al.

The article “Environmental justice, infrastructure provisioning, and environmental impact assessment: Evidence from the California Environmental Quality Act” by Jie Wang et al. has been published in “Environmental Science & Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2023.05.003>

Abstract

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a decision support tool that analyzes the environmental and social impacts of infrastructure projects. This paper focuses on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a law requiring EIA use in California, to examine where new infrastructure is proposed and whether EIA can shape infrastructure distribution and environmental justice through the review process. We analyze the temporal and spatial distribution of more than 7000 infrastructure projects and their environmental impacts as proposed under CEQA from 2011 to 2020. Using fixed-effects negative binomial regression to model the association between the number of initiated projects and existing socio-economic and environmental conditions by census tract, and multinomial logistic regression to investigate determinants of a project's level of environmental review, we find an unequal distribution of infrastructure. We find that socio-economically vulnerable communities and those with greater burden of environmental pollution are less likely to be the site of newly proposed infrastructure, but that proposed projects tend to be beneficial, less-polluting infrastructure like parks or schools that could help redress past injustices. Moreover, projects proposed in vulnerable communities are less likely to receive the most stringent reviews or have their impacts mitigated. These findings suggest that CEQA interacts with distributive justice in contradictory ways. They also highlight the need to separately consider environmental amenities versus harms such that EIA processes do not stand as a barrier to constructing beneficial infrastructure in environmental justice communities.

“Diving into a just transition: How are fisheries considered during the emergence of renewable energy production in Scottish waters?” by Inne Withouck et al.

The article “Diving into a just transition: How are fisheries considered during the emergence of renewable energy production in Scottish waters?” by Inne Withouck et al. has been published in Energy Research & Social Science.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103135>

Abstract

Infrastructure at sea to accommodate a transition to renewable energy and meet global climate commitments is proliferating around the world. Although there is seemingly more space at sea than on land for these new developments, anticipated and existing conflict with existing marine users such as the fishing industry have raised concerns. Yet, countries around the world have committed to a just energy transition, which should avoid disproportionate impacts on specific communities. This study introduces a framework that considers three dimensions of justice at different project planning stages to analyse whether strategies to foster justice for fisheries align with remaining barriers to justice. It was used to understand how existing and planned cable and renewables projects in Scottish waters account for energy justice in relation to the fishing industry. Procedural justice aspects of project planning have improved over time, with greater involvement of the fishing industry during the siting and design of projects. However, resource constraints limited the involvement of smaller fishing fleets, indicating a barrier to recognitional justice. Distributional justice at project level was steered by decision-making at a national level, and national targets for renewable energy generation made the fishing industry feel they are not on equal footing with project developers. The findings of this study provide key insights into the multiple dimensions of energy justice and their implications for the consideration of fisheries. Identified best practices and potential barriers to a just transition can be helpful for other nations seeking to introduce new developments into their marine space.

“Housing wealth and household carbon emissions: The role of homeownership in China” by Mengxue Zhao et al.

The article “Housing wealth and household carbon emissions: The role of homeownership in China” by Mengxue Zhao et al. has been published in “Ecological Economics”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2023.107908>

Abstract

Using panel data collected from the 2012 and 2016 China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) surveys, this paper measures household carbon footprints and assesses wealth-related effects on household carbon emissions. We find that housing wealth has an evidently larger impact on household carbon emissions, almost twice as large as that of financial wealth. The larger effect is likely attributable to the fact that Chinese households have limited investment channels, and the overwhelming proportion of household wealth is tied up in housing. We also find that housing wealth effects on household carbon emissions vary across different types of homeownership. Renters, who do not own their homes, produce higher carbon emissions than do homeowners, on average. In terms of emission elasticity, households with sole homeownership have the strongest and most positive emission response to housing wealth appreciation. The significant impacts of housing wealth offer essential and useful information for predicting China's future emission trajectory and point to the potential impact of housing policy as an effective tool for reducing carbon emissions.

Books

“Eco-social work *Politica e lavoro sociale nella crisi ecologica*” by Elisa Matutini

The book “Eco-social work *Politica e lavoro sociale nella crisi ecologica*” by Elisa Matutini has been published.

The publication can be accessed via the following link: [PMedizioni](#)

Abstract

Nello scenario contemporaneo del lavoro sociale si registra una crescente attenzione verso le disuguaglianze ambientali, la giustizia ambientale e la salvaguardia dell'ambiente. Il presente volume propone un approfondimento del nesso tra lavoro sociale, bisogni sociali e crisi ecologica. Più nello specifico vengono presentati alcuni tra i più importanti riferimenti teorici e di metodo relativi a questo approccio al social work, le implicazioni sul piano etico derivanti dall'utilizzo della lettura ecologica al lavoro sociale e i legami tra welfare sostenibile, politica eco-sociale e lavoro eco-sociale.

La trattazione teorica dei temi è accompagnata da risultati di ricerca derivanti da casi studio volti a comprendere caratteristiche e ambiti specifici di intervento all'interno del contesto italiano.

Questa caratteristica contribuisce a rendere il volume adatto non soltanto per la preparazione universitaria, ma anche per l'aggiornamento professionale degli assistenti sociali e, più in generale, per chiunque intenda approfondire il legame tra questione ambientale, bisogni sociali e lavoro sociale.

„Zukunftsfähiges Wirtschaften. Herausforderungen der sozialökologischen Transformation“ by Andreas Novy et al.

The book „Zukunftsfähiges Wirtschaften. Herausforderungen der sozialökologischen Transformation“ by Andreas Novy et al. has been published.

The publication can be accessed via the following link [BELTZ](#)

Abstract

Die Welt, so wie wir sie kennen, ist im Umbruch. Geopolitische Konflikte verdeutlichen das Ringen um eine neue Weltordnung, komplexe Umweltkrisen gefährden Lebensgrundlagen und der gesellschaftliche Zusammenhalt schwindet. War die kapitalistische Wirtschaftsweise für viele ein Erfolgsmodell, werden ihre destruktiven Konsequenzen heute immer offenkundiger. Diese Vielfachkrisen friedlich und demokratisch zu bewältigen, erfordert die Auseinandersetzung mit vorherrschenden Machtkomplexen und die Fähigkeit, gemeinsam zukunftsfähige Rahmenbedingungen auf verschiedenen räumlichen Ebenen zu gestalten – mit unterschiedlichen Akteuren und vielfältigen Maßnahmen sowie mit Neugier, Dialog und Kompromissbereitschaft.

Research Report

“Povertà energetica tra welfare e ambiente. Esiti di una ricerca in quattro quartieri ater di Trieste“ by Giovanni Carrosio and Lorenzo De Vidovich

The research report “Povertà energetica tra welfare e ambiente. Esiti di una ricerca in quattro quartieri ater di Trieste“ by Giovanni Carrosio and Lorenzo De Vidovich has been published.

The report can be accessed via the following link [Povertà energetica tra welfare e ambiente](#)