

Dear readers of the Sustainable Welfare List,

here comes the eighth 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 8 – July 2024

Dear readers,

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

The network hosts a Zotero database where all listed papers are stored as pdfs. In order to be legally allowed to share the pdfs, you can only access it upon invitation. If you are interested, please send an email with the subject "Access Zotero" to ecosocial.wiso@uni-hamburg.de and indicate your Zotero-username (create one first at www.zotero.org if you do not have one). **It is very important that you use the correct subject ("Access Zotero"; without " and with capital A and capital Z) in your email, as we filter Emails automatically.** We work on the invitations stepwise, so bear with us if you do not receive an invitation immediately.

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

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JOBS

- Chief Editor for the Journal of Poverty and Social Justice
- Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology at the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University
- Professorship in Sociology with a focus on transformation oriented social research (TU Dortmund University)
- Fixed-time research assistant position with a focus on “Ecoenergy - Communities': energies for an eco-social transition” (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

- Buch-Hansen, H. and Carstensen, M. B. (2024). *What kind of political agency can foster radical transformation towards ecological sustainability?* Policy & Politics: 52(2).
- Büchs, M. et al. (2024). *Emission inequality: Comparing the roles of income and wealth in Belgium and the United Kingdom.* Journal of Cleaner Production 467: 142818.
- Cotta, B. (2024). *The eco-social aspects of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork.* Global Social Policy.
- Dale, G. (2024). *Green Class Struggle: Workers and the Just Transition.* Green European Journal: 27.
- Ding, J. & Hirvilammi, T. (2024). *Three pillars of just transition labour market policies.* Contemporary Social Science: 2024 (1-3).
- El-Mekaoui, A. et al. (2024). *Empowering indigenous groups: Unveiling a new approach to adaptive-participative sustainable energy in solar pumping projects via a Mayan community in Central America.* Energy Research & Social Science 114: 103589.
- Fahrbach, C. (2023). *Transformative finance.* International Journal of Pluralism and Economics Education: 14 (3/4).
- Fiander, J. et al. (2024). *Energy democracy, public participation, and support for local energy system change in Canada.* Energy Research & Social Science 113: 103526.
- Giussani, A. (2024). *Getting Real.* Green European Journal: 27.
- Gomez-Alvarez Diaz, M. R. et al. (2024). *How close are European countries to the doughnut-shaped safe and just space? Evidence from 26 EU countries.* Ecological Economics: 108189.
- Hall, G. et al. (2024). *Climate coalitions and anti-coalitions: Lobbying across state legislatures in the United States.* Energy Research & Social Science 113: 103562.
- Hasan, Q. et al. (2024). *Stepping into the just transition journey: The energy transition in petrostates.* Energy Research & Social Science 113: 103553.
- Pansera, M. et al. (2024). *Toward a just circular economy: conceptualizing environmental labor and gender justice in circularity studies.* Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy: 20(1).
- Parth, A.-M. (2024). *The relationship between work-family policies and pro-environmental behaviour of single mothers as economically disadvantaged group.* Environmental Sociology.
- Macias Sequeira, M. et al. (2024). *(Dis)comfortably numb in energy transitions: Gauging residential hard-to-reach energy users in the European Union.* Energy Research & Social Science 115: 103612.
- Mandelli, M. et al. (2024). *Sustainable Welfare: Social Protection in Times of Ecological Crisis.* Green European Journal: 27.
- Nuttall, P. (2024). *Time to Adapt.* Green European Journal: 27.
- Simionescu, M. and Cifuentes-Faura, J. (2024). *Evaluating the relationship between income inequality, renewable energy and energy poverty in the V4 countries.* Energy Research & Social Science 115: 103640.
- Stojilovska, A. et al. (2024). *Enough pain, cold, and illness! Social movements in response to energy poverty in Europe.* Energy Research & Social Science: 103627.
- Varo, A. (2024). *From deserving to denied: Exploring the social construction of energy excluded citizens.* Energy Research & Social Science 115: 103544.

- Walker, C. C. et al. (2024). *Growth dependency in the welfare state – An analysis of drivers in the UK's adult social care sector and proposals for change*. Ecological Economics: 108159.
- Wiman, L. (2024). *Are pensions “growth-dependent”?* Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy: 2024 (1).

Policy Publications

- Böhl Gutierrez, M. et al. (2024). *A strategic phase-out of Colombia's diesel subsidy to support the energy transition*. German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).
- Chan, T. et al. (2024). *Mapping justice in national climate action: a global overview of just transition policies*. Just Transition FinanceLab.
- Denis, B. et al. (2024a). *The Future of the EU's Energy Project. Climate dimension*. Knowledge Communities: May 2024.
- Denis, B. et al. (2024b). *The Future of the EU's Energy Project. Democratic dimension*. Knowledge Communities: May 2024.
- Dukelow, F. et al. (2024). *Feminist Climate Justice Report*. The National Women's Council of Ireland.
- European Committee of the Regions (2024). *Regions and cities shaping the European Green Deal 2.0*. European Union.
- European Environment Agency (2024). *'Future-proofing' the transition to sustainability: focus on policy assumptions and foresight*. EEA.
- Hoekstra, R. (ed.) (2024). *A European Agenda to Navigate Uncertain Times*. Horizon Europe “Beyond-GDP”.
- Laurent, E. et al. (2024). *A Blueprint for a Social and Green Deal*. TheGreens/EFA.
- Matthieu, S. et al. (2024). *Towards a European Green Industrial Deal*. TheGreens/EFA.
- Miller, C. et al. (2024). *A policy cycle 2.0 for the European Commission*. ZOE institute for future-fit economies.
- Planells, O. et al. (2024). *Advancing climate, environmental and social goals through public procurement*. RREUSE.
- Tribukait, I. & Le Merle, K. (2024). *A Positive Narrative for a Just Transition. An approach to a more people-centered communication*. FEPS.
- Wagner, G. (2024). *A European clean growth mindset*. FEPS.
- Van Melkebeke, T. (2024). *A European Single Market for the Future. Towards a new social and environmental pact*. Knowledge Communities: April 2024.
- Veillet Lavallée, M. & Goodwin Brown, E. (2024). *Circular jobs can boost a just transition in Europe*. Circle Economy Foundation/Deloitte.
- Velten, E. K. et al. (2024). *2024 Report: State of EU progress to climate neutrality*. European Climate Neutrality Observatory.

Books

- Buch-Hansen, H. et al. (2024). *Deep transformations. A theory of degrowth*. Manchester University Press.
- De Vidovich, L. (2024). *Eco-Welfare and the Energy Transition. Themes and Debates for an Emerging Interplay*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- João Rodrigues, M. (ed.) (2024). *A New Global Deal. Reforming World Governance*. FEPS.

EVENTS

Announcements of the Network

Informal Gathering at ESPAnet Conference 2024 (Tampere, Finland)

The network is planning an informal meeting at the ESPAnet Conference 2024 in Tampere.

What? Informal gathering for drinks

When? August 27th (Tuesday) at 8 pm

Where? Ravintola Telakka (Tullikamarin aukio 3, 33100 Tampere)

Sign up here for Tampere meeting so we can estimate the number of people coming: <https://forms.office.com/e/6LFKVGKY4w>

In case you have any questions, please contact Alessia Greselin: alessia.greselin@tuni.fi

Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Colloquium (online, October 2nd)

You are warmly welcome to join the 9th Colloquium organized by the Sustainable Welfare & Eco-Social Policy Network on 2nd October 2024 (Wed.) at 14.30-16.00 CET, via Zoom: <https://tuni.zoom.us/j/4243508254>. This colloquium is dedicated to the presentations of early career researchers who are conducting PhD projects in the field of eco-social policies and sustainable welfare. The event is a great opportunity to learn about unpublished work in progress, to get to know new faces, and to get familiar with the richness of this evolving research field. The colloquium is facilitated by Robin Schulze Waltrup on behalf of the network.

External Events

16th ESA Conference "Tension, Trust, and Transformation" (European Sociological Association, Porto, Portugal, 27th-30th August 2024)

The 16th ESA Conference "Tension, Trust, and Transformation" will take place in Porto, Portugal from the 27th-30th of August. The theme of the conference "Tension, Trust and Transformation" seeks to capture the experiences of recent times, crises and global challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change debates and activism, inequalities and violence, persisting levels of populism and the politics of instability. At the same time, it raises sociological concerns about perennial and new problems with a view to asserting the potential for sociological work to have a transformative societal impact in different social spheres. What do the social sciences have to offer a world going through a persistent pandemic, increasing concern about the acceleration of climate change, a noticeable retreat from democracy and a crisis due to war in Europe?

Further information can be found here: europeansociology.org

ESPAnet Conference 2024 (28th – 30th August 2024; Tampere, Finland)

The ESPAnet Conference 2024 is taking place in Tampere (Finland) from 28th – 30th August 2024.

More information can be found here: <https://espanet.org/annual-conferences/forthcoming-conferences/>

Summer School on "Life after Growth" by Tallinn University of Technology, University of Vigo and Democritus University of Thrace (1th-4th September 2024; Kalentzi Tzoumerka, Greece)

Tallinn University of Technology, University of Vigo and Democritus University of Thrace are organizing a Summer School on Life after Growth in Kalentzi Tzoumerka (Greece) for local and international master and PhD students from all disciplines interested in political ecology, organisational studies, and/or technology and society studies.

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

Fit4Future Summer School 2024: "Powering tomorrow: Doing research for a sustainable energy transition" (Brandenburg University of Technology)

The Brandenburg University of Technology is doing a summer school on the critical transition to sustainable and clean energy.

Dates:

- Onsite sessions in Cottbus, Germany: 10-12 September
- Onsite sessions in Poznan, Poland: 12-13 September
- Optional Writing Retreat at Haus des Wandels e.V. Steinhöfel/ Germany: 14-15 September

Target participants:

- PhD students
- Advanced master students
- Researchers and teaching assistants
- Professionals working in the field of energy transition

More information can be found here: b-tu.de

Symposium “Approaching technologically induced problems with technologies? Designing sustainable economies” (University Siegen, Germany)

The University Siegen is organizing a symposium on the subject of “Approaching technologically induced problems with technologies? Designing sustainable economies” with a focus on debates around pluralist economics on the 10th September 2024.

“Technology is crucial in shaping socioeconomic and environmental outcomes, both at the regional and the global level. Be it large language models, renewable energy, grid infrastructures, virtual reality, self-driving cars, or carbon capture and storage - technology is changing us and the economic systems we live in.

On the one hand, technology is entangled within the problems of climate change, biodiversity loss, and other global challenges. The ever-continuing introduction of new technologies or the updating of existing ones that promise prosperity and well-being have fueled a consumer society that expands its environmental footprint and increasingly depends on technology. This has led to the excessive use of natural resources and overshooting planetary and societal boundaries.

On the other hand, many technologies bear potential for sustainable transformation. Renewable energy will be the backbone of a sustainable future economy and concepts for sustainable mobility, energy, food, or housing systems all entail some forms of new or different technologies.”

More information can be found here <https://www.sustainabilitybydesign.net/dse>

Trento School of Applied Quantitative Research on “Social policies: meanings, measures and effects on individuals' behavior” (23rd – 25th October 2024; Trento University, Italy)

The 5. Edition of the Trento School of Applied Quantitative Research on is taking place at the Trento University in Italy from 23rd – 25th October 2024. It focuses on “Social policies: meanings, measures and effects on individuals' behavior”.

Application deadline: 26th August 2024

More information can be found here: <https://event.unitn.it/tn-square/>

Next Economy Lab (NELA)/German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) Conference on “Development Beyond Growth – Global and Local Perspectives on Just Transitions” (Bonn, Germany, 6th-7th November 2024)

The NELA/IDOS conference on “Development Beyond Growth – Global and Local Perspectives on Just Transitions” is taking place in Bonn, Germany and online from 6th – 7th November 2024.

More information can be found here: <https://nexteconomylab.de/de/veranstaltungen/conference-development-beyond-growth-global-and-local-perspectives-on-just-transitions>

FIS-Forum & Social Policy Biennale 2024: "Lost in Social Policy? Research for an integrated welfare state“ (Berlin, Germany, 6th-8th November 2024)

The FIS-Forum & Social Policy Biennale 2024 are taking place in Berlin from 6th to 8th November 2024.

Social policy today is characterized by rapid changes in individual fields, pressure on public administration and a plethora of social benefits and social infrastructures that are difficult to navigate for those entitled to them. The resulting fragmentation of social policy as well as the interdependencies in provision and the problems of coordination between different policy areas are increasingly seen as a challenge for adequate service provision and for the overall acceptance of the welfare state. Social policy research has certainly addressed these issues and presented work on interdepartmental and cross-level cooperation in policy formulation, user-friendly administrative structures, digitalization, and coordination management – mostly for selected areas of social policy or specific coordination problems. However, there is still a lack of overarching concepts on how to organize social policy in a way that promotes participation and ensures customized and easier access to benefits, services and

infrastructure for citizens and at the same time, simplifies administrative processes and improves cooperation between the many actors involved in social policy.

The program can be found here <https://difis.org/en/events/fis-forum-2024/>

You can register here https://eveeno.com/FIS-Forum2024_ENG

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Call for Contributions for the NELA/IDOS Conference on “Development Beyond Growth – Global and Local Perspectives on Just Transitions”

The Next Economy Lab (NELA) and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) hold a conference on “Development Beyond Growth – Global and Local Perspectives on Just Transitions” from 6th – 7th November 2024 in Bonn (Germany) and online.

The conference will address the question of whether Just Transitions that respect planetary boundaries and enhance social wellbeing require alternative forms of economic systems and development that go beyond a focus on economic growth. Our goal is to provide a space for exchange between practitioners and academics from the so-called Global South and North who are working on these topics.

Deadline: 21st August 2024

More information can be found here: <https://nexteconomylab.de/de/veranstaltungen/conference-development-beyond-growth-global-and-local-perspectives-on-just-transitions>

Call for Papers for the Global Social Policy Journal

The Global Social Policy Journal is calling for papers on topics of global social policy, welfare and development from a global perspective.

More information can be found here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/GSP>

Manuscripts can be submitted here: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/GSP>

Call for Papers for socialpolicy.ch: “Feminist Perspectives on Social Policy – Global Conversations”

Socialpolicy.ch is calling for papers for a thematic issue on “Feminist Perspectives on Social Policy – Global Conversations”.

Despite internationally diverse lived experiences within different socio-political and economic contexts, the Covid-19 pandemic - once more - put a spotlight on one common denominator around the world: the persistence of gender inequalities. It revealed intensified gender inequalities with respect to health and access to health care, the distribution of care work, gainful employment and income, and the risks of being subjected to gender-based violence, just to mention a few. An international body of evidence is expanding on the negative impact of gender inequalities on the wellbeing and prosperity of individuals and societies. At the same time, we observe how long fought-for women rights such as the right to abortion (see e.g. USA) or the right to education (see e.g. Afghanistan) are put into question by deepening ideological and political rifts and with anti-gender rhetoric gaining popularity. Showcasing and discussing feminist perspectives on social policy and women’s social welfare worldwide is thus more topical than ever.

This Special Issue brings together diverse feminist approaches to social policy, highlighting theoretical debate, policy and practice examples from around the world. Feminisms, in their aim to address gender inequalities, fight against oppression and improve the lives of women, has taken different paths, forms and orientations in different cultural, religious, political and legal contexts. This Special Issues aims to critically examine the normative underpinnings and social, economic and political dynamics that lead to gendered inequalities, while encouraging international dialogue between multiple gender-sensitive perspectives aimed at improving social welfare and wellbeing in theory, policy and practice.

We welcome theoretical, empirical (qualitative as well as quantitative) or action-oriented contributions that bring different feminist perspectives on social policy and social welfare in conversation to each other to encourage

ongoing feminist debate: e.g. between liberal feminist theory and relational ethic of care theory; across different policy fields (reproductive health, work/family balance, poverty and social security, social and ecological sustainability and so forth), and between feminist practice and activism in different countries and world regions (e.g. reproductive rights campaigns in the US, Southeastern Europe and Latin America). We particularly welcome contributions that bridge Global North/Global South/Global East divides – with respect to co-authorship, theoretical reflection or empirical comparison.

Deadlines:

- Submission of Abstracts: 31 August 2024
- Submission of Full Papers: 30 June 2025
- Special Issue Publication: Spring 2026

For more information go to socialpolicy.ch or send an email to ingela.naumann@unifr.ch or laura.meier@unifr.ch

Call for Papers for the Journal *Social Inclusion* on "Fostering the Socially and Ecologically Sustainable Digitalisation of Welfare States"

Social Inclusion is calling for papers on fostering the socially and ecologically sustainable digitalization of welfare states.

In that thematic issue, they invite methodological and empirical contributions that address, among others, the following questions:

- What kind of digitalisation in welfare systems may strengthen social or ecological sustainability and how?
- How is social and/or ecological sustainability already being (directly or implicitly) addressed in the current processes of digitalisation of welfare systems?
- When is digitalisation advancing client work and who benefits from it in the welfare systems? What are the implications for social justice or social sustainability?
- How is the digital divide among citizens present or non-existent in current digitalisation processes of welfare systems? How are different groups of citizens currently included in the digitalisation processes?
- What are the differences and similarities between countries in the digitalisation of welfare systems and how might those be connected to earlier developments of the welfare systems?
- How do we create welfare imagination, i.e., a capacity to see and understand novel ways to blend in-person and online services? Are there any good examples?

Deadline for Abstracts: 15 September 2024

Deadline for Articles: 30 January 2025

More information can be found here: <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/pages/view/nextissues#SustainableWelfare>

Call for Papers for the Journal *Social Inclusion* on "The Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the Era of Polycrisis"

Social Inclusion is calling for papers on the "The Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the Era of Polycrisis".

European Union ambitions for the next decades associated with sustainable development and digitalization—the so-called dual transition—add layers of complexity to how ESPR targets can be met while raising several questions. How are the education and training systems being shaped by these megatrends? How are European countries equipping workers with new skills in the green and digital sectors and still meeting employment and activity rates proposed by the ESPR? Are under-skilled and underqualified citizens being left behind in these countries? How exactly are new economies emerging from the green and digital transformations and creating new opportunities for people in more peripheral countries?

This thematic issue aims to showcase how ESPR goals and indicators are (not) being met across European countries in the aftermath of the pandemic period and the context of the dual transition. This thematic issue constitutes, thus, a forum for discussing how European states are addressing each of the dimensions of the ESPR as they adjust to the European vision for 2050. To be aligned with the special issue's goal, articles must comply with all the following criteria:

- Address at least one of the ESPR dimensions or one of its headline or secondary indicators (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-pillar-of-social-rights/indicators/social-scoreboard-indicators>);
- Focus on one or multiple European countries;
- Clearly reflect on the impact or consequences of one of the pillars of the dual transition to the topic of interest.

We are giving priority to the contributions focusing on the second (fair working conditions) and third (social protection and inclusion) dimensions of the ESPR. Topics such as (un)employment, particularly among adults, income distribution, poverty, and social exclusion or social protection across the lifespan are especially welcome.

Deadline for abstracts: 30th September 2024

Deadline for articles: 15th February 2025

See the full call here: <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/pages/view/nextissues#EuropeanPillar>

Call for Abstracts for the SCORAI Europe Conference 2025 for the panel on “Consumption corridors: guaranteeing human wellbeing through upper and lower limits to consumption”

The SCORAI Europe Conference 2025 is calling for abstract for the panel on “Consumption corridors: guaranteeing human wellbeing through upper and lower limits to consumption”. The conference is taking place in Lund (Sweden) from 8th – 10th April 2025.

“How to ensure that present and future generations will live fulfilling lives continues to be a pressing issue, considering the compounded risks associated with climate change, biodiversity loss, and growing inequalities. There is increasing recognition that adaptation to environmental changes will require a just transition. Justice and well-being in turn are powerful drivers for sustainability. A decade ago, the concept of “Consumption Corridors” was put forward by a broad diversity of academic and non-academic actors (Blättel-Mink et al 2013, Fuchs et al 2022). Since then, there has been a swelling of interest in the concept. At its core, the concept of Consumption Corridors is about ensuring the ability for all people, living now and in the future, to meet their needs. There are certain constraints that make it necessary to consider consumption minima and maxima: for example, the use of non-renewable resources, such as fossil fuels; the limited carbon emissions necessary to guarantee a safe living and working environment; but also, the unequal possibilities of people to live in pleasing, safe, and unpolluted environments, the use of city space, or available resources in terms of time. An agreement on how to establish Consumption Corridors is said to come about from citizen engagement and participatory democracy but it also requires structural and governmental approaches. And while several studies have emerged on how corridors might be applied to anything from doing the laundry to meat consumption, much remains to be explored around this concept.”

Deadline: 16th September 2024

More information can be found here: <https://www.scorai2025.event.lu.se/call-abstracts>

To submit an abstract, you will need a conference tool account here: <https://www.conftool.pro/scorai2025/>

Call for themed issue proposals in Global Discourse

The journal Global Discourse is calling for themed issue proposals. They are looking for a themed issue that brings together six to eight cutting-edge articles, each accompanied by one or more commentaries, that engage centrally with a specific problem or set of problems with clear policy implications. Recent issues have focused on: the potential value of evolutionary theory to policymaking on climate change, social security and other areas; the central role of interdisciplinarity in dealing with multiple overlapping crises; the role of emotion in pandemic governance; the challenge of precarity in housing.

A themed issue proposal must include ALL the following information:

1. Title: This should clearly reflect the field and content of the proposed themed issue
2. Details of the guest editor(s): Provide contact details, institutional affiliations, and a short academic profile (150 words maximum) for each proposed guest editor

3. Description: In no more than 750 words, outline the intellectual focus of the proposed themed issue, stating how its proposed content engages with significant issues, and the contribution it will make to the field
4. Draft contents page: This should set out the structure of the themed issue, listing the titles and authors of each proposed article and stating clearly whether named contributors are already confirmed, or are speculative. It should also include plans for replies.
5. Publication schedule: Please include your timetable for initial submission, review, re-submission etc.
6. Plans for impact: Please consider how the themed issue could be promoted and disseminated (blogs, listservs, events, conferences, other social media, etc.)

Deadline: 1st August 2024

More information can be found here: https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/journals/qd/qd-over-view.xml?tab_body=call-for-papers

JOBS

Chief Editor for the Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ)

The Journal of Poverty and Social Justice is looking for applicants for Chief editor positions. A term of three years is envisaged from September 2024 on, with the possibility of renewing for a second two-years term. Application deadline: 31st July 2024

More information can be found here: https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/journals/jpsj/jpsj-over-view.xml?tab_body=call-for-papers

Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology at the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University

The Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI) at the Stockholm University is calling for application for a Postdoctoral Fellow position in Sociology. The postdoc position involves full-time employment for two years (with the possibility of extension under special circumstances). Starting date 1 December 2024 or as per agreement.

Application deadline: 31st August 2024

More information can be found here: <https://su.varbi.com/en/what:job/jobID:737784/>

Professorship in Sociology with a focus on transformation oriented social research (TU Dortmund University)

The Department of Social Sciences at TU Dortmund University offers a position for an associate or full professorship (open rank) specialised in transformation oriented social research and the key topics of the Social Research Center Dortmund (social innovation and/or labor research).

More information can be found here: https://service.tu-dortmund.de/documents/18/2120803/Ausschreibung-stext_Englisch_final.pdf/46dd6697-7525-ed98-1330-39d72b5a5b9f

Fixed-time Research Assistant position with a focus on “Ecoenergy - Communities: energies for an eco-social transition” (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy)

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano in Italy is calling for application for a fixed-time research assistant position in the subject of on “Ecoenergy - Communities: energies for an eco-social transition”. It is funded by the European Social Fund Plus.

Application deadline: 8th August 2024

The full call can be found here: <https://www.unibz.it/it/home/position-calls/positions-for-academic-staff/7157-sociologia-dei-processi-economici-e-del-lavoro-dr-ssa-vigano-federica?group=18>

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

“What kind of political agency can foster radical transformation towards ecological sustainability?” by Hubert Buch-Hansen and Martin B. Carstensen

The research article “What kind of political agency can foster radical transformation towards ecological sustainability?” by Hubert Buch-Hansen and Martin B. Carstensen has been published in *Policy & Politics*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1332/03055736Y2023D000000025>

Abstract

What kind of political agency is necessary to foster radical political-economic transformations towards ecological sustainability? Focusing on the radical ecopolitical project of degrowth, this article starts from the observation that a prerequisite for degrowth policies to materialise is political agency that is bold and visionary yet pragmatic; agency that seeks radical change yet does so based on what is already in existence. To capture the nature of the ideal-typical political agent that could exercise this sort of agency, this article builds on scholarship on policy entrepreneurship to develop the concept of the radical bricoleur. It proposes that an important key to ‘radicalising’ the bricoleur lies in putting greater emphasis on Levi-Strauss’ (1966) pre-modern, holistic understanding of what kind of order it is that the bricoleur is seeking to rebuild. Doing so opens the way for redefining the goal of the bricoleur from being the reinstatement of the current capitalist and non-sustainable societal order, to being the reinstatement of an order defined by a logic of balance and harmony between and within humans, as well as humans and nature.

“Emission inequality: Comparing the roles of income and wealth in Belgium and the United Kingdom” by Milena Büchs et al.

The research article “Emission inequality: Comparing the roles of income and wealth in Belgium and the United Kingdom” by Milena Büchs et al. has been published in the *Journal of Cleaner Production*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2024.142818>

Abstract

Many studies have investigated the distribution of greenhouse gas emissions associated with household consumption, highlighting that richer households have a substantially larger carbon footprint than poorer households. While these studies have typically used income or household expenditures as a proxy of households’ living standards, the association between emissions and wealth has hardly been studied. Wealth is not just an important component of households’ material living standards, known to be imperfectly correlated with income and expenditures, but it is also a very relevant dimension for climate policies. For instance, affluent households have more scope to invest in reducing emissions (e.g. insulation of their homes). Therefore, in this paper, we compare the inequality of emissions over wealth groups as well as groups defined by other living standard concepts such as income, expenditure and the joint distribution of income and wealth to add a focus on wealth to the analysis of emission inequality. Our study focuses on Belgium and the United Kingdom, which differ considerably in their level of wealth inequality. Our results highlight that the social distribution of emissions varies between expenditures, income, wealth and the joint distribution of income and wealth, with per capita emissions being more strongly associated with the joint distribution of income and wealth than with income alone. We also show that a significant share of households has both low income and low wealth, and may thus be lacking the means to prepare for a carbon-neutral future. Although increasing wealth taxation could provide much-needed revenues for low carbon investments, our results suggest that it would have a lower direct impact on the level of emissions and emission inequality compared to increasing taxes on high incomes.

“The eco-social aspects of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork” by Benedetta Cotta

The research article “The eco-social aspects of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork” by Benedetta Cotta has been published in *Global Social Policy*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14680181241261068>

Abstract

With the publication of the European Green Deal (EGD) in December 2019, the European Union (EU) has recognised a link between environmental and social challenges and the need to tackle them together. A body of literature publishing under the umbrella concept of sustainable welfare and the term eco-social policies has acknowledged the environmental and social nexus and has been characterised by six prominent eco-social aspects namely, the integration between environmental and social policy goals, their link with economic growth, just transition, redistribution and compensation, citizens' participation, and the state's role. However, an in-depth analysis of the eco-social aspects contained in recent European policy documents that can be traced back to the eco-social literature is missing. To address this gap, this article focuses on two policy documents considered at the heart of the European ambition of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, namely the EGD Communication and the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy. The article applies a document content analysis of these two documents and uses the six eco-social aspects as a heuristic to analyse and provide descriptive examples of the EGD and the F2F. The content analyses of these documents reveal several elements that advance the understanding of recent EU policies from an eco-social perspective. The study provides knowledge of envisaged compensatory and redistributive measures to the groups and entities affected by the socio-ecological transition and initiatives to enhance a global just transition. Both documents also recognise the primary role of citizens in driving the transition, complementing ongoing eco-social research on participatory processes. The EGD and the F2F reveal also some distinctions in the way the eco-social literature discusses states' role in eco-social policy-making, the relationship between environmental and social policies and economic growth and intergenerational justice.

“Green Class Struggle: Workers and the Just Transition” by Gareth Dale

The research article “Green Class Struggle: Workers and the Just Transition” by Gareth Dale has been published in the *Green European Journal*.

Link: <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/green-class-struggle-workers-and-the-just-transition/>

Abstract

Inspiration for decarbonising industry and creating green jobs is within the hands of those already facing precarity in today's economically unstable times. A resilient history of workers' initiatives overcoming redundancies, alongside recent activist, trade-union, and workforce collaborations, provides concrete examples for empowered transitioning.

“Three pillars of just transition labour market policies” by Jing Ding and Tuuli Hirvilammi

The research article “Three pillars of just transition labour market policies” by Jing Ding and Tuuli Hirvilammi has been published in *Contemporary Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21582041.2024.2316656>

Abstract

In academia, just transition has received increasing interest, including the topical research on sustainable welfare states and integrative ecosocial policies. However, an analytical perspective of labour market policy has been surprisingly weak and studies associating just transition with labour security considerations in welfare states are lacking. By inductively synthesising labour-related just transition literature, this review identifies three intertwined approaches to labour market policies: green jobs approach, green skills approach, and green compensation approach. Respectively, they chime with three forms of labour security in terms of employment opportunities, skill reproduction, and income security. We argue that these three forms of labour security constitute three pillars of just transition labour market policies. Addressing three pillars in a holistic fashion is highlighted given that currently they are unbalanced in just transition discussion. Additionally, a critical reflection on the role of economic growth in labour market policymaking is advocated considering it is the labour security that unifies all three pillars. To steer the labour markets toward a greener future, more studies could focus on redefining green jobs, repurposing active labour market policy, and tackling work-welfare nexus from an ecosocial perspective. Exploring the potential of job guarantee for promoting labour security without growth is worthwhile.

“Empowering indigenous groups: Unveiling a new approach to adaptive-participative sustainable energy in solar pumping projects via a Mayan community in Central America” by Amina El-Mekaoui et al.

The research article “Empowering indigenous groups: Unveiling a new approach to adaptive-participative sustainable energy in solar pumping projects via a Mayan community in Central America” by Amina El-Mekaoui et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103589>

Abstract

Access to sustainable energy sources and effective management of critical resources, including water, are necessary in a dynamic global environment to safeguard the prosperity and benefits of marginalized communities. In this context, this multidisciplinary research presents an innovative and comprehensive methodology for the adaptive-participative implementation of a hybrid renewable energy system for solar water pumping via a Mayan community in southeastern Mexico, integrating technical, social, and economic aspects to ensure successful sustainable energy projects. This study was comprised of three stages. First, a social survey and diagnosis were conducted to better understand the community's needs and challenges. The findings indicated that solar energy is a promising solution to address the crucial dependence on water and the need for sustainable management. Additionally, a prevalent pattern of smaller family structures and a strong emphasis on communal living and intergenerational relationships were discovered within the community. These customs are deeply rooted in their heritage and are guided by responsible water usage, prioritizing strong community connections and preserving unique customs, knowledge, and local wisdom related to Mayan culture. Subsequently, a technical evaluation considering various scenarios of hybrid renewable energy systems implementing a variable-frequency drive to meet the energy demands of pumping water was conducted, which was supported by specialized software focusing on crucial energy, environmental, and economic indicators. The outcomes of this phase revealed that the scenario with the photovoltaic solar system and battery bank represented the optimal option in terms of energy, environmental, and cost-effectiveness performance. Finally, from the previous phase, a social acceptance survey highlighted the community's cheerful willingness towards the proposed system, underlining the relevance of promoting environmentally responsible practices and leveraging renewable sources to enhance the quality of life. The findings highlight the importance of promoting clean energy to empower the well-being of Mayan communities and underscore the scalability of this innovative methodology to benefit other communities by prioritizing energy conservation and sustainable resource management.

“Transformative finance” by Christian Fahrbach

The research article “Transformative finance” by Christian Fahrbach has been published by the *International Journal of Pluralism and Economics Education*.

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1504/IJPEE.2023.138575>

Abstract

Transformative finance is a new topic in financial economics and provides a new methodology to stabilise financial markets in an economic crisis. The objective is to balance financial markets in an ongoing bear market. In this case, the central bank and the state are required to implement either negative nominal interest rates or negative nominal interest rates after taxes through appropriate monetary and fiscal policies. Accordingly, there are two different economic policies in which the central bank and the state play very different roles and which still lead to the same result. Both have the same effect on investor expectations: investors are guided by negative interest rates (after taxes), adjusting their return expectations downwards, making cheap equity available and thus easing financing conditions for companies. Both strategies are theoretically equivalent: stabilising the financial markets at a lower level of return on assets, thus promoting a lasting economic recovery.

“Energy democracy, public participation, and support for local energy system change in Canada” by Joseph Fiander et al.

The research article “Energy democracy, public participation, and support for local energy system change in Canada” by Joseph Fiander et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103526>

Abstract

In the face of climate change and associated energy system change, there is a growing literature and more general recognition of the ‘four Ds’ (decarbonization, decentralization, digitalization, and democratization). Yet there has been very little quantitative work that analyzes public perceptions of these changes. Utilizing data from

a Canada-wide, nationally representative survey (n = 941), this study conducted provincial and regional assessments to spatially explore the public's views of moves toward innovative local energy system change through the development of what we call Local Smart Grids (LSGs). Through descriptive statistics and t-tests, we sought to answer three main questions: i) To what extent does the public support energy democracy via new local energy systems? ii) What does the public desire in terms of participation? and iii) What motivates the public to participate? We find overall support for energy democracy across Canada, yet varied support among provinces and regions. Canadians seem to want to participate in moves toward energy democracy, although we found a strong preference for more passive participatory actions. Additionally, support and a desire to participate is predominantly motivated by environmental factors, including combating climate change, with community and social motivations playing a secondary role, followed by financial motivations. These findings, some of the first of their kind in the realm of energy democracy in Canada, provide useful insights relevant to scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners working on LSG implementation as well as others with an interest in socio-technical innovation and energy system change.

“Getting Real” by Alessio Giussani

The research article “Getting Real” by Alessio Giussani has been published in the *Green European Journal*.

Link: <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/getting-real/>

Abstract

From workers' rights to questions of wellbeing, redistribution, global resource justice, and energy and food security, adjusting to the impacts of climate change is fraught with difficult political choices. Any credible attempt to “stay with the trouble” must entail a visionary political project of radical transformation.

“How close are European countries to the doughnut-shaped safe and just space? Evidence from 26 EU countries” by Maria Rosario Gomez-Alvarez Diaz et al.

The review “How close are European countries to the doughnut-shaped safe and just space? Evidence from 26 EU countries” by Maria Rosario Gomez-Alvarez Diaz et al. has been published in *Ecological Economics*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2024.108189>

Abstract

This study aims to measure how far 26 EU countries are from the safe and just space (SJS) defined in the Doughnut Economics framework by calculating the distance for all social and environmental dimensions and using two synthetic indices for safe space and just space. The distance was measured as a percentage of the threshold to be reached. Therefore, all indicators were interpreted in the same way. Cluster analysis was used to identify countries that displayed similar behaviours. The results showed that none of the countries analysed fall within this space. The environmental and social dimensions that most transgress were identified: CO2 emissions, biochemical flows, and social equality. The groups with the worst results were made up of countries from Southeast and East Europe, and Ireland and Luxembourg, while the best results were from Western Europe, Nordic countries and Slovenia. In conclusion, environmental transgressions and social deprivations exist in all European countries, but prosperity can be achieved through different socioeconomic models, and a high GDP does not correspond to greater sustainability. This information is valuable for the design of public policies aimed at ensuring that European society lives in the Safe and Just Space.

“Climate coalitions and anti-coalitions: Lobbying across state legislatures in the United States” by Galen Hall et al.

The research article “Climate coalitions and anti-coalitions: Lobbying across state legislatures in the United States” by Galen Hall et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103562>

Abstract

With action on climate change gridlocked in Washington, D.C. over the past three decades, the U.S. states have become arenas for intense policymaking action. Interest groups frequently play pivotal roles in deciding the fate and content of climate mitigation policies in these legislatures. Yet basic questions about their activities still lack systematic, large-scale analysis. We ask: Who are the main actors in state-level climate disputes, and what coalitions emerge as they take positions on specific areas of clean energy policy? Who wins in these contests? We built a novel dataset of interest groups' policy positions encompassing 224,530 lobbying and testimony records on 5449 pieces of legislation in 12 states. These data were supplemented with issue area categorizations for bills and organization type categorizations for interest groups. We find patterns relating the structure of support and opposition for climate policy to party control of the legislature, the amount of fossil fuel production, and the nature of utility regulation in each state. We then characterize the policy preferences of several major industries active in these arenas. The results establish the first landscape of climate policy support and opposition to understand past and future developments in climate policy at the state level, across twelve diverse states. Utilities and pro-environment organizations dominate lobbying and testimony, followed by miscellaneous energy (including renewable energy) organizations, the oil and gas industry, and business associations. The ideological leaning of legislatures explained significant portions of lobbying by key groups: utilities, fossil fuel firms and associations, and environmental advocates.

“Stepping into the just transition journey: The energy transition in petrostates” by Qaraman Hasan et al.

The research article “Stepping into the just transition journey: The energy transition in petrostates” by Qaraman Hasan et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103553>

Abstract

With the transition towards a low carbon economy underway, the notion of ensuring that it is a just transition – one that is fair and equitable – has captured significant attention in recent decades. Although petrostates are a central part of the fossil fuel-based global economy, they have been largely ignored in discussions of a just transition. This article explores what should characterize a just transition in petrostates, as they face challenges that are distinct from those faced by major producers of other fossil fuels such as coal. We argue that the just transition should be understood comprehensively to cover climate, energy, and environmental justice. Economic reforms, particularly investment diversification, institutional reforms, and the inclusion of women, youth populations and indigenous people are practical steps for achieving a just transition within petrostates. The importance of this research is to highlight that petrostates need to begin their just transition journey. There is limited time for this to happen, and taking steps into the just transition journey will have many benefits as identified in this research such as, socio-economic, impact on public health and an increase in inward-investments. The research involves utilizing the energy justice framework and assessing the five energy justice principles: procedural, distributive, restorative, recognition and cosmopolitan. In order to assess these we utilize data from the United Nations and World Bank to explore the key issues as asset diversification, employment and recognition issues. Finally, a just transition pathway is presented for petrostates to follow on the basis of the results.

“Toward a just circular economy: conceptualizing environmental labor and gender justice in circularity studies” by Mario Pansera et al.

The research article “Toward a just circular economy: conceptualizing environmental labor and gender justice in circularity studies” by Mario Pansera et al. has been published in *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2024.2338592>

Abstract

Over the past decade, the concept of circular economy (CE) has gained political traction as a potential solution to economy-environment tradeoffs. However, critical social scientists have raised concerns that CE may not address the root causes or consequences of environmental degradation, thus remaining ineffective. Concurring with this critique, this article highlights three constituent elements of the linear economy that remain unaddressed in CE frameworks: environmental, labor, and gender inequalities. Building upon scholarship from environmental justice, environmental labor studies, and feminist ecological economics, we elaborate a conceptual framework to interrogate the existing literature. Our analysis shows that current CE models 1) are mainly concerned with return on capital investment and sustained growth of gross domestic product (GDP) rather than with redressing the North/South inequalities embedded in the linear economy model; 2) present a limited perspective on labor, with a primary focus on the number of jobs to be created, rather than their quality, or workers' leadership; and

3) overlook gender inequalities and the sexual division of labor, thus reproducing the devaluation of care that lays at the roots of socioecological crises. We conclude by suggesting avenues for elaborating a “just circular economy” framework.

“The relationship between work-family policies and pro-environmental behaviour of single mothers as economically disadvantaged group” by Anne-Marie Parth

The research article “The relationship between work-family policies and pro-environmental behaviour of single mothers as economically disadvantaged group” by Anne-Marie Parth has been published in *Environmental Sociology*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2024.2353754>

Abstract

Single mothers are among the group with the highest risks of poverty. At the same time, pro-environmental behaviour research introduced the ‘motherhood effect’, theorising that the carer role of mothers makes them more likely to engage in pro-environmental behaviour (PEB). Considering that PEB is often expensive, the expectation is that economic insecurities make single mothers hardly able to choose for PEB. In this article, I theorise and test the ability of work-family policies to moderate the relationship by giving the otherwise lacking resources. Estimating multilevel models based on survey data from the International Social Survey Programme (2010) and the OECD Family Database for 21 OECD country years, I find that generous spending on early childhood education and care increases the likelihood for PEB among single but not among partnered mothers. The paper contributes to the environment-welfare nexus by demonstrating the need for intersectoral and inclusive policy approaches.

“(Dis)comfortably numb in energy transitions: Gauging residential hard-to-reach energy users in the European Union” by Miguel Macias Sequeira et al.

The research article “(Dis)comfortably numb in energy transitions: Gauging residential hard-to-reach energy users in the European Union” by Miguel Macias Sequeira et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103612>

Abstract

Hard-to-reach energy users – those who are difficult to reach, underserved, or hard to engage or motivate – are a vital concern for just energy transitions. Previous studies in the Global North have suggested three major residential groups, namely vulnerable households, high-income households, and tenants and landlords, for which one-size-fits-all policies have proven largely unsuccessful. Still, more research is needed to identify hard-to-reach groups and to understand households' decision-making processes. In this context, we review the literature to systematise a theoretical framework, proposing thirteen profiles for vulnerable households (low-income, low education, rural, multi-family, elderly, young, single parents, migrants, unemployed, ill-health and disabilities, ethnic minorities and indigenous groups, homeless and informal settlements, travellers and nomadic communities), two for high-income households (high-income, sumptuous spenders), and two for tenants and landlords (tenants, landlords). We select indicators to gauge these audiences in the European Union. Results suggest that a substantial share of households may be hard-to-reach, with several profiles (e.g., low-income, tenants) individually accounting for 30 % of the population. Relevant variations are found across Member States. Furthermore, a significant population share intersects at least two profiles, compounding the barriers to their engagement. These households require targeted and tailored policies and interventions to address their needs, which are broadly discussed. The hard-to-reach concept can be useful to inform policymakers and practitioners. Data gaps emerge for marginalised and wealthy groups. Heterogeneity and intersectionality add further complexity. Future research can fill these gaps while taking on multi-scalar, plural, and inclusive approaches to identify and engage hard-to-reach households.

“Sustainable Welfare: Social Protection in Times of Ecological Crisis” by Matteo Mandelli et al.

The research article “Sustainable Welfare: Social Protection in Times of Ecological Crisis” by Matteo Mandelli et al. has been published in the *Green European Journal*.

Link: <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/sustainable-welfare-social-protection-in-times-of-ecological-crisis/>

Abstract

Europe's welfare states face unprecedented challenges from the ecological crisis and its social fallout. Can sustainable welfare deliver the EU's needed ecological transformation in a socially just way?

“Time to Adapt” by Philippa Nuttall

The research article “Time to Adapt” by Philippa Nuttall has been published in the *Green European Journal*.

Link: <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/time-to-adapt/>

Abstract

Climate-related extremes are causing countries billions of euros in damage each year, and the more temperatures rise, the greater the costs will be. The EU has prompted its member states to prioritise climate adaptation, but progress has been slow, and European approaches still lack consistency. Community-led but coordinated adaptation strategies are imperative not just for the economy, but also for the health and security of EU citizens.

“Evaluating the relationship between income inequality, renewable energy and energy poverty in the V4 countries” by Mihaela Simionescu and Javier Cifuentes-Faura

The research article “Evaluating the relationship between income inequality, renewable energy and energy poverty in the V4 countries” by Mihaela Simionescu and Javier Cifuentes-Faura has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103640>

Abstract

The European Union has prioritized addressing energy poverty, as outlined in the “Clean Energy for all Europeans Package”. The recent international context dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia war in Ukraine, have exacerbated this issue because of the substantial energy prices growth. Since eradicating energy poverty necessitates long-term policy implementation, the primary objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of income inequality and other economic and social factors (output per capita, renewable energy use) on energy poverty as measured by three indicators (total utility bill arrears, utility bill arrears for households with dependent children, population unable to maintain adequate). The findings based on mean group estimators for the V4 (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia) countries from 2005 to 2022 suggest that income inequality, proxied by the Gini index, exacerbates energy poverty. However, sustainable economic growth has the potential to alleviate energy poverty. Policy recommendations include reducing income inequality, reforming renewable energy policies, to encourage the development of renewable energy sector and green industries.

“Enough pain, cold, and illness! Social movements in response to energy poverty in Europe” by Ana Stojilovska et al.

The research article “Enough pain, cold, and illness! Social movements in response to energy poverty in Europe” by Ana Stojilovska et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103627>

Abstract

Energy affordability challenges are increasingly generating collective dissatisfaction in Europe, but also collective solutions. We study the experiences of three social movements of relevance to energy poverty across Europe (in North Macedonia, Poland, and Spain) that have pushed for or proposed legislation acts in parliaments to promote new governance models prioritizing the needs of energy-poor households. These movements reflect the demands for political representation of energy-vulnerable groups in each country, advocating for policies addressing structural inequalities and highlighting the universal right to essential services. In contrast to the neoliberal energy agenda which favors market-based approaches to tackle energy poverty, social movements demonstrate that those affected by energy poverty and marginalized within the dominant energy paradigm can effectively expose injustices and underlying political economy mechanisms contributing to this issue. In the current EU context where neoliberal policies are suggested for a more inclusive energy transition within the existing

energy market framework, we argue that collective but constructive discontent manifested by social movements may offer a more effective pathway towards achieving a just energy transition.

“From deserving to denied: Exploring the social construction of energy excluded citizens” by Anaïs Varo

The research article “From deserving to denied: Exploring the social construction of energy excluded citizens” by Anaïs Varo has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103544>

Abstract

This research critically examines the process of constructing the policy problem of energy exclusion in the Spanish context. Focusing on three case studies of peripheral neighborhoods experiencing extreme energy deprivation, the study adopts a deservingness theory framework to deconstruct the narratives that frame the policy problem and consequently shape policy responses. Using qualitative methods, including qualitative interviews, articles, and policy documents, the research examines the impact of these framings on policy responses to energy exclusion. By analyzing the process of policy problem construction, we explore the fluid boundaries between ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ individuals and communities, thereby challenging established narratives in energy support policies. Our findings highlight the ambiguous nature of deservingness, revealing the complex interplay between neighborhood dynamics, policy interventions, and power actors. The article emphasizes the need for a broader understanding of energy deprivation that goes beyond techno-economic perspectives to include spatial and infrastructural factors.

“Growth dependency in the welfare state – An analysis of drivers in the UK's adult social care sector and proposals for change” by Christine Corlet Walker et al.

The research article “Growth dependency in the welfare state – An analysis of drivers in the UK's adult social care sector and proposals for change” by Walker, C. C. et al. has been published in *Ecological Economics*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2024.108159>

Abstract

Modern economies rely on economic growth for stability and prosperity. Further, periods of stagnation and recession are currently associated with poor health and wellbeing outcomes for citizens. However, 50 years of research indicates that this state of dependency is ecologically unsustainable. It is therefore critical that we better understand the growth dependency of our economies and welfare systems, and how to overcome it. In this paper we first offer a working definition of growth dependency, clarifying its core dimensions. Next, taking the UK's adult social care sector as a case study, we argue that growth dependencies emerge in the welfare state as a result of three distinct dynamics: 1) growth in manifest needs; 2) labour productivity growth; 3) the pursuit of economic rents. Lastly, we propose a novel, sector-led framework for identifying, analysing and transforming growth dependencies. We make the case that the growth dependency of the welfare state is not inevitable, but is instead the product of specific social, economic and structural factors that can be disrupted and transformed, if we can find the political will to do so.

“Are pensions “growth-dependent”?” by Laua Wiman

The research article “Are pensions “growth-dependent”?” by Laua Wiman has been published by *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2024.2372874>

Abstract

Limits to growth raise concerns about “growth dependencies” or adverse social effects that follow if the economy does not grow. The first point of this article is that identifying pensions as growth-dependent is more conditional than has so far been recognized. It requires operationalizing growth dependence, making complete economic assumptions, and scoping the issue to specific pension functions. The second point is to take those steps and, with exploratory scenarios, show how growth dependence is and is not evident under all ideal-type pension-financing principles. All plans would be growth-dependent if we interpret the end of growth as lower interest rates and earnings development but higher inflation than under growth assumptions. However, no plan shows

growth dependence under all assumptions. I also discuss post-growth pensions, arguing that funded pensions entail vulnerability and distributional issues that make them problematic in a non-growing system. Unfunded financing combined with comprehensive social and economic policies could work as a long-term approach. Growth dependence is an important research area. However, without specification, the concept may blur the conditionalities that generate and alleviate pension vulnerabilities.

Policy Publications

„A strategic phase-out of Colombia’s diesel subsidy to support the energy transition” by Mauricio Böhl Gutierrez et al.

The policy brief „A strategic phase-out of Colombia’s diesel subsidy to support the energy transition” by Mauricio Böhl Gutierrez et al. has been published by the *German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23661/ipb20.2024.v2.0>

Abstract

This policy brief addresses the critical issue of phasing out diesel subsidies in Colombia and underscores the urgent need for coordinated action and strategic planning. The Colombian government views the sub-sidy phase-out as part of its energy transition strategy, proposing investments in carbon-neutral technologies as a replacement. However, the transport sector – the main consumer of diesel – largely considers these plans inadequate and is sceptical about their feasibility. Subsidies for diesel and gasoline, stemming from the Fuel Price Stabilisation Fund (FEPC), burden the Colombian budget with a significant deficit and threaten Colombia’s fiscal sustainability. In 2022, subsidies represented 2.5 per cent of the national gross domestic product (GDP). A failed subsidy phase-out could undermine the country’s energy transition efforts, potentially leading to national strikes by the transport sector and eroding trust in the government’s transformation plan. The brief examines the hurdles for the diesel subsidy phase-out process, with a particular focus on the necessary reforms within the transport sector, scepticism about the government’s energy transition plans and the potential negative effects for state-owned enterprise Ecopetrol. Drawing from these insights, the policy brief distils policy recommendations for the short and medium term. In the concluding remarks, it stresses that a failed subsidy phase-out could jeopardise broader energy transition efforts.

“Mapping justice in national climate action: a global overview of just transition policies” by Tiffanie Chan et al.

The policy brief “Mapping justice in national climate action: a global overview of just transition policies” by Tiffanie Chan et al. has been published by the Just Transition FinanceLab.

Link: <https://justtransitionfinance.org/publication/mapping-justice-in-national-climate-action-a-global-overview-of-just-transition-policies/>

Abstract

This report is an initial exploratory study of global trends in just transition policies and laws. It empirically reviews 159 policies and laws across 61 countries and the European Union that are available from the Climate Change Laws of the World database, and seeks to map which countries are integrating ideas associated with the just transition into domestic climate policy, and how. The report focuses on economy-wide and energy policies and provides recommendations to national policymakers and finance actors

“The Future of the EU’s Energy Project. Climate dimension” by Benjamin Denis et al.

The political brief “The Future of the EU’s Energy Project. Climate dimension” by Benjamin Denis et al. has been published by *Knowledge Communities*.

Link: https://gef.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Political-Brief_Climate_Dimension_Energy.pdf

Abstract

This Political Brief considers the climate and sustainability dimension of the EU’s energy project. It identifies a number of proposals to close the current policy gaps. Key areas of focus are monitoring and long-term strategic planning of both targets and infrastructure, renewed European solidarity and the need to look outside of the EU borders. It is the third of four briefs exploring the various dimensions of the EU’s energy project, all based on

expert input and discussions among the GEF Knowledge Communities. The other three deal with energy security, social aspects and democracy.

“The Future of the EU’s Energy Project. Democratic dimension” by Benjamin Denis et al.

The political brief “The Future of the EU’s Energy Project. Democratic dimension” by Benjamin Denis et al. has been published by *Knowledge Communities*.

Link: https://gef.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Political-Brief_Democratic_Dimension_Energy.pdf

Abstract

This Political Brief considers the democratic dimension of the EU’s energy project. It looks at the links between political systems, energy sources and technological systems, as well as the democratic challenges and opportunities created by the need to drastically change our energy production and patterns of consumption. To move forward, we propose a framework based on various governance levels at which the democratic dimension of energy can be implemented and strengthened. It is the last of four briefs exploring the various dimensions of the EU’s energy project, all based on expert input and discussions among the GEF Knowledge Communities. The other three deal with energy security, the social dimension, and climate and sustainability.

“Feminist Climate Justice Report” by Fiona Dukelow et al.

The “Feminist Climate Justice Report” by Fiona Dukelow et al. has been published by the *National Women’s Council of Ireland*.

Link: https://www.nwci.ie/learn/publication/feminist_climate_justice_report

Abstract

This report provides a baseline review of Irish environmental and climate policy for the National Women’s Council (NWC) and Community Work Ireland (CWI) Feminist Communities for Climate Justice project (FCCJ) from the perspective of intersectional feminist climate justice

“Regions and cities shaping the European Green Deal 2.0” by the European Committee of the Regions

The policy report “Regions and cities shaping the European Green Deal 2.0” has been published by the *European Committee of the Regions*.

Link: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/64f17ca7-1d63-11ef-a251-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Abstract

From the beginning of its current term of office (2019-2024), the European Commission has been fully committed to transforming the EU into a clean, resource-efficient and competitive economy, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. This ambition has been translated into the European Green Deal, launched in 2019, and into a variety of EU climate and environmental policies. The European Green Deal’s ultimate objective is to make the EU climate neutral by 2050. It represents an unprecedented effort to integrate systemic sustainability challenges into EU policies. It is forging a path for the EU to successfully implement the transition to a more resilient, more prosperous, strategically independent, environmentally conscious and competitive European economy for the current generations and those to come. However, while the European Green Deal has defined a robust framework with a number of ambitious objectives to guide the EU’s sustainability transition, various international crises occurring since its introduction have demonstrated the need for the European Green Deal to be more flexible and more ready to respond to challenges in an evolving context. Local and regional authorities emerge as pivotal players in this transformative journey, reaping numerous benefits from implementation of the European Green Deal and playing a key role in engaging the public and promoting behavioural changes, all the while increasingly facing climate, environmental and geopolitical risks. With Europe being the fastest-warming continent in the world, climate and environmental crises risk deepening existing inequalities in terms of casualties among populations, damage to critical infrastructure and disruption to agricultural production, industrial clusters, local tourism economies and natural ecosystems

“Future-proofing’ the transition to sustainability: focus on policy assumptions and foresight” by the European Environment Agency

The policy brief “Future-proofing’ the transition to sustainability: focus on policy assumptions and foresight” has been published by the European Environment Agency.

Link: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/future-proofing-the-transition-to-sustainability>

Abstract

To become sustainable, Europe must change some of the ways people live, work, produce and consume. Using policy to achieve such complex and large-scale transformations is not easy. This briefing explores how to future-proof sustainability policies and avoid blind spots through a foresight-based framework, which includes several participatory exercises involving a multidisciplinary group of experts. Assessing future risks and their potential impacts can identify mitigation measures and safeguard strategies to encourage the transition to sustainability and feed future policy.

“A European Agenda to Navigate Uncertain Times” edited by Rutger Hoekstra

The policy publication “A European Agenda to Navigate Uncertain Times” edited by Rutger Hoekstra has been written by the Horizon Europe “Beyond-GDP” consortia SPES/ToBe/WISE Horizons/WISER/MERGE.

Link: <https://mergeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/A-European-Agenda-To-Navigate-Uncertain-Times.pdf>

“A Blueprint for a Social and Green Deal” by Éloi Laurent et al.

The policy brief “A Blueprint for a Social and Green Deal” by Éloi Laurent et al. has been published by *Philippe Lamberts/TheGreens*.

Link: <https://philippelamberts.eu/posts/1053-a-blueprint-for-a-social-and-green-deal-new-policy-brief>

Abstract

In the upcoming mandate, the EU needs to build concrete pathways for a social-ecological strategy to deliver a fair transition to a a decarbonised economy. It not just about good indicators and policies. It is about improving people’s lives. This is what the blueprint for a social transformation of the Green Deal sketched by Éloi Laurent, Julia Steinberger, Yamina Saheb and François Denuit is about.

“Towards a European Green Industrial Deal” by Sara Matthieu et al.

The policy brief “Towards a European Green Industrial Deal” by Sara Matthieu et al. has been published by *TheGreens/EFA*.

Link: <https://assets.nationbuilder.com/groen/pages/18889/attachments/original/1714642824/Towards-a-European-Green-Industrial-Deal.pdf?1714642824>

Abstract

Industrial policy has moved to the top of the European political agenda and the Greens in the European Parliament, support this development. For many years the Greens have argued to make green industrial policy a top priority, as it is both an indispensable tool and an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the EU's resilience, create new jobs, and help us meet our climate and environmental targets.

Europe has to build a robust foundation to deal with geopolitical shocks, swiftly deal with the climate and pollution crisis and ensure economic prosperity now and in the future.

This requires not less, but more European action. Therefore, a Green Industrial Deal should absolutely take center stage in the upcoming mandate of the European Parliament and Commission.

The action plan presented today calls for robust strategic choices, more European coordination and executive power, common European investments in infrastructure and decarbonisation, stronger market policies for green and circular products and a strengthening of the social agenda. These are the key elements of a Green industrial Deal.

“A policy cycle 2.0 for the European Commission” by Christiny Miller et al.

The policy brief “A policy cycle 2.0 for the European Commission” by Christiny Miller et al. has been published by the *ZOE institute for future-fit economies*.

Link: <https://zoe-institut.de/en/publication/policy-cycle-2-0-for-the-european-commission/>

Abstract

Complexity and uncertainty have become the context of policymaking. It is time to rethink the EU policy cycle to ensure it is future-fit to achieve long-term cross-cutting goals while reacting quickly to the challenges of a world in polycrisis.

Following co-creative policy labs with policymakers from the European Commission, several EU member states and EU consultative bodies, this publication takes stock of the challenges and solutions discussed and reflects on several additions and adjustments to the policy cycle in regular and in crisis environments.

“Advancing climate, environmental and social goals through public procurement” by Oscar Planells et al.

The policy report “Advancing climate, environmental and social goals through public procurement” by Oscar Planells et al. has been published by *RREUSE*.

Link: <https://rreuse.org/advancing-climate-environmental-and-social-goals-through-public-procurement/>

Abstract

The publication, made possible thanks to the European Climate Foundation support, covers socially responsible and green public procurement best practices across Europe focusing on social enterprises active in reuse-oriented activities.

As a lack of data about the public procurement use for social and environmental objectives runs rampant and social economy enterprises find systemic obstacles to accessing such opportunities, the research report presents 9 case studies demonstrating the public procurement potential to achieve policy goals across key just transition sectors: construction and demolition, textiles, furniture, green waste, electrical appliances and paint. Across France, Ireland, the UK (Scotland), Spain, Croatia, Finland, and Austria, the RREUSE report showcases concrete experiences from social economy actors and public authorities as well as valuable data on how public procurement can generate social, environmental, and economic impact. The publication also presents policy recommendations to better capitalise on the opportunities available under the EU Public Procurement Directive to integrate social and environmental considerations in public purchases and achieve a circular economy that puts people and reuse first.

The research report was presented at a public conference on 18 April in Brussels, featuring the participation of social economy actors, contracting authorities and partners as well as European Commission, OECD, and ECF representatives.

“A Positive Narrative for a Just Transition. An approach to a more people-centered communication” by Inanna Tribukait and Kevin Le Merle

The Policy Study “A Positive Narrative for a Just Transition. An approach to a more people-centered communication” by Inanna Tribukait and Kevin Le Merle has been published by *FEPS*.

Link: <https://feps-europe.eu/publication/a-positive-narrative-for-a-just-transition/>

Abstract

This policy study develops the basis for a convincing narrative on the Just Transition. We first identify some of the obstacles that currently stand in the way of effective climate communication, making specific mention of some ideas about climate psychology, and analyse a number of narratives that actively jeopardise climate action. These include denialist, delayerist and narratives of doom. Following that, we provide an example of how a different, justice-based narrative can be created, based on concrete examples of effective climate action across communities in the EU. Finally, we give recommendations that can be used to adopt and deliver positive climate narratives more broadly.

We recommend a focus on social justice when thinking about climate action, so it accounts for socio-economic disparities, racism, and gender inequalities. Ignoring these aspects can lead to socially unjust outcomes, such as “renovictions” and green gentrification.

It is crucial to develop narratives that highlight the immediate impacts of the climate crisis on everyday life, linking these effects to broader social injustices. This approach helps to create more relatable and urgent narratives, countering the trend of viewing climate action as beneficial only in the long term.

“A European clean growth mindset” by Gernot Wagner

The Policy Brief “A European clean growth mindset” by Gernot Wagner has been published by *FEPS*.

Link: <https://feps-europe.eu/publication/a-european-clean-growth-mindset/>

Abstract

“Clean growth” versus “degrowth” is a highly contentious political debate. It ought not to be. The seeming clash of worldviews is more about rhetoric than actual policy. First and foremost, it is a distraction from focusing on the actual policies needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions – quickly – and doing so while keeping competing priorities in mind.

Making the green transition work for people and for the planet is key to achieving sustainable emissions cuts without stirring political resentment and policy retrenchment. Doing so means finding a balance between energy efficiency measures on the one hand, and research, development, and the rapid deployment of new, cleaner technologies on the other – between demand-side policies that guide behaviour and energy use in the right direction, and the clean (re)industrialisation of Europe and the world.

This mirrors a pledge made by 118 governments at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28, to both double the annual rate of energy efficiency improvements and to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030. In combination with the explicit identification of fossil fuels as the cause of massive environmental degradation, this means that some polluting sectors and industries will necessarily shrink, while others will thrive. It also means that policies must focus on guiding the transition and channeling market forces in the right direction, towards a high-efficiency, low-carbon economy and world.

The global clean energy race is on. Europe must take advantage of its policy environment and structural advantages, unique among advanced economies, while minimising some of the potential disadvantages. This requires finding the right balance between decarbonising Europe’s economy domestically and leading the rest of the world to do so. By balancing the demands of domestic consumers, producers, and citizens with their global counterparts, while helping stabilise the global climate in the process, Europe can square the circle of green growth.

“A European Single Market for the Future. Towards a new social and environmental pact” by Taube Van Melkebeke

The policy brief “A European Single Market for the Future. Towards a new social and environmental pact” by Taube Van Melkebeke has been published by *Knowledge Communities*.

Link: <https://gef.eu/publication/single-market/>

Abstract

This Political Brief zooms into the future of the EU’s Single Market, a pivotal instrument to enable and promote the environmental and social transition, while bolstering the EU’s economic resilience.

To achieve this potential, the authors argue we need a radical shift in focus. The political brief therefore suggests a new social and environmental pact for the Single Market 2.0., based on systemic quality: encompassing quality of product, of work and of life. This pact can bring together employers interested in quality products, workers and trade unions championing dignified labour conditions and NGOs and citizens advocating for a better quality of life and sustainable climate practices.

To further concretise the political ideas put forward, the brief finally proposes piloting the new social and environmental pact in three policy areas: circular economy, green industrial policy and public procurement.

“Circular jobs can boost a just transition in Europe” by Morgane Veillet Lavallée and Esther Goodwin Brown

The policy brief “Circular jobs can boost a just transition in Europe” by Morgane Veillet Lavallée and Esther Goodwin Brown has been published by the *Circle Economy Foundation and Deloitte*.

Link: <https://www.circle-economy.com/resources/circular-jobs-can-boost-a-just-transition-in-europe>

Abstract

Drawing on the findings of the Circularity Gap Report 2024, this briefing outlines the key policy measures for EU Member States and Members of European Parliament (MEPs) to advance the circular economy agenda and boost job opportunities. This includes pushing for the introduction of circular economy interventions as an enabler of the just, green transition, and expanding the scope and reach of the Just Transition Fund. It also calls on Member States to develop tailored policies and programs to support workers.

“2024 Report: State of EU progress to climate neutrality” by Eike Karola Velten et al.

The report “2024 Report: State of EU progress to climate neutrality” by Eike Karola Velten et al. has been published by the European Climate Neutrality Observatory.

Link: <https://climateobservatory.eu/report/2024-report-state-eu-progress-climate-neutrality>

Books:

“Deep transformations. A theory of degrowth” by Hubert Buch-Hanse et al.

The book “Deep transformations. A theory of degrowth” by Hubert Buch-Hanse et al. has been published by Manchester University Press.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7765/9781526173287>

Abstract

As a research field, social movement and political project, degrowth is a multifaceted phenomenon. It brings together a range of practices including alternative forms of living and transformative initiatives in civil society, business and the state. Yet no comprehensive theory of degrowth transformations has so far been developed. Deep Transformations fills this gap. It develops a theory of degrowth transformations drawing on insights from multiple fields of knowledge, such as political economy, sociology and philosophy. The book offers a holistic perspective that brings into focus transformation processes on various scales and points to various mechanisms that can facilitate degrowth. These include, for instance, eco-social policies, transformative initiatives in business and civil society and alternative modes of being in and relating with the world.

“Eco-Welfare and the Energy Transition” by Lorenzo De Vidovich

The book “Eco-Welfare and the Energy Transition” by Lorenzo De Vidovich has been published by palgrave macmillan.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-55028-7>

Abstract

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the emerging interplay that runs between energy – seen as a basic need and a providential material service from the viewpoint of welfare studies – and eco-welfare, seen as an emerging analytical and policy paradigm that hold together the social crisis on the one hand, and the ecological crisis, on the other hand. At a time of energy transition, the interplay between the theoretical framework of eco-welfare and the topic of energy supply is little explored, and therefore, this book fills a need in the literature by providing a comprehensive framework to navigate this emerging relationship. Such a framework is strengthened by insights on energy poverty and renewable energy communities, identified as cornerstones of the analysis between energy transition and eco-welfare.

“A New Global Deal. Reforming World Governance” edited by Maria João Rodrigues

The book “A New Global Deal. Reforming World Governance” edited by Maria João Rodrigues has been published by FEPS.

Link: <https://feps-europe.eu/publication/a-new-global-deal/>

Abstract

Pandemics, climate disasters, financial crises, food insecurity, poverty, digital transformation and wars are just a few of the complex global challenges that societies must face up to. And yet the world governance systems that are currently in place are not capable of dealing with such challenges.

Moreover, recent years have seen general backsliding and inequality when it comes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by all member states of the United Nations in 2015 under their 2030 Agenda.

World governance structures must be reformed if they are to cope with these global challenges and the complex interactions between them.

Against this background, the book *A New Global Deal: Reforming World Governance* aims to contribute to open dialogue across all continents concerning the priorities of reforming world governance and policies to address current global challenges.

Based on contributions from renowned European progressive experts and policymakers, it makes proposals regarding the reform of the world governance system in crucial policy areas such as climate and environment, social issues, digital transformation, trade and supply chains and industrial policy.

It also tackles the questions of how to reform the global financial architecture and the UN's institutions. Moreover, the book sketches the kind of new global deal that is necessary in order to enable all countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, to deliver new global public goods, and to ensure that all generations are able to improve their life chances.