



University  
of Dundee

## **Just Transition Hub**

# **New Approaches to Just Transition**

**Programme**

**2021 Annual International Symposium**

**25 June 2021**

**9:30 – 17:00 BST**

**Just Transition Hub, Institute for Social Sciences Research, University of Dundee**

**Directors**

**Raphael Heffron**

**Sufyan Droubi**

**Fernando Lannes Fernandes**

**Edzia Carvalho**

**Research Assistants**

**Naiara Correa Nogueira de Souza**

**Ruth Lelei**

**John O'Boyle**

**Sponsored by**



**Institute for Social Sciences  
Research (ISSR)  
University of Dundee**

**Contact**

[sufyan.droubi@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:sufyan.droubi@dundee.ac.uk)

[rheffron@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:rheffron@dundee.ac.uk)

---

**New Approaches to Just Transition**

**2021 Annual International Symposium**

**Venue: Microsoft Teams**

**25 June 2021**

**University of Dundee**

**Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4HN**

**All rights reserved. Abstracts may be subject to further revision and no citation or attribution is permitted without the express written authorization of the respective authors.**

## Welcome to the 2021 Annual International Symposium

This event continues the University of Dundee's work on the Just Transition and also launches a new initiative in the Just Transition Hub. In time, we hope to become a meeting point internally and externally for researchers on the just transition. We aim to foster new collaborations in research, grants and events. The just transition to a low carbon economy is the greatest challenge of our times and we look forward to making an impact on the world with all of you.

### The Just Transition Hub

Institute for Social Science Research  
University of Dundee



**Raphael Heffron**



**Sufyan Droubi**



**Edzia Carvalho**



**Fernando Lannes  
Fernandes**



**Naiara Correa  
Nogueira de Souza**



**Ruth Lelei**



**John O'Boyle**

# New Approaches to Just Transition

## Contents

<b>PROGRAMME</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>KEYNOTE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Researching the Just Transition.....	7
<b>METHODS FOR JUST TRANSITION</b> .....	<b>8</b>
What Lessons can Scholars of the Just Transition learn from Human Rights Measurement? .....	9
Narrative approaches to just transition. ....	10
<b>GLOBAL EXPERIENCES OF JUST TRANSITION POLICIES</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Just transitions in developing countries.....	12
Challenges for a just and sustainable energy transition in Andean economies. ....	13
Latin American contributions to imagining a zero-carbon future.....	14
The role of intermediary groups in energy democracy for a just transition. ....	15
Limits to radical alternatives beyond a Latin American Green New Deal.....	16
A need to decolonize the effort to decarbonize. ....	17
Just a green energy transition of just energy transition. ....	18
<b>TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT A JUST TRANSITION</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Conflict transformation and navigating the just transition.....	20
Just energy transition and energy democracy in dependent societies.....	21
Embedding renewable energy communities as socio-legal institutions: fostering a bottom-up just and democratic energy transition. ....	22
Sustainable Energy Democracy as a new regulatory approach towards a Just Transition. ....	23
The relational ecologies approach as a tool for understanding energy justice. ....	24
Equity considerations for a clean energy transition.....	25
Just transition and food security: contextualizing justice in the food sector. ....	26
<b>CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON JUST TRANSITION</b> .....	<b>27</b>
Just Transition towards the European Green Deal.....	28
Balancing cost, sustainability, and distributional equity for a just transition. ....	29
SDGs as a tool for just transition implementation. ....	30
Intersectionality and just transition: A conceptual and Methodological Exploration. ....	31
Climate change and environmental racism.....	32
Worker voice in just transition - building evidence in place-based climate policy.....	33
Social Protection Schemes for a Just Transition.....	34
<b>ABOUT THE JUST TRANSITION HUB</b> .....	<b>35</b>

# New Approaches to Just Transition

## Programme

25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 9:30 – 17:00 BST

<b>09h30 – 10h30 Welcome and Keynote</b>		<b>Chaired by Raphael Heffron</b>
Welcome: Launch of the Just Transition Hub	<b>Raphael Heffron</b>	University of Dundee, UK
Keynote: Researching the Just Transition	<b>Darren McCauley</b>	Erasmus University Rotterdam, NE
Q&A for keynote		
<b>10h35 – 12h00 Methods for Just Transition</b>		<b>Chaired by Sufyan Droubi</b>
Lessons from human rights measurement	<b>Edzia Carvalho</b>	University of Dundee, UK
Narrative approaches to just transitions	<b>Cecilia Elizondo</b>	University of Manchester, UK
Q&A for methods		
<b>12h30 – 13h45 Global Experiences of Just Transition Policies</b>		<b>Chaired by Fernando L Fernandes</b>
Just transitions in developing countries	<b>Andrzej Blachowicz Peter J Glynn</b>	Climate Strategies, UK Bond University, AU
Challenges for a just and sustainable energy transition in Andean economies	<b>Simón Ladino-Cano</b>	Université Sorbonne <i>Nouvelle - Paris 3</i> , FR
Latin American contributions to imagining a zero-carbon future	<b>Ana Carballo</b>	University of Melbourne, AU
The role of intermediary groups in energy democracy for a Just transition	<b>José Gálvez Contreras</b>	Solar One, The New School for Public Engagement, US
Limits to radical alternatives beyond a Latin American Green New Deal	<b>Mariano Félix Daiana Melón</b>	University of La Plata, AR
A need to decolonize the effort to decarbonize	<b>Katharine McGowan Nino Antadze</b>	Mount Royal University, CA University of Prince Edward Island, CA
Just a green energy transition of just energy transition	<b>Matheus G. Leichtweis Raiana S. Soares</b>	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, BR Universidade de São Paulo, BR
<b>13h50 – 15h15 Tools to Implement a Just Transition</b>		<b>Chaired by Edzia Carvalho</b>
Conflict transformation and navigating the just transition	<b>John Barry</b>	Queen's University Belfast, UK
Just energy transition and energy democracy in dependent societies	<b>Daniel Sandoval-Cervantes</b>	Metropolitan Autonomous University, MX
Embedding renewable energy communities as socio-legal institutions: fostering a bottom-up just and democratic energy transition	<b>Michiel A. Heldeweg Séverine Saintier</b>	University of Twente, NE University of Exeter, UK
Sustainable Energy Democracy as a new regulatory approach towards a Just Transition	<b>Leonie Reins</b>	University of Tilburg, NE
The relational ecologies approach as a tool for understanding energy justice	<b>Krisjanis Rudus</b>	Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NO
Equity considerations for a clean energy transition	<b>Morgan Scott</b>	The Electric Power Research Institute, US
Just transition and food security: contextualizing justice in the food sector	<b>Cecilia Elizondo</b>	University of Manchester, UK
<b>15h20 – 16h35 Critical perspectives on Just Transition</b>		<b>Chaired by Sufyan El Droubi</b>
Just Transition Towards the European Green Deal	<b>Odysseas Christou</b>	University of Nicosia, CY
Balancing cost, sustainability, and distributional equity for a just transition	<b>Teagan Goforth Destenie Nock</b>	Carnegie Mellon University, US
SDGs as a tool for just transition implementation	<b>Alexandra Harrington Magdalena Stryja</b>	Albany Law School, US University of Silesia Faculty of Law, PL
Intersectionality and just transition: A conceptual and Methodological Exploration	<b>Gül Özerol</b>	University of Twente, NE
Climate change and environmental racism	<b>Jailson Silva</b>	Uniperferias, BR
Worker voice in just transition - building evidence in place-based climate policy	<b>Jo Cutter Vera Trappmann Ursula Balderson Andrew Sudmant</b>	University of Leeds, UK
Social Protection Schemes for a Just Transition	<b>Zafari Khurshid</b>	International Labour Organization, RU
<b>16h35 – 16h45 Closing</b>		<b>Sufyan Droubi</b>

# New Approaches to Just Transition

**Keynote**  
**Biography**

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Researching the Just Transition.

Darren McCauley, Erasmus University Rotterdam, NE

[mccauley@essb.eur.nl](mailto:mccauley@essb.eur.nl)

**Darren McCauley**, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Darren McCauley is Chair in the Management of International Social Challenges (MISoC) at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Darren McCauley specialises in interdisciplinary approaches towards climate and energy issues designed to achieve a global just transition away from fossil fuels. His research explores the interplay between security, equity and sustainability in policies and communities accross the world, with a special interest in the Arctic, Sub Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. He uses both qualitative and quantitative methods, with interests in Q methodology, participatory GIS mapping and choice experiments. He held his Senior Lectureship at the University of St. Andrews where he led the university's sustainability institute and Arctic Research Centre. He notably held lectureships at Stirling, Queens and Trinity College Dublin. Prof. McCauley also holds visiting professorships at several institutions and many external commissions of trust (editorial and editorships, peer review colleges, external boards). Hs is notably the leader for the University strategic pillar on Global Social Challenges.

---

# **New Approaches to Just Transition**

## **Methods for Just Transition** **Abstracts and Biographies**



# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## What Lessons can Scholars of the Just Transition learn from Human Rights Measurement?

Edzia Carvalho. University of Dundee, UK

[e.carvalho@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:e.carvalho@dundee.ac.uk)

**Abstract.** Human rights measures have been around for over fifty years and have multiplied in number, complexity, and use. There has been quite a lot of critical evaluation of the measures themselves but also of the process of measuring a concept that is complex, dynamic, and contentious. This presentation summarises these ideas so that scholars who work on similar concepts such as just transition, can reflect on the measures and measurement processes they are involved in creating or using within academia and without. The presentation focuses on five questions framed under two issues: the 'moment of measurement' and the purpose of measurement. The challenges and opportunities available in relation to each of these issues will be discussed to shine light on the intricate link between methodological issues, policy impacts, and real world outcomes.

**Edzia Carvalho** is a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Dundee. Her research interests revolve around three areas -- human rights, democratic consolidation, and political behaviour, focussing on India and the UK. Her work on human rights has examined issues related to human rights measurement and protection. Along with Prof. Todd Landman (University of Nottingham), she co-authored *Measuring Human Rights* (Routledge, 2010), which examines the empirical concept of human rights and the strengths and pitfalls in measuring this concept. She has also collaborated with Prof. Landman on the fourth edition of his textbook *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics* (Routledge, 2016). Along with Dr. Kristi Winters (GESIS, Cologne) and Dr. Thom Oliver (UWE Bristol), she has been part of the Qualitative Election Study of Britain (QESB), which is the world's first longitudinal qualitative election study. The project has run rounds of focus groups during the 2005, 2010, 2015, 2017, and 2019 UK General Elections, the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum, and interviews after the 2016 EU Referendum. She has published in *Parliamentary Affairs* and *The International Journal of Children's Rights*. She has also co-authored human rights reports for FIDH, and the Scottish Government. Dr. Carvalho has a PhD in Government (University of Essex) on the politics of public health expenditure in India and an MA in Human Rights (University of Essex).

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Narrative approaches to just transition.**

Cecilia Elizondo. University of Manchester, UK

[C.Flores.Elizondo@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:C.Flores.Elizondo@mmu.ac.uk)

**Abstract.** Narratives are crucial for the implementation of just transition. The effectiveness of just transition depends to an extent on society's understanding about their role in, and the consequences of, such transition. The presentation uses narratives as a methodological tool to explore the construction and implementation of the concept of just transition. Drawing on Polletta et al, the presentation scrutinises the elements of narratives – norms of narrative's content, norms of narrative's use and norms of narrative's evaluation – to assess the concept of just transition. The aim is two-fold: to better understand the inherent narratives of the conceptual framework; and ultimately, their interplay in the implementation of just transition.

**Cecilia Elizondo**, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. Cecilia is a Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University. Previously, she held Research Associate positions at the University of Manchester in three funded research projects. She has taught at the University of Manchester, the China-EU School of Law and the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. She holds a PhD in Law and an LLM in International Business Law from the University of Manchester and an LLB from the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (Mexico). Her research has been cited in policy briefings produced for the UK parliament and she was invited to discuss food and farming policy to a workshop organised by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Having qualified as a lawyer in Mexico (2001), she practised in various law firms before entering into academia. Cecilia is co-director of the International Investments and Sustainable Development in Latin America Network and contributes as trade development editor for the Manchester Journal of International Economic Law.

---

# **New Approaches to Just Transition**

## **Global Experiences of Just Transition Policies** **Abstracts and Biographies**

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Just transitions in developing countries.

Andrzej Blachowicz. Climate Strategies, UK

[andrzej.blachowicz@climatestrategies.org](mailto:andrzej.blachowicz@climatestrategies.org)

Peter J Glynn. Bond University, AU

[pglynn@bond.edu.au](mailto:pglynn@bond.edu.au)

**Abstract.** The Project objective is to address the urgent need to introduce Just Transition (JT) strategies in the developing and least developed country context aligning increased Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). The research established the approaches to the introduction of JT by governments needed to be context and situation specific. To address this finding, specific purpose methodologies were developed for each context to ensure and government and stakeholder engagements. Importantly it is established that:

- In-country research partners provide knowledge and understanding of the unique circumstances and nuances that guide policy develop in their country;
- The awareness and meaning of just transition across the three countries varied considerably. Colombia is the only country that explicitly includes just transition in its revised NDC, submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2020. Within the Indonesian government only one bureau in a specific ministry was familiar with the concept of just transition. This was due to their involvement in international events where just transition principles have been explored. In Ghana, there was Awareness of the term – just transition – but much like the Indonesian context just transition had not been explored or adapted by government officials to suit the country context;
- Methods for stakeholder engagement were tailored to each context to engage different actors in different contexts. This stage of the project found that more informal methods of engagement proved to be the most successful;
- The in-country partners each developed their own definition of just transition, to reflect the county context in order to effectively communicate and explain the benefits of employing just transition strategies in their county;
- To further stimulate discussion and knowledge sharing with stakeholders, the Indonesian research partners began each engagement with a presentation contextualizing just transition;
- One of the biggest challenges in developing just transition strategies in developing countries is the high incidence of the informal economy – which look different in different contexts. In the next stage of the project engagement strategies will be further developed in these countries;
- The next stage will also see the addition of 6 new countries that are diverse and represent different contexts.

**Andrzej Blachowicz**, Climate Strategies, UK. Andrzej is Managing Director of Climate Strategies, an international, not-for-profit research network that works at the science-policy interface, advancing climate policy through meaningful interactions between decision-makers and researchers across Europe and internationally. Most impactful initiatives convened during Andrzej's time include research and dialogue on global coal, oil & gas transitions; implementing Just Transitions in developing countries; Global Climate Policy Conferences; industrial innovation; making trade more climate friendly; shifting climate policy frontier in CEE region in transport and buildings. Prior to Climate Strategies, Andrzej served as a Cabinet member and adviser on climate change to the Polish Minister of Environment during the Polish EU Presidency; was a senior member of various Polish delegations in the UNFCCC.

**Peter J Glynn**, Bond University, Australia. Glynn is an honorary research fellow at Bond University and has provided research support for the Climate Strategies project reported here. His research interests are climate change policy, the role of civil society and the private sector perspective.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Challenges for a just and sustainable energy transition in Andean economies.

Simón Ladino-Cano. Université Sorbonne Nouvelle- Paris 3, FR

[simon.ladino-cano@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr](mailto:simon.ladino-cano@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr)

**Abstract.** It is often repeated that Latin America has the cleanest energy matrix in the world due to the significant share of hydropower in several South American countries. Yet, especially since the Paris Agreement proclamation, the region has followed the trend of transitioning towards a global low-carbon economy. In this context, some countries have been spotlighted at the international level for their mitigation commitments and decarbonization plans. This is the case with Colombia and Chile, the main Andean economies. Mainly through the massive incorporation of non-conventional renewable energies (NCRE) into the grid, they have been building regional leadership regarding the energy transition. However, when looking at the territorial trajectory of their energy-producing regions, the tensions emerging from the transformation processes of national energy systems become notorious. From a geographical political economy perspective, this presentation focuses on comparing two regional case studies: on the one hand, the department of La Guajira in Colombia, where the construction of 17 wind parks is underway; on the other hand, the region of Antofagasta in Chile, where 26 NCRE large-scale projects are under construction (among which the first CSP plant in Latin America stands out). Although still dominated by thermal coal, the energy landscape in both regions is rapidly transforming. By comparing these new energy spaces, three challenges are discussed. First, the environmental challenge of decarbonizing as a way to solve socio-environmental conflicts associated with mining extractivism and thermal generation. Second, the economic challenge of replacing coal revenues and jobs with new value chains around NCRE sources. Third, the social challenge of transcending the fossil fuel enclave logic to solve energy poverty phenomena. The objective is to understand how to overcome the inertias of the past and set the ongoing transformations on the path of a just transition.

**Simón Ladino Cano**, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle- Paris 3, France. Simón is a scholarship holder for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree LAGLOBE, which is offered by the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, Stockholm University & Universidad de Salamanca. Simón also holds a Bachelor's in Sociology from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. He has research experience in the field of environmental peacebuilding in Colombia, with special attention to forest governance issues in the Colombian Amazon. His current research interests focus on energy transition policies, new energy spaces and sustainability dilemmas around non-conventional renewable energies in Latin America.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Latin American contributions to imagining a zero-carbon future.

Ana Estefanía Carballo. University of Melbourne, AU

[ana.carballo@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ana.carballo@unimelb.edu.au)

**Abstract.** The quest for a zero-carbon future connects us all, across the world and to those who will inherit our world in a distant and uncertain future. It requires of us to envision bold futures marked by a transition to new and sustainable forms of energy. But, what constitutes a just transition to a sustainable future? How do we construct the imaginaries that will guide this transition and what voices do they privilege? A plethora of literatures emerging from the fields of climate, energy and environmental justice, among others, invite us to envision different scenarios of the transition to this zero-carbon future. Recent discussions of the longstanding notion of 'Just transitions' (Healy and Barry 2017; McCauley and Heffron 2018; Bennett et al. 2019) have attempted to integrate this diverse scholarship. In Latin America, imagining the transition to more sustainable futures has been at the core of the discussions on post-extractivism. This paper begins an important conversation between these two ways of framing environmental futures, and reflects on the notion of just transition. It argues that the Latin American literature on post-extractivism brings into discussions of just transition an impetus to re-frame and question ontologically their embedded understanding of the social and natural worlds. Engaging this Latin American literature highlights the importance of thinking relationally on the possible iterations of this transition to zero-carbon futures and enables us to question the rationale and impetus behind extractivism and energy production, adding further analytical depth to the notion of just transition.

**Ana Estefanía Carballo**, Research Fellow in Mining and Society School of Geography, University of Melbourne, Australia. Prior to joining the School, Ana completed a PhD at the University of Westminster in the UK. Ana's research interests focus on the interplay between indigenous epistemologies, human and environmental development ethics and social movements and environmental conflicts in Latin America. Ana's current project explores the imaginaries of energy transition in the lithium mining industries in the North of Argentina. Ana is also one of the founders and current members of the Editorial Board of *Alternautas*, an academic blog that features Latin American critical thinking on development issues (<http://www.alternautas.net/about-us>). Beyond my academic work, Ana is affiliated with the Foundation for the Development of Sustainable Policies (FUNDEPS), from Argentina. Here, Ana has been working in accountability and human rights promotion in development finance in Latin America.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **The role of intermediary groups in energy democracy for a just transition.**

José Gálvez Contreras. Solar One, The New School for Public Engagement, US

[galvj753@newschool.edu](mailto:galvj753@newschool.edu)

**Abstract.** The purpose of research study is to explore how intermediary groups advance energy democracy within a just transition framework. The study will draw from important scholarly research focusing on the just transition framework especially with regards to the historical intersectionality between the climate, race, and inequality crises. This research will provide context on the overlooked role that intermediary groups play in achieving energy democracy systems including the important issue of linking up grassroots, social movement actors and organizations to critical resources, information and decision-making processes. It will also review recommendations for expansion of public engagement in taking action at the grassroots level, as well as incorporating underrepresented communities in the decision-making process. Just transition is at heart the application of democracy to solving energy problems. This investigation will shed light on important aspects relating to intermediary groups who are involved in energy democracy for a just transition. It will explore the composition and characteristics of intermediary groups involved in just transition activities as well as what are the characteristics that identify them. Additionally, it will survey what kind of interest, demands, and economic alternatives that intermediaries have proposed and supported in order to advance energy democracy. The study will evaluate how knowledge is deployed and whether the strategies, projects, and discourses proposed by intermediaries are more democratic, regenerative, and just than the current systems. Moreover, it will provide an overview of how intermediaries' impact can be assessed or measured in relation to energy democracy and just transition frameworks. The study will keep its focus specifically on intermediary groups in the United States engaged with renewable energy related projects.

**José Gálvez Contreras**, solar project manager and solar researcher at Solar One, United States. José works at Solar One in New York City as solar project manager and solar researcher. He is culminating his doctoral studies in Public and Urban Policy at The New School for Public Engagement. His dissertation focuses on the intersection of environmental justice, workforce development, and the green economy. José holds two master's degrees, one in public and urban policy and one environmental law and policy. He brings over a decade of expertise in sustainability planning, small business development, community organizing, and political engagement. José enjoys nature, meditation, martial arts, dancing, food, and new friends and adventures. He is creative, community-oriented, and extremely passionate about making the world a more inclusive place to live.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Limits to radical alternatives beyond a Latin American Green New Deal.

Mariano Féliz. University of La Plata, AR

[marianfeliz@gmail.com](mailto:marianfeliz@gmail.com)

Daiana Melón. University of La Plata, AR

[daianamelon@gmail.com](mailto:daianamelon@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** As the climate crisis worsens, the debate on how to confront it grows. While dominant classes propose a move towards Green capitalism, sociopolitical organizations have begun talking about a Green New Deal, or an EcoSocial Pact in the south. Green capitalism includes full commodification of nature and technological solutions to the mounting costs of environmental degradation. On the contrary, the Green New Deal push for greater State intervention in the conomy. These proposals presume that the problem is neoliberalism's irrationality, but not capitalist social relations, emphasizing the need for State planning, nationalization of key enterprises, redistribution of income, and greener taxation. But How can the capitalist State make good of these promisses? Is the climate crisis a consequence of neoliberalism, or a capitalist by-product? Can we tax-away this crises without further commodifying life and nature? How can we transition to a greener world if we don't do away with dependency and imperialist rule? We will discuss the strengths and limits of these proposals, while sketching how real alternatives for socioecological transformation are actually leading the struggles for (anti)postcapitalist social change. We will engage in a debate the includes the actual socio political struggles in Latin America for a radical socioecological transition.

**Mariano Féliz**, National University of La Plata, Argentina. Mariano Féliz holds a BA in Economics (UNLP), MA in Economic Sociology (UNSAM), PhD in Economics (Paris XIII/Nord) and PhD in Social Sciences (UBA). He is a professor at UNLP and a Researcher from CONICET at the Centro de Investigaciones Geográficas of the Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (CIG-IdIHCS) of CONICET and UNLP. He is also a Member of the DECKNO (Centre for Decolonising Knowledge in Teaching, Research and Practice; University of Bath). He is a Fellow of the International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (IRGAC), of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and a Part of the Work Group "Cuerpo, territorio y feminismo" of CLACSO. Mariano is also an activist of the research/action collective Al Borde (construyendo pensamiento indisciplinado) and works on themes related to Marxian dependency theory, critique of development, and social movements.

**Daiana Melón**, National University of La Plata, Argentina. Daiana is a PhD candidate in Social Sciences (UNLP), a Master's candidate in Government (UBA) and holds a Degree in Social Communication (UNLP). She is a UNLP doctoral fellow with a workplace at the Geographical Research Center (CIG) of the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences Research (IdIHCS / CONICET) of the National University of La Plata (UNLP). Daiana is also a Professor of the Extension Program in Prisons (FILO-UBA) and a Member of the collective Al Borde (Building Undisciplined Thought). She has published articles in Estudios Socioterritoriales, Ecología Política, Lutas Sociais, and Oteaiken, among others. She has coordinated the book La Patria Sojera. The agricultural model in the Southern Cone (Editorial El Colectivo) and she has written chapters in some books. Her research topics include socio-environmental conflicts, the Marxist theory of dependency and regional integration. She has carried out a doctoral research stay in Spain and dictated a workshop at the University of the Republic of Uruguay.

---



# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **A need to decolonize the effort to decarbonize.**

Katharine McGowan. Mount Royal University, CA

[kmcgowan@mtroyal.ca](mailto:kmcgowan@mtroyal.ca)

Nino Antadze. University of Prince Edward Island, CA

[nantadze@upei.ca](mailto:nantadze@upei.ca)

**Abstract.** As the need to transition to low-carbon economies intensifies and political attention increasingly shifts to plans like the Green New Deal with strong just transition influences, there is an equal imperative to consider the colonial consequences in previous and current environmental movements, policies and frameworks; energy transitions must be decolonial and anti-racist if they are to be just (Hoicka et al., 2021; Lennon, 2020). Although recent energy transition scholarship has highlighted the importance of Indigenous and marginalized voices (Hazrati & Heffron, 2021; Lennon, 2020, Newell, 2021), more work needs to be done to foster reciprocal and respectful inclusion of these voices in the research and policy development processes (Hoicka et al., 2021). As part of producing a knowledge synthesis report on just transitions, we conducted consultations with members of the Siksika Blackfoot Nation (Alberta, Canada) during the fall of 2020 to understand and incorporate their perspectives on the concept of just transition. The results of this conversation, while uncomfortable for established Western academics, confirmed the need to reimagine just transition conversations from their very inception. The Elders, while deeply humble, emphasized the importance of a Just Stewardship, and found the focus on transition itself to be misplaced. Additionally, they centered the importance of spirit, of culture and of self-determination in Just Stewardship, defying disciplinary boundaries and epistemological barriers that characterize Western scholarship generally. We propose sharing our method and lessons to the wider just transition community, to encourage others to build reciprocal relationships with Elders and marginalized communities as key co-researchers and co-designers. While we do not pretend to have the answers, we strongly believe that these questions must be centered within just transition dialogues.

**Katharine McGowan**, Mount Royal University, Canada. McGowan is an Assistant Professor of Social Innovation at the Bissett School of Business in Calgary's Mount Royal University. She is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Community Prosperity. Her research interests include social innovation (historical and contemporary), complexity and resilience.

**Nino Antadze**, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. Antadze is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. Her work focuses on moral dimensions of environmental issues. In particular, Dr. Antadze studies environmental planning processes with an emphasis on environmental and energy justice, and large-scale environmental change with a focus on climate justice and sustainability transitions.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Just a green energy transition of just energy transition.**

Matheus Gobbato Leichtweis. Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, BR

[matheusglei@gmail.com](mailto:matheusglei@gmail.com)

Raiana Schirmer Soares. Universidade de São Paulo, BR

[raianaschirmer@usp.br](mailto:raianaschirmer@usp.br)

**Abstract.** Even though it faces many challenges of political and epistemological nature (greenwashing, corporate capture), Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is still currently one of the main legal and political instruments of multilateral cooperation available to guide action for a transition to a low-carbon economy. However, it is necessary to question whether social, environmental and energy justice concerns are in fact included in this agenda. In this paper, we question the limits of the SDGs framework in effectively delivering a just transition towards a low-carbon economy. We understand that, due to its fragmented nature, mainstream approaches to Agenda 2030 underestimate the complexity and multidimensionality of the global challenge, allowing for weak, short-sighted, cherry-picking, and politically innocuous strategies for transition. It is the case of poverty, which is posed as an isolated goal (SDG 1), but should rather be regarded as in relation to other goals, given that it is a pervasive aspect of injustice present in multiple dimensions of social life. As a result, poverty indicators remain mostly econometric, while poverty itself is mainly absent from all the other goals (lack of synergy). By using SDG7 as a model for our study, we demonstrate that energy transitions under the current framework account just for a ‘green’ or ‘clean’ energy transition, rather than for a just energy transition. By using Brazil as a case study, we demonstrate that even countries engaged in a clean energy transition are still unable to tackle challenges such as energy poverty and injustice. Therefore, we suggest that only by incorporating trade offs and synergies between goals, social justice concerns, historical and class antagonisms (North-South divide), can transitions be just under SDGs Agenda.

**Matheus Gobbato Leichtweis**, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Matheus is a lawyer and a PhD Candidate in International Law at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. He holds a Master’s Degree at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and an LLM in Environmental Law at University of Dundee, UK. His interests are international legal history and theory, law and development and critical approaches to international law (TWAIL and Marxism).

**Raiana Schirmer Soares**, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. Raiana is an Energy Engineer and a PhD Candidate in Energy Studies at University of São Paulo. She holds a Master’s degree in Sciences at University of São Paulo and her interests are energy poverty, energy for development and energy decentralisation.

---

# **New Approaches to Just Transition**

## **Tools to Implement a Just Transition** **Abstracts and Biographies**

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Conflict transformation and navigating the just transition.

John Barry. Queen's University Belfast, UK

[j.barry@qub.ac.uk](mailto:j.barry@qub.ac.uk)

**Abstract.** This presentation begins from the proposition that the planned retreat from a carbon based economy is an essential component of addressing the root causes of climate breakdown. The climate science within the context of a potential 'tipping point' within many countries on addressing the climate and ecological emergency might be said to suggest that the transition away from carbon energy is inevitable. But how just, inclusive and equitable this transition might be is not guaranteed. With its origins in the trades union movement in the 1970s, the policy strategy of a 'just transition' – as outlined for example in the preamble of the 2015 Paris Climate Accords and the 2018 Silesia Declaration – and allied ideas such as 'eco-social transformation', a 'green new deal' and the divestment movement – stands as an energy transition pathway which can address some of the hard political and distributive issues of the transition to a low carbon economy. A Just Transition frame can address head on dominant and comfortingly narratives 'win-win' and 'greening business as usual'. The reality is that moving to a low carbon or post-carbon economy and society means the end of the fossil fuel energy system (which includes but goes beyond electricity and transportation but has major implications for the food system for example). This throws up a host of complex issues ranging from the role of the state (national and local) in managing or coordinating the transition, issues of democratic voice and procedure, the opportunities around reframing fossil fuels as carbon resources, to divestment and reinvestment energy strategies. Central to all of these, and something under acknowledged in the literature, is to recognise that conflict transformation will frame and characterise the low carbon energy transition, since while leading to a net benefit to society as a whole, this transition will produce 'winners' and 'losers' in the process. Hence the need to bring together the literature on conflict transformation and energy transitions to further flesh out both the 'dirty politics of low carbon energy transitions', critically examine trades union discourses and policies, and finally the role of the state in just transitions through analysing state-coordinated processes of just transitions of the carbon energy sector in Ireland, Spain, Germany, China and Scotland.

**John Barry**, Professor of Green Political Economy at Queen's University Belfast, UK. John's work focuses on normative and theoretical aspects of the politics of sustainability/sustainable development including green political theory, civic republicanism, gender, class and environmental justice, environmental ethics and climate change; Empirical/policy related studies of the politics and economics of the transition to sustainability, including work on post-growth economics and low carbon/post-carbon energy transitions; A final set of subsidiary interests relates to the contemporary politics of Ireland/Northern Ireland, with a focus on issues of political economy, sustainable development and working class issues.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Just energy transition and energy democracy in dependent societies.

Daniel Sandoval-Cervantes. Metropolitan Autonomous University, MX

[dscervantes@hotmail.com](mailto:dscervantes@hotmail.com)

**Abstract.** The work aims to analyze the current conditions of the energy transition in Mexico, crossed by the double dependence of its economy: fossil fuels and structural dependence. A second objective is to address the meaning of transition as a field of dispute formed by the conflict of societies divided into classes. Disputes both at the national level, like union and worker struggles, resistances from indigenous communities and peoples, and social organizations; as well as at the global level, such as uneven integration processes and the concentration of technology and financial capabilities. To account for the above, we turn to both Marxist dependency theory and critical energy studies to point out the need for a just energy transition that recognizes the unequal international division of labor, as well as unequal access to energy, determined by the differentiation between social classes, for this we resort to the concept of energy democracy. The above as the way to avoid the deepening of the environmental crisis, as a plan of the current civilizational crisis. The presentation is divided into three sections: in the first, we address the conceptual debate around the just transition based on the aforementioned theoretical framework. The second section analyses the contradictions and tensions of the energy transition in Mexico, considering the socio-environmental conflict unleashed by the energy transition promoted by the capital and the disputes for a just transition. Finally, the third section discusses the contributions that the concept of energy democracy can have in the construction of just energy transitions.

**Daniel Sandoval-Cervantes**, Department of Institutional Studies, Metropolitan Autonomous University, Mexico. Daniel has a PhD in Law by National Autonomous University of Mexico; is a Professor at the Department of Institutional Studies, Metropolitan Autonomous University, Cuajimalpa, Mexico. Daniel is also a member of Latin-American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) “Energy and Sustainable Development” Work Group, as well as being a member of the Editorial Board of *Nuestrapraxis. Revista de*. Daniel is also a founding member of *Asociación Nuestramericana de Estudios Interdisciplinarios de Crítica Jurídica*. He is Academic Director of National Council of Sciences and Technology “From 2016-2019 coordinator of Latin-American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) “Law, Social Classes, and Reconfiguration of Capital” Work Group.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Embedding renewable energy communities as socio-legal institutions: fostering a bottom-up just and democratic energy transition.**

Michiel A. Heldeweg. University of Twente, NE

[m.a.heldeweg@utwente.nl](mailto:m.a.heldeweg@utwente.nl)

Séverine Saintier. University of Exeter, UK

[S.Saintier@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:S.Saintier@exeter.ac.uk)

**Abstract.** Decentralization and democratization of energy provision are together seen as promising policy approach towards an effective and just climate change driven energy transition building upon the role of renewable energy communities – the EU Recast Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) being a major example. The paper proposes to strengthen the position of such communities by arguing for their recognition as legal entities to be embedded within a separate socio-legal institutional regime (of civil energy networks). It is believed that such embedding and corresponding legal entity architecture can help to achieve a transition towards a just and viable new energy system. While realizing such regime embedding may provide a proper socio-legal underpinning of the role of energy communities, at the same time it leaves a range of options on the legal governance of such communities with respect to how their activities (and responsibilities) may be shaped with regard to their collective organization, crucial to their viability and decentralized-democratic nature. To that end, the paper takes stock of and reflects upon actual and possible legal arrangements regarding control, ownership and responsibility, also by looking at modes of prosumerism and sharing, not excluding virtual/digitalised forms of (self) organization. The paper will offer recommendations on the way forward in fostering the legal design of renewable energy communities.

**Michiel A. Heldeweg**, University of Twente, The Netherlands. Heldeweg is a full professor of Law, Governance & Technology at the University of Twente (in the Department of Governance & Technology for Sustainability/CSTM), the Netherlands. He is the Program director of the Master in Environmental and Energy Management (MEEM), chairman of the UT Committee of Scientific Integrity, and member of the BMS/UT Academic Advisory Board. He is a member of the Netherlands Institute of Governance (NIG), an associate senior member of the Ius Commune Research School (ICOS), a partner to the Netherlands Institute for Law and Governance (NILG), and leader of the European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance (eseia) Working Group (4) on Energy Governance, Business Models and Legal Frameworks. Heldeweg is also an honorary judge in the district court of Overijssel (administrative law bench). In his research Heldeweg focuses on (methodologies regarding) legal design of smart & resilient rules & regimes, future proof legal governance, fostering technological and governance innovation, such as through experimental regulation, institutional change and smart regulatory governance (e.g., meta-regulation, principle-based rules, and public/private certification). His research relates especially to legal governance of the energy transition, such as in community energy initiatives, and to responsible development and use of robotics, such as drones. In his work Heldeweg combines doctrinal legal studies with regulatory and institutional (legal) theory.

**Séverine Saintier**, University of Exeter, UK. Dr Saintier is Associate Professor in commercial law (Education and Research). She joined Exeter Law School in January 2014 from Sheffield University. She previously held positions in Liverpool, Staffordshire and Keele Universities. She studied law in France (Maitrise, Université du Havre, Maitrise) and in the UK (University of Southampton (Erasmus/Socrates), Staffordshire University (LLM) and Sheffield University (PhD on commercial agency contracts under the late Professor Bradgate). Dr Saintier's primary research interest is in the field of contract law (loosely defined) and is comparative at its core. Dr Saintier is the co-editor of Jill Poole's Contract law textbook and Contract Law casebook (15th ed, OUP, 2021), with Professor Rob Merkin. Dr Saintier is currently part of an externally-funded research project (European Regional Development Fund, WEFO) on the circular revolution with Riversimple, Exeter Business school, Swansea university. For details see <https://www.riversimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Circular-Revolution-Press-Release-Final.English.pdf>. Dr Saintier has taught in France at the Université Jean Moulin III and the Université Bordeaux IV.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Sustainable Energy Democracy as a new regulatory approach towards a Just Transition.**

Leonie Reins. University of Tilburg, NE

[L.S.Reins@tilburguniversity.edu](mailto:L.S.Reins@tilburguniversity.edu)

**Abstract.** Energy democracy has emerged in the context of the clean energy transition and decentralisation as an element of that transition. It has emerged relatively recently in Europe and in the United States and it started to raise a number of questions in the area of social sciences and law. These questions are related to the function and role of sustainable energy democracy, but also to the legal nature of the concept of sustainable energy democracy. This presentation sets out to explore and answer these questions. Sustainable energy democracy has no well-established definition, let alone a legally binding one. It is used in different contexts with different meanings. This presentation will investigate the concept of sustainable energy democracy in three steps. First, it deciphers sustainable energy democracy and demonstrates how the concept rests on these two fundamental aspects, the decentralised generation of sustainable energy on the one hand and the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits of the energy sector on the other hand. This is achieved through a review of relevant scientific literature and governmental and non-governmental documents. Then, it explains the role of sustainable energy democracy in law. It argues that energy democracy is a legal objective (as opposed to a principle or a rule) and introduces some legal approaches to demonstrate how the objective of sustainable energy democracy can be translated into concrete legal instruments. Lastly, it provides insights into how this translation into concrete legal instruments has been achieved in practice.

**Leonie Reins**, Tilburg Law School, The Netherlands. Reins joined Tilburg Law School as an Assistant Professor at the Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology and Society (TILT). Prior to joining TILT, she worked as a PhD Candidate and then as a Post-Doctoral Researcher at KU Leuven (Belgium). Her research project on "the coherent regulation on energy and environment - using shale gas as a case study", was financed by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). In addition Leonie worked as Legal Advisor at a Brussels-based environmental law and policy consultancy, where she was involved in projects relating to environmental, energy and climate change law and policy. Leonie holds an LL.M. in International, European and Comparative Energy and Environmental Law. She has been part of, and managed, several complex multi-country legal and policy studies for the European Institutions. These projects dealt with a range of topics, such as the precautionary principle and risk management, unconventional gas and environmental claims. Leonie's research focuses on the intersections of energy and environmental law. She is particularly interested in the regulation of new technologies that are capable of mitigating, or providing means of adaptation to, global problems such as climate change and the associated risks and uncertainty that manifest themselves at the local level. Within this field, she focuses on the regulation of new technologies and developments such as CCS, nanotechnology, shale gas and the emergence of energy prosumers. Regulatory approaches towards risk and risk management also play an important role in her work. Leonie's work further addresses the way in which regulators balance environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation with other objectives, such as energy supply security, and energy efficiency.

---



# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## The relational ecologies approach as a tool for understanding energy justice.

Krisjanis Rudus. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NO

[krisjanis.rudus@ntnu.no](mailto:krisjanis.rudus@ntnu.no)

**Abstract.** For more than a decade, social science researchers have sought to shed light on the human elements of energy systems and underline that the ways energy production, use, and distribution are configured significantly impact fairness and justice across the global population. To tackle the multitude of problems at stake, leading scholars in the field have called for the incorporation of energy justice as an investigative framework to promote fair distribution of the benefits and costs of energy services and seek to enable representative and unbiased decision-making in energy matters. Over the past few years, an increasing number of articles, books, and university curricula have been dedicated to the issue of justice within the energy realm. This has led to a rapid expansion of justice conceptualizations, with numerous framings of justice existing in the young field of study by now. However, most of the literature in the field defines justice through a triumvirate of principles, encompassing the ideas of fair distribution, recognition, and procedure as the key elements of justice within energy systems. In response to burgeoning justice conceptualizations and the emergence of dominant frameworks in the literature, there is a need for investigations mapping the different justice framings in the energy literature and engaging with the larger sociopolitical implications (and influences) embedded in the diverse justice models. To do so, I call for applying the relational ecologies approach, previously used for investigating participation within the energy transition. Overall, a relational ecologies approach offers new grounds for assessing or intercede in the justice(s) of socio-technical systems and opening up possibilities for future work to understand energy justice in more systemic and relational terms.

**Krisjanis Rudus**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway. Rudus is a PhD fellow at NTNU (Norwegian University of Science and Technology). His research explores the notion of justice in energy transition, mainly through community energy projects in Norway. The project looks at how justice in the energy transition projects is framed globally and in Norway, how it is envisioned and done through collaborations. Krisjanis project is funded by Norwegian Centre for Energy Transition Strategies (NTRANS), and he is working for the Department for Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture (KULT) at NTNU. Krisjanis has a master's degree in Human Ecology from Lund University. His thesis explored people's attitudes towards cutting-edge solar policy adaptation in California (USA). He has also worked for the Lund University project 'Navigating Justice Claims: Between Riots, Strikes and Business as Usual', where he and his colleagues explored energy transition conflicts in Sweden by employing an energy justice framework. Krisjanis is currently also co-authoring a research paper based on the investigations.

---



# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Equity considerations for a clean energy transition.

Morgan Scott. The Electric Power Research Institute, US

[mmscott@epri.com](mailto:mmscott@epri.com)

**Abstract.** Accelerating efforts to invest in and commit to a low-carbon energy future offer a once in a generation opportunity to advance disadvantaged communities that have historically seen many of the costs and few of the benefits of energy system development. Low-carbon electric power and electrification are at the core of this transition. Disadvantaged communities could either be advanced by this transition or largely left behind by electrification initiatives, energy efficiency programming, digital transformation efforts, grid modernization, and power generation transitions that comprise it. A focus on community co-development and moving equity to the center of decision making can be key aspects of ensuring a more just transition. Collaborative R&D, including public-private and economy-wide coordination, will be critical for building the analysis, tools, and technologies that enable a clean energy future while addressing reliability, affordability, and social equity. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) recently published *Equity and Environmental Justice Considerations for a Clean Energy Transition* (3002021206) presenting key areas of decarbonization with equity dimensions and exploring the role of research in informing policy, technology, and program development. This talk will summarize these perspectives while incorporating learnings from power company efforts around enabling a ‘just transition.’ Additional perspective learned through EPRI demonstration projects – with a focus particularly on advanced energy communities and indoor agriculture – will advance attendee’s understanding of how R&D technology pilots can help deliver early benefits to both low-income and historically disadvantaged communities. Finally, early insights into the Institute’s new Equitable Decarbonization Interest Group – serving to convene power companies, researchers, and industry stakeholders – will demonstrate ways to enable cross-sector dialogues and solutions. While this perspective will focus on the U.S., many of the insights can have direct analogs to other developed countries as they transition their own energy systems.

**Morgan Scott**, The Electric Power Research Institute, US. Scott is a Research Manager for the Sustainability & Ecosystem Stewardship group at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). In this role, Morgan leads a research team in three programmatic areas: Ecosystem Risk and Resiliency; Endangered and Protected Species; and Strategic Sustainability Science. Prior to this role, Morgan led EPRI’s portfolio of sustainability research, focused on developing tools and resources electric power companies can use to establish and enhance sustainability programs, embed a triple bottom line mindset throughout their organizations, and enable a more sustainable economy throughout the communities they serve. She also co-leads the *Understanding Climate Scenarios and Goal Setting Activities* project and *National Indoor Agriculture Demonstration* project. Morgan is lead author on numerous EPRI reports exploring sustainability priority issues, metrics, and disclosure trends, and is a co-editor of *Sustainable Electricity II: A Conversation on Tradeoffs* (2018). Prior to joining EPRI, Morgan was the Sustainability Manager at Consolidated Edison Company of New York. In this role, Morgan managed the company’s sustainability strategy and associated initiatives, as well as the production of the company’s annual sustainability report and voluntary disclosure activities. Morgan received a B.S. in Business Administration from Wagner College and a M.S. in Sustainability Management from Columbia University.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Just transition and food security: contextualizing justice in the food sector.**

Cecilia Elizondo. University of Manchester, UK

[C.Flores.Elizondo@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:C.Flores.Elizondo@mmu.ac.uk)

**Abstract.** The global food system has entrenched inequalities leading to increasing food insecurity in the world. The impact of climate change has increased food insecurity, a problem that has been exacerbated by the current pandemic. However, the food sector is one of the main contributors to climate change. The attainment of food security requires transforming the whole food sector – that is, from agriculture, to production to human behaviour in relation to food. Such a transformation has to address the injustices of the global food system with due account for people, nature, climate and the environment. Shifting from industrialised agricultural practices and the fabric of the current food sector should entail a transition foregrounding ‘fair and equitable processes’ addressing power imbalances, access and distributional problems, injustices in food and agriculture, as well as providing the necessary protections to those most affected in such a transition (paradoxically food producers, mainly livelihood farmers). More significantly, this transition has to be embedded on a mode of coexistence, away from mere economic rationalities and ‘after the fact’ fixes. The paper explores the concept of just transition – mainly the triumvirate tenants of distributional, procedural and restorative justice – in the context of food security. The aim is twofold: to contextualise the intricacies of (in)justice in attempts to eliminate food insecurity, and to build on the concept of just transition to construct food policy. Without this understanding, transitions from the current global food system most likely will fail to provide food security for all.

**Cecilia Elizondo**, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. Cecilia is a Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University. Previously, she held Research Associate positions at the University of Manchester in three funded research projects. She has taught at the University of Manchester, the China-EU School of Law and the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. She holds a PhD in Law and an LLM in International Business Law from the University of Manchester and an LLB from the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (Mexico). Her research has been cited in policy briefings produced for the UK parliament and she was invited to discuss food and farming policy to a workshop organised by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Having qualified as a lawyer in Mexico (2001), she practised in various law firms before entering into academia. Cecilia is co-director of the International Investments and Sustainable Development in Latin America Network and contributes as trade development editor for the Manchester Journal of International Economic Law.

---

# **New Approaches to Just Transition**

## **Critical perspectives on Just Transition** **Abstracts and Biographies**

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Just Transition towards the European Green Deal.

Odysseas Christou. University of Nicosia, CY

[christou.o@unic.ac.cy](mailto:christou.o@unic.ac.cy)

**Abstract.** We have recently witnessed substantial growth in the just transitions' literature from its inception as an integrated approach towards sustainable development and the reconciliation of labour market conditions with the need for environmental protection to its contemporary usage as a comprehensive framework of necessary attributes towards low-carbon and climate-resilient economies. Concurrently, the literature on energy justice has led to the formation of a set of jurisprudential principles within the context of the conceptual convergence among climate, environmental, and energy justice leading to a comprehensive framing of sustainability justice. This approach aims to combine the two literatures to develop criteria for evaluation of just transition policies. At present, it is applied to a qualitative evaluation of the European Green Deal at a preliminary stage, both in terms of the specification of the Just Transition Mechanism and for each policy area. Future development of this approach can lead to the establishment of both quantitative and qualitative policy evaluation criteria. In addition, this approach calls attention to the inadequacies of present policy formulations of just transitions. While there is a general recognition of the centrality of green skills and citizen engagement both in the academic literature and the public policy discourse, both elements remain under-specified. Instead, there is an overreliance on financial investment and economic diversification, a phenomenon that is also evident in the formulation of the Just Transition Mechanism. As a result, there is emphasis on the determination of distributional effects to the detriment – or at least neglect – of procedural, recognitional, and restorative priorities. We argue that the determination and mitigation of redistributive disparities must be supplemented by refocusing on a green skills framework and prioritizing the role of social education and training in that process, as well as participatory, deliberative processes for the mainstreaming of just transition principles.

**Odysseas Christou**, Assistant Professor in Government, International Law, and International Relations, Department of Law, School of Law, University of Nicosia, Cyprus. Dr. Odysseas Christou is an Assistant Professor in Government, International Law and International Relations at the University of Nicosia where he also serves as the Coordinator of the Joint Ph.D. in Human Rights, Society, and Multi-Level Governance. He has previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin, the Texas Lutheran University, and the University of Cyprus. He has served on the Cyprus Energy Strategy Council of the President of the Republic of Cyprus. His research and teaching interests focus on EU energy and environmental law and policy, social rights and policy, and energy security. His most recent and forthcoming publications on energy security, the evolution of EU energy and environmental policy culminating in the European Green Deal, and social welfare and rights' transformation. He has served on numerous research projects commissioned by – among others – the European Commission, the Republic of Cyprus, and the National Science Foundation of the United States on issues of international relations, security, energy, law, and development.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Balancing cost, sustainability, and distributional equity for a just transition.**

Teagan Goforth. Carnegie Mellon University, US

[tgoforth@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:tgoforth@andrew.cmu.edu)

Destenie Nock. Carnegie Mellon University, US

[dnock@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:dnock@andrew.cmu.edu)

**Abstract.** In recent years, nations have expressed a desire for their energy transitions to be as equitable as possible, hoping that vulnerable communities are not disproportionately harmed by air pollution and loss of energy jobs. However, most energy system decarbonization models that aid energy transitions lay pathways using cost minimization as a primary driver for change. Within these models, environmental sustainability or distributional equity is often a secondary measurement or a constraint in the least-cost optimization. Further compounding the complexity of designing an equitable energy transition, many models do not quantify the sustainability and equality trade-offs of different energy system pathways. In this research, we develop a framework for analyzing the trade-offs between cost, sustainability, and equity under different electricity system decarbonization transition pathways (e.g., 100% no carbon electricity grid by 2035 and US Nationally Determined Contributions via the Paris Agreement). We accomplish this by coupling a least cost energy optimization model with a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) model. The Regional Energy Development System (ReEDS), a least cost optimization capacity expansion model, from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) is used to forecast the US electricity grid from 2010 to 2050 given eight unique decarbonization scenarios. Cost is measured using system costs and the Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE). Environmental sustainability is measured using carbon dioxide equivalence (CO<sub>2</sub>eq.), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and particulate matter (PM) emissions. Equity is measured from distribution of air pollution and energy jobs across regions and indicators, like median income, energy burden, or poverty in regions. Our results show that the spread of PM emissions across the lowest income group (<\$50,000) and the highest income group (>\$70,000) increases from 2010 to 2050, indicating that prioritizing cost may exacerbate poorer regions and result in an inequitable transition.

**Teagan Goforth**, Carnegie Mellon University, US. Teagan is a PhD student in Engineering & Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. Her research focuses on equitable and sustainable energy transitions. She is currently working on creating a holistic framework that investigates the trade-offs between cost, environmental sustainability, and distributional equity in energy transitions within the US. She is advised by Dr. Destenie Nock.

**Destenie Nock**, Carnegie Mellon University, US. Dr. Destenie Nock is an assistant professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. She is a leader in energy systems modeling, decision analysis, and energy justice. Since starting her work in the energy field in 2011 she has helped researchers, companies and utility companies understand the sustainability and equality trade-offs of energy transitions. In 2019, Nock successfully led a collaborative project, involving researchers from five universities, where the team addressed energy system challenges through stakeholder workshops and energy system analysis in Ghana. Currently she is developing algorithms to identify the energy limiting behavior of low income households in the USA. By identifying households who limit AC and heating system use to save money on energy bills she has unveiled a hidden form of energy poverty.

Twitter: @DestenieNock Website: [www.DestenieNock.com](http://www.DestenieNock.com)

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **SDGs as a tool for just transition implementation.**

Alexandra R. Harrington. Albany Law School, US

[arharrington@gmail.com](mailto:arharrington@gmail.com)

Magdalena Stryja. University of Silesia Faculty of Law, PL

[magdalena.stryja@us.edu.pl](mailto:magdalen.stryja@us.edu.pl)

**Abstract.** In the international law realm, just transitions tend to be most frequently associated with climate change responses, particularly under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement on climate change systems. There are, of course, significant reasons for this, and indeed the concept of just transitions tends to be necessary to work through the climate change-associated shifts in energy production and use. At the same time, however, there exist other international hard and soft law regimes which have the potential to significantly further the implementation and contouring of just transitions and too often these regimes are ignored or marginalized. This presentation seeks to remedy a portion of the issue by discussing the inherent links between furthering just transitions and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were created several months prior to the Paris Agreement and which inform many aspects of the Paris Agreement text. Facially, there is a strong correlation between the labor provisions contained in SDG 8 and just transitions. However, moving beyond this, it is possible to find support for the implementation and achievement of SDG goals and targets and essential elements of just transitions in many other SDGs, including those ranging from education to health to gender equality to climate and environmental concerns to public participation in institutional decision-making. The presentation will highlight the interdisciplinary nature of these issues and how they demonstrate the multi-layered reality of just transitions at the theoretical and practical levels.

**Alexandra R. Harrington**, Albany Law School, US. Harrington is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Global Governance and Emerging Law, Research Director of the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, and Vice-Chair of the Board of Women in Ethics and Compliance Global. She has served as Fulbright Canada Special Foundation Fellow at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Canada and was the 2018 – 2019 the Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Global Governance, based at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. She holds a doctoral degree in law from McGill University Faculty of Law. Dr. Harrington is the author of the book *International Organizations and the Law* (2018) and *International Law and Global Governance: Treaty Regimes and Sustainable Development Goals Interpretation* (2021). She serves as the Director of Studies for the International Law Association Colombian branch, a member of the International Law Association Committee on the Role of International Law in Sustainable Natural Resource Management for Development, and a member of the Green Economics Institute's Research Group. She also guest lectures globally on topics related to international law, environmental law, global governance and sustainable development, and is an international advisor to various faculties.

**Magdalena Stryja**, University of Silesia Faculty of Law, Poland. Magdalena's specializations include Labour Law, Climate Law, Copyright in Employment, Higher Education.

---

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Intersectionality and just transition: A conceptual and Methodological Exploration.**

Gul Özerol. University of Twente, NE

[g.ozerol@utwente.nl](mailto:g.ozerol@utwente.nl)

**Abstract.** Just transition calls for developing as low-carbon societies in fair, equitable and inclusive ways. Given this definition, the potential of just transition in diverse social, political and economic contexts and across different regions is warranted. However, the scientific literature on just transition has so far evolved mostly with data from WEIRD (western, educated, industrialized, rich, democratic) countries, and focusing usually on the energy sources and services, thus the mitigation of climate change. While these choices have facilitated the creation of a growing body of evidence, they also imply that crucial aspects of variation are not incorporated into the understanding and analysis of just transition, limiting its applicability for policy and practice. This limitation particularly applies to identifying the diverse needs, rights, and experiences of “marginalized”, “vulnerable” or “disadvantaged” groups in different contexts. Intersectionality can serve both as a concept and a method to address these issues and enhance the theoretical and empirical functions of just transition. As a concept deeply rooted in feminist theory and gender studies, intersectionality points out the multi-faceted social differences, such as gender, age, ethnicity, and income, with regards to their multiple meanings as well as their dynamic implications for social justice and equity. As a method, intersectionality can be applied to co-create and analyse data with specific attention to contextual injustices, which play out differently in different localities, and to cross-sectorial injustices that arise from multiple sectors that relate to climate change. In this contribution, I present the results from an initial exploration of these conceptual and methodological approaches, with preliminary empirical insights from my cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary research experience on the governance of energy, climate change and water across several countries in Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

**Gul Özerol**, University of Twente, The Netherlands. Özerol is an assistant professor at the University of Twente, the Netherlands, and the senior editor of Fanack Water, an online platform on the water, environment and climate issues of the Middle East and North Africa. She is trained as a social-environmental scientist, with MSc degrees in Industrial Engineering (2003, Turkey) and Integrated Assessment (2005, Germany) and a PhD degree in Governance of Sustainable Development (2013, the Netherlands). She specializes in the governance of water, energy and climate change. In her research and teaching, she integrates actor-based and institutional approaches to comparative public policy and natural resource governance. She applies transdisciplinary research methods that go beyond advancing theories and co-creates knowledge with academic and non-academic stakeholders. She has extensively published in interdisciplinary journals and co-edited two books and a special issue. Her recent research projects focus on countries in North-West Europe and Middle East regions. She is currently co-supervising five PhD and two postdoctoral researchers and working as a policy and governance scholar in three practice-oriented projects on climate resilience in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, and as a gender and governance scholar in a water and climate adaptation project in Palestine.

---



# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## Climate change and environmental racism.

Jailson de Souza e Silva. Uniperiferias, BR

[jailson@imja.org.br](mailto:jailson@imja.org.br)

**Abstract.** I am a geographer myself and an expert on urban issues. When I think on climate changes and their impact over human life my greatest reference is its influence on the urban world, especially on the population living in the peripheries. It is known that Brazilian cities, like so many others, are determined by a historical patrimonialism process — that of transferring collective assets to specific social groups — by actions carried out primarily by the State. One of its main characteristics is the allocation of urban equipment and services to richer areas at the expense of impoverished areas. Such a characteristic is notorious for the environmental issue. Rio de Janeiro is a city internationally known for the presence of a forest located in the heart of the city, though the absence of afforestation in the favelas and neighbourhoods of its peripheries is remarkable, as well as the presence of fully polluted rivers, not to mention the lack of sanitation and the prevalence of concrete in its landscape. This is the cause for what we call environmental racism, since the largest part of the peripheries' population is black and/or, considering North Brazil or other countries in Latin America, indigenous. Accordingly, the most direct impact is the emergence of so-called “heat islands”. Last summer, for instance, we could experiment a 16°F difference between the Maré Favela and Flamengo neighbourhood, located in the city's most rich area (114°F x 98°C). The air quality arises as another grave problem: it is way worse especially in impoverished areas, where most of children live. They are the ones most affected by serious breathing problems, which frequently lead to death. This being the case, when speaking about climate change we cannot fall under the illusion that it affects people on an equal basis. Mostly, it harms peripheral countries, which count with less means to address it; and it harms such territories where impoverished populations live, which are traditionally black, and indigenous, in Latin American countries.

**Jailson de Souza e Silva**, UNiperiferias, Brazil. Silva is a black intellectual and activist, with origins in Rio de Janeiro's peripheries. He holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and a PhD in Sociology of Education from the Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro. Silva is a university professor, a former Chancellor of Nova Iguaçu Department of Education and a former State Deputy Secretary in Social Assistance and Human Rights. He is the founder of various social organizations and has experience, studies and multiple publications and books focusing mainly on social policies and education. Some of his publications include: “Por que uns e não outros?”, “Favela: alegria e dor na cidade”; “Bruxas e bruxos da cidade: os novos personagens da revolução”, “A favela reinventa a cidade”.

---



# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Worker voice in just transition - building evidence in place-based climate policy.**

Jo Cutter. University of Leeds, UK

[J.Cutter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:J.Cutter@leeds.ac.uk)

Ursula Balderson. University of Leeds, UK

Vera Trappmann. University of Leeds, UK

[V.Trappmann@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:V.Trappmann@leeds.ac.uk)

Andrew Sudmant. University of Leeds, UK

**Abstract.** The term 'Just Transition' as adopted into the preamble of the Paris Agreement in 2015 makes a more expanded reference to 'just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs'. The ILOs guiding principles and UNFCCs subsequent technical papers on the implementation of just transition place considerable emphasis on mechanisms for social dialogue as a tool for building coherent policy which assume that mechanisms exist for stakeholders, including workers affected by low-carbon transitions, to have a voice within related climate policy making. It is notable that new forms of institutions have emerged, including place-based initiatives, that aim to bring together stakeholders to engage in climate policy formulation and implementation. But how are the views of workers being brought into dialogue with other social actors within these new institutional forms, and what do workers want from these just transition processes? This lightning talk reflects on how data from a UKRI Strategic Priorities funded study of UK workers and trade unions on just transition can feed into institutional experiments to build more coherent place-based climate policy in the UK, taking the specific case of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission. We draw on the interdisciplinary insights from the fields of comparative industrial relations, labour market and skills policy and place-based climate policy making to explore how to build worker perspectives within wider systems of climate policy making and the challenges and opportunities for operationalising internationally agreed principles at the local level.

**Jo Cutter**, Centre for Employment Relations Innovation and Change, Leeds University Business School, University of Leeds, UK. Jo's research focuses on the employment relations of skills and training with a focus on worker voice, social-dialogue and the regulation of work. She is currently researching this in two contexts: the impact of climate change mitigation strategies on work, jobs and skills and the re-shaping of labour mobility resulting from the UK's exit of the EU. She is currently leading a British Academy funded interdisciplinary project in partnership with seven other researchers from the social sciences, arts and humanities, PCS union and the C40 Cities network titled 'The Future of Work in Just Transitions'.

**Vera Trappmann**, Centre for Employment Relations Innovation and Change, Leeds University Business School, University of Leeds, UK. Vera has a strong record in research on the transition process from socialism to capitalism in Central and Eastern Europe. Her research covered business elites, company restructuring, individual workers' responses to systemic change, as well labour market policies and civil society reorganisation. Her work is of comparative nature. The interplay between institutions and actors' choices interests her in Precarious Work, Voice and Labour Contestations, Responses to Climate Change, Restructuring, or Corporate Social Responsibility. Vera is the founder of the cross-faculty Research Network on Work Labour and Climate Change and the LUBS Director of Sustainability.

**Ursula Balderson.** Ursula's work focuses on the political economy of emotions and wellbeing, primarily in the context of the future-of-work. She is interested in how non-state actors (e.g., unions, companies) can influence policies and social norms contribute to social and environmental sustainability. Recent projects have looked at how workers can be more involved in shaping the decarbonisation process, as well as the wellbeing implications of a widespread reduction in working time.

**Andrew Sudmant.** Andrew works for the Climate Smart Cities research program led by Professor Andy Gouldson and is an associate at the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy. At the Climate Smart Cities program mini-Stern review studies are conducted by consulting with regional development authorities, national and municipal governments and partner universities to identify cost-effective climate change mitigation measures in cities. With this work the Climate Smart Cities program not only explores the case for green growth but the opportunity for climate change mitigation policies to enhance energy security and public health, raise employment, stimulate investment and improve public finances.

# New Approaches to Just Transition

---

## **Social Protection Schemes for a Just Transition.**

Khurshid Zafari. International Labour Organization, RU

[e.khurshid@gmail.com](mailto:e.khurshid@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** According to the ILO's flagship report World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with Jobs transition to sustainable green economy will create 24 million workplaces. However, as a result of technological change a big share of employment will also become redundant. Based on the same estimates, 6 million people will lose their jobs due to green transition. Active labour market policies such as reskilling, vocational training will help to mitigate the consequences of unemployment but not all workers in traditional sectors are capable of learning new skills and finding jobs in new sectors. Social protection schemes can provide solution for just transition to ensure that no one is left behind. Unemployment benefits can cushion the shock of job loss and prevent families from falling into poverty. Lowering pension age in sectors where changes are more intense will secure income for those who have difficulties with adapting to new circumstances. These and other forms of social protection must be developed as an integral part of just transition. Social protection is important not just for just transition but also for smooth transition. Because the risk of losing the source of income makes reforms in certain sectors difficult as existing workers may resist changes. Therefore, ensuring income and livelihoods with social protection schemes is also important to make this transition real.

**Khurshid Zafari**, Research analyst. Khurshid has recently graduated from the LSE where he studied MSc International Social and Public Policy. He is currently researching the ways of tackling environmental issues from the social science perspective, particular focus in his research is given to change and continuity in environmental policies.

---

# **New Approaches to Just Transition**

## **About the Just Transition Hub**

# New Approaches to Just Transition

The [Just Transition Hub](#) at the University of Dundee aims at promoting interdisciplinary research and teaching about just transition, notably by developing new interdisciplinary, epistemological and methodological approaches to just transition; and at serving as a focal point for academics across social sciences and the university who are interested in the topic, to debate research and teaching in respect to just transition. We welcome new partnerships and collaborations.

## Directors

**Raphael Heffron** is Professor for Global Energy Law & Sustainability at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee. As of July 2019 he is also *Jean Monnet Professor in the Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy* awarded by the European Commission. Professor Heffron is a qualified Barrister-at-Law, and a graduate of both Oxford (MSc) and Cambridge (MPhil & PhD). His work all has a principal focus on achieving a just transition to a low-carbon economy, and combines a mix of energy law, policy and economics. He has published over 150 publications of different types and is the most cited scholar in his field worldwide (1400+*Scopus*). Professor Heffron has given just over 145 keynote or guest lectures in 49 countries worldwide. He has received grants on the just transition from the European Commission, UKERC and the British Academy. Email: [r.heffron@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:r.heffron@dundee.ac.uk)

**Sufyan Droubi** is Lecturer in Law within the School of Social Sciences, University of Dundee. Previously, Sufyan was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of São Paulo and at the University of Manchester, sponsored by a FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship. He holds a PhD in Law from the University of Essex and an LLM in Law of Social Relations, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. He is one of the editors of the *Melland Shill Perspectives to International Law*; one of the coordinators of the Interest Group on International Organisations of the European Society of International Law, co-director of the International Investments in Latin America Network and co-director of the Just Transition Hub, University of Dundee. Fully qualified lawyer in Brazil since 1996, he spent twelve years in practice in international investment law and business law in general, before turning to the academia. He was Regional Counsel to South America at Delphi Automotive Systems (2003-05) and Of Counsel to França Ribeiro Advocacia, (at the time) affiliated to Baker and Hostetler LLP (2005-07), among others. Email: [s.eldroubi@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:s.eldroubi@dundee.ac.uk)

**Edzia Carvalho** is a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Dundee. Her research interests revolve around three areas -- human rights, democratic consolidation, and political behaviour, focussing on India and the UK. Her work on human rights has examined issues related to human rights measurement and protection. Along with Prof. Todd Landman (University of Nottingham), she co-authored *Measuring Human Rights* (Routledge, 2010), which examines the empirical concept of human rights and the strengths and pitfalls in measuring this concept. She has also collaborated with Prof. Landman on the fourth edition of his textbook *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics* (Routledge, 2016). Along with Dr. Kristi Winters (GESIS, Cologne) and Dr. Thom Oliver (UWE Bristol), she has been part of the Qualitative Election Study of Britain (QESB), which is the world's first longitudinal qualitative election study. The project has run rounds of focus groups during the 2005, 2010, 2015, 2017, and 2019 UK General Elections, the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum, and interviews after the 2016 EU Referendum. She has published in *Parliamentary Affairs* and *The International Journal of Children's Rights*. She has also co-authored human rights reports for FIDH, and the Scottish Government. Dr. Carvalho has a PhD in Government (University of Essex) on the politics of public health expenditure in India and an MA in Human Rights (University of Essex). Email: [e.carvalho@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:e.carvalho@dundee.ac.uk)

**Fernando Lannes Fernandes** is a Reader in Community Education at University of Dundee. Fernando has extensive experience in the fields of urban development and human rights, with special interest on the interfaces between structural racism and institutional violence. Fernando's research and scholarship are informed by peripheral epistemologies and focus on dialogue and emancipatory agency to inform and reshape policy and practice. Fernando has been working in close relationship with communities, governmental agencies and civil society organizations being a founder member and formerly co-director of the Observatory of Favelas and, currently co-Director for UNlperiferias – both organisations based in Brazil. Email: [f.l.fernandes@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:f.l.fernandes@dundee.ac.uk)

# New Approaches to Just Transition

## Researchers

**Naiara Correa Nogueira de Souza** has a PhD in Sciences from the Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil. She has a solid background in veterinary medicine and human biology, with a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan, US, and a visiting research fellowship at the University of Essex, UK. She holds a master's degree in Public Health and an MBA degree in Advanced Strategic Management, Business Administration, both from the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. She has experience working within the public and private sectors in Brazil, United States and United Kingdom. She was a member of the group overseeing the analysis of written and oral evidence and carrying out background research for the Independent Inquiry into UK Mental Health Services. As a member of the Just Transition Hub, she is looking into the impact of energy projects and governmental policies on the health of vulnerable communities. Email: [naiaraphd@gmail.com](mailto:naiaraphd@gmail.com)

**Ruth Lelei** holds an LLM in International Commercial Law from the University of Dundee. She is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Kenya). Currently, she is interested in pursuing a PhD in International Investment Law at the University of Dundee. She is also a research assistant at the Just Transition Hub. Email: [2394793@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:2394793@dundee.ac.uk)

**John O'Boyle** is an MSc student studying sustainability at CEPMLP, University of Dundee. Previously he undertook a BA in English/Northern Irish law at the University of Dundee. Presently he is working as a research assistant for Professor Raphael Heffron and the Just Transition Hub concurrently with his MSc studies. Email: [130009787@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:130009787@dundee.ac.uk)

# **New Approaches to Just Transition**

**2021 Annual International Symposium**

**Just Transition Hub – Institute for Social Science Research – University of Dundee**

**Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4HN – Scotland**



**University  
of Dundee**