

Dear readers of the Sustainable Welfare List,

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

Best regards
Katharina Zimmermann

Sustainable Welfare & Eco-social Policy Network Newsletter

Edition 6 – January 2024

Dear readers,

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

As announced at the last network meeting, we (in particular: Sarah Tews; thanks!) have set up a Zotero database for the network. It has a subfolder for each newsletter edition, where all listed papers are stored. So far, we are still gradually including pdfs, but it will be completed over the following months. In order to be legally allowed to share the pdfs, the Zotero database needs to be private. Hence, you need to get invited by us. In order to get access, we thus ask you to send an email with the subject “Access Zotero” to ecosocial.wiso@uni-hamburg.de and indicate your Zotero-username (create one first at www.zotero.org if you do not have one). **It is very important that you use the correct subject (“Access Zotero”; without “ and with capital A and capital Z) in your email, as we expect many mails and hence filter them automatically.** We will work on the invitations stepwise, so bear with us if you do not receive an invitation immediately.

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

CONTENT IN SHORT (please scroll down for more information)

Announcements of the Network

- Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Colloquium (online, April 3rd)
- Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Network Young Scholars’ Meeting (online, April 3rd)
- The Social-ecological dimension of the European Green Deal (25th April 2024)
- Publication of EU & Italian Stakeholder Roundtables Reports

EVENTS

External Events

- European Conference for a Just Transition (European Alliance for a Just Transition, Brussels, Belgium, 4th-5th March 2024)
- Energy Citizenship in the making (EC² project, Brussels, Belgium, 5th March 2024)
- Plenary debate at the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities (European Committee of the Regions, Mons, Belgium, 18th-19th March 2024)
- 3rd Edition of the International Conference of the journal “Scuola Democratica” (University of Cagliari, Italy, 3rd-6th June 2024)
- What Works Climate Solutions Summit (wwsc) (TU Berlin, Germany, 9th-12th June 2024)

- The 30th Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) & The 20th East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) Conference (Kyoto, Japan, 13th-14th June 2024)
- 10th International Degrowth Conference/ 15th ESEE Conference (Pontevedra, Spain, 18th-21th June 2024)
- World Café of Sustainable Welfare at the Degrowth/ESEE Conference (Pontevedra, Spain, 18th-21th June 2024)
- Summer School as a part of the project "Governing the 'Just transition': Eco-Social Politics and Policies in the EU" (24th-28th June 2024)
- 16th ESA Conference "Tension, Trust, and Transformation" (European Sociological Association, Porto, Portugal, 27th-30th August 2024)

Regional Events

- 15th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference (SOEP, Berlin, Germany, 4th - 5 th July 2024)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Call for Abstracts on "Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies. Social Inclusion, Social Innovation, Quality of Life and Public Health" (ProFeedback Conference, Bucharest, Romania)
- Call for Abstracts for the 3rd Edition of the International Conference of the journal "Scuola Democratica" (University of Cagliari)
- Call for Abstracts on "Best Practices of Social Policy in Turbulent Times" (The 30th Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) & The 20th East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) Joint International Conference, Kyoto, Japan)
- Call for Papers "Zeit der Transformation, Zeit des Stillstands" (Journal „Soziologie und Nachhaltigkeit" (SuN))
- Call for Papers „Sustainable welfare in global context: responding to societal and environmental transformations" (International Sociological Association: Research Committee (RC) 19 on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy)
- Call for Papers for the 15th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference (SOEP)
- Call for Papers "Fostering socially and ecologically sustainable digitalization of welfare states" panel in EASST conference
- Call for Papers "Fostering the Socially and Ecologically Sustainable Digitalisation of Welfare States." Special Issue in Social Inclusion

JOBS

- Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Social Policy (University College Dublin)
- Associate Editors Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ)
- Editorial Board Members Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ)
- Call for Application: ZSP Policy Grant Förderprogramm (support program)
- Call for Application: Promotionskolleg "JUST. Gerechte und nachhaltige Transformation"

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

- Betts-Davies, S. et al. (2024). *Is all inequality reduction equal? Understanding motivations and mechanisms for socio-economic inequality reduction in economic narratives of climate change mitigation.* Energy Research & Social Science 107: 103349.
- Biresselioglu, M. E. et al. (2024). *Unveiling resistance and opposition against low-carbon energy transitions: A comprehensive review.* Energy Research & Social Science 107: 103354.
- Bonfert, B. (2024). *We like sharing energy but currently there's no advantage': Transformative opportunities and challenges of local energy communities in Europe.* Energy Research & Social Science 107: 103351.
- Brown, D. and Martiskainen, M. *How sociotechnical norms shape transition pathways: The co-evolution of three European heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) regimes.* Energy Research & Social Science 107: 103346.
- Canalda, S. (2023). *The European Green Deal: A Useful Framework for Anticipating Change in Companies?* International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations Volume 39: 3/4.
- Chen, H. et al. (2024). *Clean energy for all? Mapping inequity potential in the clean energy transition in the United States.* Energy Research & Social Science 108: 103400.
- Cigna, L. et al. (2023). *Varieties of Just Transition? Eco-Social Policy Approaches at the International Level.* Social Policy and Society.
- Creutzig, F. et al. (2023). *Technological innovation enables low cost climate change mitigation.* Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103276.

- Cotta, B. (2023). *Unpacking the eco-social perspective in European policy, politics, and polity dimensions*. European Political Science.
- Cotta, B. and Domorenok, E. (2023). *Conclusion: bringing together the eco-social debate and established political science perspectives: synergies and new research pathways*. European Political Science.
- Dillmann, K. J. et al. (2023). *Ecological intensity of social provisioning in mobility systems: A global analysis*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103242.
- Duygan, M. et al. (2023). *A tale of two coal regimes: An actor-oriented analysis of destabilisation and maintenance of coal regimes in Germany and Japan*. Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103297.
- Eikeland, P. O. et al. (2023). *A wind of change in Norway: Explaining shifts in municipal stances on wind power by policy feedback and energy justice*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103231.
- Flanagan, F. (2023). *Just Cessation: How Might the Climate Imperative to Phase Out Fossil Fuel Extraction Reshape the Concept of Just Transition?* International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations Volume 39: 3/4.
- Fransolet, A. and Vanhille, J. (eds.) (2023). *Just Transition in Belgium Concepts, Issues at Stake, and Policy Levers*. Scientific report on behalf of the High Committee for a Just Transition.
- Fritz, M. and Eversberg, D. (2023). *Mentalities, classes and the four lines of conflict in the social-ecological transformation*. European Political Science.
- Fritz, M. and Lee, J. (2023). *Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies*. Special Issue in: European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Bohnenberger, K. (2023). *Peaks and gaps in eco-social policy and sustainable welfare: A systematic literature map of the research landscape*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Mandelli, M. (2023). *Harnessing welfare state theories to explain the emergence of eco-social policies*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Domazet, M. et al. (2023). *Doughnuts for strategies: A tool for an emerging sustainable welfare paradigm*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Bridgen, P. (2023). *An eco-social solution to energy poverty? Substance and symbolism in the England's use of domestic energy efficiency policy to achieve social and environmental synergies, 1997–2023*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Lee, J. and Koch, M. (2023). *The role of work and social protection systems in social-ecological transformations: Insights from deliberative citizen forums in Sweden*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Hidasi, K. et al. (2023). *Working time reduction: Employers' perspectives and eco-social implications – ten cases from Hungary*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Hirvilammi, T. et al. (2023). *Towards an eco-welfare state: Enabling factors for transformative eco-social initiatives*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Bonetti, M. and Villa, M. (2023). *The conflicts of ecological transition on the ground and the role of eco-social policies: Lessons from Italian case studies*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Fritz, M. and Eversberg, D. (2023). *Support for eco-social policy from a class perspective: Responsibilities, redistribution, regulation and rights*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Schulze Waltrup, R. et al. (2023). *Eco-social policy in the global political economy: Analysing shifting discourses on agricultural subsidies*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
 - Zimmermann, K. and Gengnagel, V. (2023). *Mapping the social dimension of the European Green Deal*. European Journal of Social Security 25/4.
- González-Pijuan, I. et al. (2023). *Empowering whose future? A European policy analysis of children in energy poverty*. Energy Research & Social Science 106: 103328.
- Gordon J. A. et al. (2023). *Divergent consumer preferences and visions for cooking and heating technologies in the United Kingdom: Make our homes clean, safe, warm and smart!* Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103204.
- Gram-Hanssen, K. et al. (2023). *Energy justice in heat metering: Findings from a Danish experiment of metering and distribution in residential apartment buildings*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103250.
- Greenleaf, M. et al. (2023). *Tool for a just transition? Community choice aggregation and energy justice in New Hampshire and beyond*. Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103287.
- Gross, S. G. (2024). *Energy, Ecology, and the Remaking of West German Politics in the 1970s and 1980s*. German Politics and Society.
- Guevara, Z. et al. (2023). *The theoretical peculiarities of energy poverty research: A systematic literature review*. Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103274.

- Gürtler, K. (2023). *Justice in energy transformations as a spatial phenomenon: A framework for analyzing multi-dimensional justice claims*. Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103277.
- Hanke, F. et al. (2023). *Excluded despite their support - The perspectives of energy-poor households on their participation in the German energy transition narrative*. Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103259.
- Hermwille, L. et al. (2023). *Of hopeful narratives and historical injustices – An analysis of just transition narratives in European coal regions*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103263.
- Im, Z. J. (2024). *Paying the piper for the Green Transition? Perceptions of unfairness from regional employment declines in carbon-polluting industrial sectors*. Journal of European Public Policy.
- Kilian, L. et al. (2023). *Achieving emission reductions without furthering social inequality: Lessons from the 2007 economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic*. Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103286.
- Kraaijvanger, C. W. et al. (2023). *Does the sun shine for all? Revealing socio-spatial inequalities in the transition to solar energy in The Hague, The Netherlands*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103245.
- Lage, J. et al. (2023). *Citizens call for sufficiency and regulation — A comparison of European citizen assemblies and National Energy and Climate Plans*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103254.
- McLean, E. V. et al. (2024). *Clearing the air: Public health concerns and support for natural gas restrictions in the United States*. Energy Research & Social Science 108: 103404.
- Narlanka, S. R. and Balachandra, P. (2023). *Measuring energy access for livelihoods, lifestyles, and welfare: Validating the Hierarchical Energy Access Framework in India*. Energy Research & Social Science 107: 103352.
- Nordbrandt, M. et al. (2024). *Combating climate change through the welfare state: can social insurance boost support for carbon taxes in Europe?* Journal of European Public Policy.
- Novitz, T. (2023). *Human Rights as a Regulatory Tool for 'Just Transition' in Europe (and Beyond)*. International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations 39: 3/4.
- Olmos Giupponi, B. (2023). *Just Transition in the Global South: Alternative Approaches from Latin America*. International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations 39: 3/4.
- Osička, J. et al. (2023). *Energy justice and energy democracy: Separated twins, rival concepts or just buzzwords?* Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103266.
- Paulsson, A. et al. (2024). *Diminishing returns of growth? Economic performance, needs satisfaction and ecological impacts of OECD welfare states*. Critical Social Policy.
- Poblete-Cazenave, M. and Rao, N. D. (2023). *Social and contextual determinants of heat pump adoption in the US: Implications for subsidy policy design*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103255.
- Raimi, D. and Davicino, A. (2024). *Securing energy sovereignty: A review of key barriers and opportunities for energy-producing Native nations in the United States*. Energy Research & Social Science 107: 103324.
- Rudek, T. J. and Huang, H.-T. (2023). *Future at play: Applying Reflexive Public Reason in the case of Taiwanese energy transition*. Energy Research & Social Science 106: 103325.
- Schuster, A. et al. (2023). *The unjust just transition? Exploring different dimensions of justice in the lignite regions of Lusatia, Eastern Greater Poland, and Gorj*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103227.
- Segales, M. et al. (2023). *Social innovation and global citizenship: Guiding principles for sustainable, just and democratic energy transition in cities*. Energy Research & Social Science 106: 103295.
- Shiradkar, S. et al. (2023). *Can community based solar energy initiatives deliver on women's empowerment in India? Evidence from rural Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh*. Energy Research & Social Science 104: 103225.
- Standal, K. et al. (2023). *Can renewable energy communities enable a just energy transition? Exploring alignment between stakeholder motivations and needs and EU policy in Latvia, Norway, Portugal and Spain*. Energy Research & Social Science 106: 103326.
- Stock, R. and Sovacool, B. K. (2023). *Left in the dark: Colonial racial capitalism and solar energy transitions in India*. Energy Research & Social Science 105: 103285.
- Stojilovska, A. (2024). *Fostering a democratic and socially just energy transition: How do Ombudspersons in Europe frame energy poverty?* Energy Research & Social Science 107: 103363.
- Suzuki, M. et al. (2023). *Have climate policies accelerated energy transitions? Historical evolution of electricity mix in the G7 and the EU compared to net-zero targets*. Energy Research & Social Science 106: 103281.
- Ullmann, A. N. and Kittner, N. (2024). *Are global efforts coordinated for a Just Transition? A review of civil society, financial, government, and academic Just Transition frameworks*. Energy Research & Social Science 108: 103371.

- Van der Slycken, J. and Bleys, B. (2024). *Is Europe faring well with growth? Evidence from a welfare comparison in the EU-15*. *Ecological Economics* 217: 108054.
- Vivoda, V. et al. (2024). *Lithium nexus: Energy, geopolitics, and socio-environmental impacts in Mexico's Sonora project*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 108: 103393.
- Wang, X. et al. (2023). *Living with energy poverty: Uncovering older people's fuel choices in urban China*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 104: 103247.
- Yoon, Y. (2024). *Poverty in the midst of plenty: Identifying energy poverty, hardship and vulnerable households in Russia*. *Energy Research & Social Science* 108: 103362.

Books

- Galgóczi, Béla (2023): *Response measures to the energy crisis: policy targeting and climate trade-offs*. EUI aisbl.

Book Chapters:

- Im, Zhen Jie et al. (2023). *Toward a Real Green Transition? Triple Constraints Holding Back EU Member States' "Greening" Industrial Strategies*. In: S. Börner and M. Seeleib-Kaiser (eds.): *European Social Policy and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges to National Welfare and EU Policy*. Oxford University Press.

Announcements of the Network

Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Colloquium (online, March 27th 2024)

The next colloquium will be on the topic "Beyond Growth-dependency. Post-growth alternatives and eco-social policies". We will announce speakers soon, but please save the date: Wednesday, 27th March; 14.30-16:00 CET.

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

Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Network Young Scholar's Meeting

Students, PhD scholars and early-career researchers are invited to the 4th Young Scholars Meeting organized by the Sustainable Welfare and Eco-social Policy Network. This get-together should provide an informal opportunity for young scholars to share personal experiences and discuss together topics related to sustainable welfare. The meeting will take place online right after the colloquium, on March 27th, 16:00 – 17:00 CET.

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

The Social-ecological dimension of the European Green Deal (25th April 2024)

The Sustainable Welfare and Eco-social Policy Network is co-organising a seminar on April 25th 2024 at SciencesPo Paris, in partnership with SciencesPo's Socio-Ecological Transition Initiative (SET), which is coordinated by Anne-Laure Beaussier, Éloi Laurent and Bruno Palier. The seminar will gather international scholars from our network as speakers, as well as EU policymakers as discussants, to talk about the future of the European Green Deal and its social dimension.

Publication of EU & Italian Stakeholder Roundtables Reports

The Sustainable Welfare and Eco-social Policy Network is currently promoting a series of Stakeholder Roundtables aimed at boosting informal dialogue and at strengthening the cooperation between academics, policymakers and civil society actors. Two of these thematic roundtables were organised in the previous months: One focused on "A Just Transition in Italy" and took place in Milan (and virtually) on September 22nd 2023. It was co-organised with Fondazione Feltrinelli and coordinated by Prof. Matteo Villa (University of Pisa). Participants included national and local administrators, trade unions, civil society organisations and social movements. A second roundtable focused on the "EU social-ecological model" and took place in Brussels (as well as virtually) on December 4th 2023. It was co-organised with the European Social Observatory (OSE) and coordinated by Prof. Milena Büchs (University of Leeds) and Dr. Sebastiano Sabato (OSE). Participants included the European Commission, the Belgian

government and several European think tanks and civil society organisations. The summary documents of these two roundtables provide a short recap of the main challenges, best practices and recommendations identified in the discussions. They also provide a series of useful links, as well as a description of the initiatives and lists of participants.

Reports will be published here soon: wiso.uni-hamburg.de

External Events

European Conference for a Just Transition (European Alliance for a Just Transition, Brussels, Belgium, 4th-5th March)

The European Conference for a Just Transition is an invitation-only conference organised by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU. More information will be emailed to members of the European Alliance for a Just Transition.

Further information can be found here: alliancejusttransition.eu

Final Event of the EC² project “Energy Citizenship in the making” (EC² project, Brussels, Belgium, 5th March 2024)

The final event of the EC² project will take place on the 5th March 2024 in Brussels. The project aims to explore insights, practical tools and policy recommendations from four projects on energy citizenship and energy communities. Further information about the project can be found here: ec2project.eu.

Registration is possible here: energieinstitut-linz.typeform.com

Plenary debate at the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities (European Committee of the Regions, Mons, Belgium, 18th-19th March 2024)

At the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities in Mons from the 18th-19th March 2024 will be a plenary debate on the subject of "Just transition and cohesion at the heart of future EU investment policies".

Registration is possible here: cor.europa.eu

3rd Edition of the International Conference of the journal “Scuola Democratica” (University of Cagliari, Italy, 3rd-6th June 2024)

The 3rd Edition of the International Conference of the journal “Scuola Democratica” will take place in Cagliari, Italy from the 3rd-6th June 2024. It addresses the subject “education and/or social justice”:

“Never before has the theme of social justice been so crucial. This is the case of economic instability spreading from country to country, wars and consequent energy shortages, the climate crisis and resulting demand for a new economic policy of transition to a viable ecological model, migration and its backlash of nationalist protectionism, the protests by women and younger generations in many parts of the world—and many more so. Educational processes—in their broadest meaning which embraces school, university, and training and is targeted towards young as much as adult people—are not unaffected by these challenges. They rather demand choral reflection on the purposes, stakes, setbacks, and achievable futures of education. Indeed, educational poverty and inequality have always been both the cause and effect of social, cultural, and territorial ones. Therefore, it becomes increasingly important today to rethink and put into practice new ideas of justice and educational policy on local, national, and supranational scales. Theoretical reflections and empirical analyses (qualitative and quantitative, large-scale, or focused on specific contexts) that aim at identifying the plurality of factors that contribute to producing inclusion/exclusion, equality/inequality, and recognition/non-recognition of diversity—in other words, social justice and injustice, are warmly welcome.”

Further information can be found here: scuolademocratica-conference.net

What Works Climate Solutions Summit (wwsc) (TU Berlin, Germany, 9th-12th June 2024)

The What Works Climate Solutions Summit (wwsc) will take place at the TU Berlin in Germany from the 9th-12th June 2024. It is a conference for evidence-based climate policy and organized by the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) and its partners.

More information can be found here: whatworksclimate.solutions

The 30th Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) & The 20th East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) (Kyoto, Japan, 13th-14th June 2024)

The 30th Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) & The 20th East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) will take place in Kyoto from the 13th-14th June 2024 in the Kyoto International Conference Center. The conference theme is "Best Practices of Social Policy in Turbulent Times".

There will be the following streams:

- Welfare States & Welfare Regimes
- Social Security & Social Justice
- Migration, Social Rights & Citizenship Stratification
- Health & Human Well-being
- Families, Children and Care
- Poverty, Inequality & Social Inclusion
- Education & Vocational Training
- Ageing & Pensions
- Labour Markets & Employment
- Housing & Urbanization
- Gender Inequality & Social Policy
- Social services & Social work
- Sustainable Development & Social Protection

More information can be found here: easp-fiss-2024

10th International Degrowth Conference/ 15th ESEE Conference (Pontevedra, Spain, 18th-21th June 2024)

The 10th International Degrowth Conference is themed 'Science, Technology, and Innovation beyond growth: Cultivating collective creativity for a sustainable future,' and there will be two main activities: *The Conference* and *Beyond the Conference*.

The Conference:

The main Conference is scheduled to take place from 18-21 June 2024. It will feature a diverse range of sessions, including academic lectures, expert panels, and artistic workshops. With an expected participation of over 500 attendees, including academics and activists, this conference aims to bring together a wide range of perspectives and international expertise on ecological economics and degrowth.

Beyond the Conference:

Civic engagement and citizen-oriented initiatives will be organized throughout the year and during the conference days. These activities will be held at various locations across the city and will include workshops, debates, exhibitions, and contests. Open to the public, these activities will provide opportunities for active involvement and participation.

Further information can be found here: degrowth.info

World Café of Sustainable Welfare at the Degrowth/ESEE Conference in Pontevedra

Jayeon Lee, Martin Fritz and Kajsa Emilsson organize a World Cafe of Sustainable Welfare at the Degrowth/ESEE Conference in June 18-21 in Pontevedra, Spain: How do we provide sustainable welfare for all without undermining planetary wellbeing? Eco-social policies tackling ecological and social problems in simultaneous and integrative ways will play crucial roles in post-growth societies. Overcoming the growth-dependency of current welfare states requires new ideas and perspectives. Using the world-café method, researchers, practitioners, and other conference participants can meet in an interactive session and discuss innovative proposals of eco-social policy such as working time reduction, universal basic services, maximum income, and green job guarantee. Researchers with expertise in these proposals will act as the café hosts and the participants will discuss transformative potentials as well as problems and barriers in implementing them.

They are still seeking for researchers who would like to participate as cafe hosts leading a table discussion on specific eco-social policy instruments. If you are interested, please contact any of the three organizers (jayeon.lee@socwork.gu.se; martin.fritz@uni-jena.de; kajsa.emilsson@soch.lu.se).

Summer School as a part of the project "Governing the 'Just transition': Eco-Social Politics and Policies in the EU" (24th-28th June 2024)

Save the date! As part of the project "Governing the 'Just transition': Eco-Social Politics and Policies in the EU" led by Paolo Graziano, Ekaterina Domorenok and the collaboration of Benedetta Cotta, we are organizing a Summer School open to PhDs and post-docs to be held in Padova (Italy) from 24 to 28 June 2024. Further information on how to apply and deadlines will follow soon.

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

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

Further information can be found here: europeansociology.org

Regional Events

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

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

Further information can be found at DIW

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Call for Abstracts on "Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies. Social Inclusion, Social Innovation, Quality of Life and Public Health" (ProFeedback Conference, Bucharest, Romania)

QURES Quality Research and Support together with the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration announced a call for abstracts for the International Conference "Good practices

and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies. Social Inclusion, Social Innovation, Quality of Life and Public Health” for the ProFeedback Conference that takes place in Bucharest, Romania on 16th of May 2024.

The presenters of the Conference will be selected based on extended abstracts (1 ½ - 2 pages) structured as it follows: brief overview of the theme of the study or evaluation, objectives of the study / evaluation, methodological approach and types of data that were used or will be used in the analysis, preliminary results, limitations and concluding remarks. We encourage and highly welcome critical, multi and interdisciplinary abstracts related to the wide spectrum of Social Policies. You can submit your extended abstract by email to: socialconference@hetfa.hu. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 25th of February 2024.

Further information can be found here: profeedback.eu

Call for Abstracts for the 3rd Edition of the International Conference of the journal “Scuola Democratica” (University of Cagliari)

The 3rd Edition of the International Conference of the journal “Scuola Democratica” calls for Abstract for the Conference on the subject of “education and/or social justice”:

“Never before has the theme of social justice been so crucial. This is the case of economic instability spreading from country to country, wars and consequent energy shortages, the climate crisis and resulting demand for a new economic policy of transition to a viable ecological model, migration and its backlash of nationalist protectionism, the protests by women and younger generations in many parts of the world—and many more so. Educational processes—in their broadest meaning which embraces school, university, and training and is targeted towards young as much as adult people—are not unaffected by these challenges. They rather demand choral reflection on the purposes, stakes, setbacks, and achievable futures of education. Indeed, educational poverty and inequality have always been both the cause and effect of social, cultural, and territorial ones. Therefore, it becomes increasingly important today to rethink and put into practice new ideas of justice and educational policy on local, national, and supranational scales. Theoretical reflections and empirical analyses (qualitative and quantitative, large-scale, or focused on specific contexts) that aim at identifying the plurality of factors that contribute to producing inclusion/exclusion, equality/inequality, and recognition/non-recognition of diversity—in other words, social justice and injustice, are warmly welcome.”

The submission deadline for the abstract is the 10th February 2024. Further information can be found here: scuolademocratica-conference.net

Call for Abstracts on “Best Practices of Social Policy in Turbulent Times” (The 30th Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) &The 20th East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) Joint International Conference, Kyoto, Japan)

The 30th Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) &The 20th East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) will take place in Kyoto from the 13th-14th June 2024 in the Kyoto International Conference Center. The conference theme is “Best Practices of Social Policy in Turbulent Times”. The **submission deadline** of paper abstracts is the 31th March 2024.

There will be the following streams:

- Welfare States & Welfare Regimes
- Social Security & Social Justice
- Migration, Social Rights & Citizenship Stratification
- Health & Human Well-being
- Families, Children and Care
- Poverty, Inequality & Social Inclusion
- Education & Vocational Training
- Ageing & Pensions
- Labour Markets & Employment
- Housing & Urbanization
- Gender Inequality & Social Policy
- Social services & Social work
- Sustainable Development & Social Protection

More information can be found here: [easp-fiss-2024](#)

Call for Papers “Zeit der Transformation, Zeit des Stillstands“ (Journal „Soziologie und Nachhaltigkeit“ (SuN))

The German journal „Soziologie und Nachhaltigkeit“ calls for papers on the subject “Zeit der Transformation, Zeit des Stillstands”. The abstract should not be longer than 500 words and can be submitted via email sun.redaktion@uni-muenster.de, the submission deadline is the 15th February 2024.

The call can be found here: ["Soziologie und Nachhaltigkeit" \(SuN\) Call for Papers](#)

Call for Papers „Sustainable welfare in global context: responding to societal and environmental transformations” (International Sociological Association: Research Committee (RC) 19 on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy)

The Research Committee (RC) 19 on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy of the International Sociological Association is calling for papers on „Sustainable welfare in global context: responding to societal and environmental transformations” for the annual conference from 4th-6th September 2024 in Norway. The abstract should have around 350 words and the submission deadline is the 29th February 2024.

The call can be found here: oslomet.no

Call for Papers: 15th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference for the SOEP 2024

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

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

Call for Papers “Fostering socially and ecologically sustainable digitalization of welfare states” panel in EASST conference

A panel at the EASST conference in Amsterdam from 16th – 19th July 2024 is calling for Papers.

Short abstract: “This panel examines how digitalising welfare states interacts with social and ecological sustainability amidst the integration of highly experimental technologies into welfare services. We aim to foster discussion on envisioning socially and ecologically just futures for a digitalised welfare state.”

Further information can be found here: nomadit.co.uk

Call for Papers “Fostering the Socially and Ecologically Sustainable Digitalisation of Welfare States.” Special Issue in Social Inclusion

The Open Access Journal Social Inclusion is calling for papers on the subject of “Fostering the Socially and Ecologically Sustainable Digitalisation of Welfare States”. The deadline is the 15th March 2024.

Further information can be found here: cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion

Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Social Policy (University College Dublin)

The University College Dublin is searching for a lecturer/assistant professor in social policy. The application deadline is the 15th February 2024. They welcome applicants with a PhD in social policy or a cognate social science discipline (e.g. sociology, political science, economics, public administration) and a record of research and teaching in this field. They are seeking candidates who can make a significant contribution in any core area of social policy research and teaching, such as, but not limited to: social policy and inequality, labour market policy, social policy in developing countries, family policy, policy evaluation/evidence informed policy and practice, and European/global social policy.

- College: UCD College of Social Sciences and Law
- School: UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
- Post Title: Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Social Policy
- Post Duration: Temporary 24 Months
- Reports to: Head of School, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
- Competition Ref. No.: 016792
- HR Administrator: Martyna Wojcik

More information can be found here: ucd.ie

Associate Editors Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ)

Policy Press and the Editorial Management Board of the Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ) are looking for three to five Associate Editors. The job starts in April 2024 for an initial period of three years. The application deadline is the 15th March 2024.

More information can be found [here](#)

Editorial Board Members Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ)

Policy Press and the Editorial Management Board of the Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (JPSJ) are looking for Editorial Board Members who will support the Co-Editors with a range of activities. The job starts in April 2024. The application deadline is the 15th March 2024.

More information can be found [here](#)

Call for Application: ZSP Policy Grant Förderprogramm

ZSP Policy Grant is calling for applications on their support-program for social scientists at all career stages (from pre-doc phase). The aim is to develop practical policy recommendations together with the ZSP on the basis of its own research. The content should be about the Sustainability of the German welfare state. The application deadline is the 15th April 2024.

More information can be found here: zentrum-neue-sozialpolitik.org

Call for Application: Promotionskolleg "JUST. Gerechte und nachhaltige Transformation"

Aus Mitteln der Hans-Böckler-Stiftung werden voraussichtlich 6 Promotionsstipendien für das Promotionskolleg „Just and sustainable transformation (JUST). Gerechte und nachhaltige Transformation.“ (PK 056) an der Universität Kassel vergeben, um zentrale Fragen, die sich aus den gesellschaftlichen Herausforderungen zur sozial-ökologischen Transformation ergeben, zu behandeln. Der Bewerbungszeitraum ist der 15.02.2024-31.05.2024.

Insgesamt stehen vier Themencluster im Mittelpunkt des Kollegs:

- Sozial-ökologische Nachhaltigkeit durch transformative Bildung

- Barrierefreiheit und Teilhabe in der Freiraum-, Stadt- und Landschaftsplanung
- Diversität und Inklusion für nachhaltige Unternehmen und Lieferketten
- sozialer Rechtsstaat und demokratische Institutionen in Strukturwandelregionen.

Mehr Informationen sind hier zu finden: www.uni-kassel.de

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

“Is all inequality reduction equal? Understanding motivations and mechanisms for socio-economic inequality reduction in economic narratives of climate change mitigation” by Sam Betts-Davies et al.

The review “Is all inequality reduction equal? Understanding motivations and mechanisms for socio-economic inequality reduction in economic narratives of climate change mitigation” by Sam Betts-Davies et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103349>

Abstract

In descriptions of a just transition to a sustainable future, ensuring a decent quality of life whilst remaining within planetary boundaries are often dual central aims. However, at present no country is moving in the right direction at the necessary speed to achieve this. In response, the need to reduce socio-economic inequality is increasingly highlighted in climate mitigation proposals, spanning a broad range of economic narratives of climate change mitigation, including Green Growth, Green New Deal, Post-Growth and Degrowth proposals. Despite broad support within sustainability transition literature for inequality reduction, the relationship between inequality and planetary boundaries is complex and understudied, particularly with regards to the climate impact economic inequality reduction may have in these divergent economic policy narratives. Through a structured integrative review of the academic literature that discusses inequality reduction alongside these narratives, this paper unpicks the motivations for and mechanisms through which socio-economic inequality reduction may be achieved. Whilst the narratives share the goal of achieving inequality reduction, the purposes for, mechanisms through which inequality reduction is to be achieved, and conviction through which inequality reduction is pursued is often distinct. It is argued that these differences may result in divergent climate impacts of ensuring decent living standards under each economic future. Despite this potential, none of the narratives offer investigation to these impacts, indicating the need for further empirical investigation of this important tension in climate change mitigation research.

“Unveiling resistance and opposition against low-carbon energy transitions: A comprehensive review” by Mehmet Efe Biresselioglu et al.

The review “Unveiling resistance and opposition against low-carbon energy transitions: A comprehensive review” by Mehmet Efe Biresselioglu et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103354>

Abstract

The growing energy demand has increased the necessity for low-carbon energy transition to tackle climate change. Although existing literature primarily centres on the acceptance of these changes and their technologies, the growing number of low-carbon initiatives and renewable energy projects has prompted a substantial increase in literature exploring the social, political, and cultural resistance and opposition to these shifts. This study systematically analyses current literature to scrutinise the encountered resistance in transitioning toward a low-carbon economy. It extensively investigates the factors driving resistance across micro, meso, and macro levels, specifically focusing on three technology categories: consumer technologies, renewable energy, and smart energy systems. By synthesising insights from diverse studies that explore the political, social, economic, and cultural contexts of resistance, the primary aim is to contribute to the existing knowledge on energy transition and to provide insights that

support more socially sustainable and democratic pathways toward low-carbon societies. Moreover, this study presents policy recommendations to address existing and potential resistance and opposition in this transition. Highlighting the distinctive aspects of each resistance case stresses the significance of acknowledging local intricacies and nuances in comprehending and addressing this resistance.

“We like sharing energy but currently there's no advantage’: Transformative opportunities and challenges of local energy communities in Europe” by Bernd Bonfert

The research article “We like sharing energy but currently there's no advantage’: Transformative opportunities and challenges of local energy communities in Europe” by Bernd Bonfert has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103351>

Abstract

Rising energy costs expose the instability of our energy system and underline the urgency of transitioning towards decentralized renewable energy provision. Many European countries have tasked municipalities with driving this transition and the European Union has designated local energy communities to receive stronger support. Energy communities involve public, private or community actors in co-producing and distributing renewable energy. They are often praised for helping democratize, decentralize and socially embed the energy system, but remain constrained by economic and legal barriers. To what extent they can contribute to transforming the energy system thus depends on their ability to scale beyond their niche.

This article identifies opportunities and challenges encountered by energy communities, especially regarding legislation, municipal governance, and stakeholder participation. Drawing on ‘foundational economy’ concepts, it explains to what extent energy communities are governed and scaled by public, private or community actors, and discusses the transferability, social cohesion, and democratizing potential of energy innovations. The article compares qualitative findings from four energy community pilot projects in the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and the UK, based on interviews, observation and document analysis. It finds that while many cities are well-positioned to launch energy communities, they lack the authority and means to scale up innovations, thus having to rely on other actors. While private companies are often hesitant about adopting innovations, municipal companies are more willing to do so, yet citizen participation is lacking across cases. Findings thus underline a need for legislation to remove barriers to energy innovation and enable democratic participation.

“How sociotechnical norms shape transition pathways: The co-evolution of three European heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) regimes” by Donal Brown and Mari Martiskainen

The research article “How sociotechnical norms shape transition pathways: The co-evolution of three European heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) regimes” by Donal Brown and Mari Martiskainen has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103346>

Abstract

Countries across Europe have ambitious targets to become carbon neutral. This requires a transformation in the way buildings are heated, ventilated, and cooled (HVAC), with a move away from fossil fuels. Highly divergent pathways currently exist between different European HVAC regimes. However, few studies have examined these differences in detail, or the role of social norms in sustaining or changing HVAC regimes. This mixed methods study examines the decarbonisation of HVAC systems in three European countries of Finland, Greece and the United Kingdom. Based on a quantitative survey of n = 3478 households and 40 qualitative interviews with building users, managers, and designers, we find highly divergent HVAC regimes across the three countries with considerable variability in technologies, user practices, business strategies, institutions and their relationship to ecosystems. We also discover a shifting patchwork of normative perspectives to heating and cooling. These “socio-technical” norms are highly susceptible to peer influence, broader socio-economic and political drivers, and environmental factors such as climate change. Finally, we argue that an appreciation of how these socio-technical norms are formed and influenced, is an essential yet under-explored avenue in research and public policy on sustainability transitions.

“The European Green Deal: A Useful Framework for Anticipating Change in Companies?” by Sergio Canalda

The research article “The European Green Deal: A Useful Framework for Anticipating Change in Companies?” by Sergio Canalda has been published in “International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54648/ijcl2023027>

Abstract

Sergio CanaldaThe restructuring of companies to adapt to a more sustainable production context requires anticipatory measures. These measures must necessarily be articulated through the principle of just transition, offering assistance to workers affected by the restructuring. The European Green Deal aims to promote the transformation of the European Union towards a more sustainable economic model. However, the measures included in the European Union (EU) Fair Transition Recommendation are generic actions without concrete content. When it mentions the need to encourage employee participation in corporate restructuring through information and consultation, the Recommendation refers to the implementation of the Quality Framework on Anticipation of Change and Corporate Restructuring.

This paper addresses the adequacy of the Quality Framework to ensure a fair transition in green restructuring processes. In the first section, the interconnection between the EU Fair Transition Recommendation and the Quality Framework is briefly analysed. In the second section, the suitability of the Quality Framework as a reference instrument to guide restructuring processes is examined in two respects: on the one hand, the involvement of workers’ representatives and, on the other hand, the active participation of public authorities through the implementation of other social policies.

“Clean energy for all? Mapping inequity potential in the clean energy transition in the United States” by Huiting Chen et al.

The research article “Clean energy for all? Mapping inequity potential in the clean energy transition in the United States” by Huiting Chen et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103400>

Abstract

The clean energy transition leads to an unequal distribution of benefits and burdens over a region. To ensure equity in the energy transition, policymakers need to understand the spatial distribution and extent of regional inequities. There is a lack of systematic and quantitative studies addressing the different types of inequities. Existing studies focus on the socioeconomic characteristics of vulnerable groups without distinguishing inequity types or a single inequity issue. To address this gap, we propose a comprehensive inequity framework in the energy transition by identifying five types of clean energy inequity and present the linkages among inequity types, contributing factors, energy justice tenets, and potential policy interventions, and develop an indicator system to quantify and spatially analyze inequity potential. The county-level analysis in the United States reveals spatial variations in different types of clean energy inequity, which highlights the need for spatially tailored policies to address different types of inequity in the U.S. This study provides policymakers with valuable insights to formulate equitable energy policies and allocate resources for promoting a just energy transition.

“Varieties of Just Transition? Eco-Social Policy Approaches at the International Level” by Luca Cigna et al.

The research article “Varieties of Just Transition? Eco-Social Policy Approaches at the International Level” by Luca Cigna et al. has been published in “Social Policy and Society”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746423000192>

Abstract

‘Just transition’ is a concept originally developed by the labour movement to reconcile workers’ rights with the necessity to combat climate change. More recently, supra- and international organisations have also adopted this idea. However, it remains unclear to what extent these actors follow the eco-social

ambitions of organised labour. In this article, we develop a conceptual framework to capture diverse just transition approaches by distinguishing between the goal, policy, and governance dimension. We apply a multi-method approach to gauge the extent of variation in the just transition conceptualisations of three actors: the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the European Union (EU). We identify a cleavage between the ILO where just transition refers to an ambitious eco-social agenda on the one hand, and the IMF's emphasis on macroeconomic adaptation on the other. The EU takes up a middle position by promoting a 'green growth' strategy with medium emphasis on environmental and social risk mitigation.

“Technological innovation enables low cost climate change mitigation” by Felix Creutzig et al.

The mini review “Technological innovation enables low cost climate change mitigation” by Felix Creutzig et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103276>

Abstract

Scenarios from integrated assessment models play a central role in helping policymakers envisage pathways to limit global warming to well below 2 °C. We demonstrate that many models maintain a preference for inefficient combustion, in particular by relying on coal and bioenergy. In contrast to recent evidence from innovation studies, scenarios are optimistic on deployment of lumpy energy-systems technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, while insufficiently reflecting empirically observed innovation dynamics in more granular technologies such as solar photovoltaics. Our analysis shows that two key options for rapid decarbonization remain systematically undersampled in models that underpin IPCC scenarios: A) strong growth in intermittent renewables, in particular solar PV, together with electrification of sectors; and B) widespread adoption of efficient end use technologies enabling high service provision at low levels of energy demand. A combination of continued PV growth and sector coupling with low to medium energy demand (a corridor of 250 to 500 EJ of primary energy) would render carbon neutrality by 2050 feasible, thus enabling near-term cost-effective climate change mitigation and reducing the need for carbon dioxide removal in the 2nd half of the century. Models would benefit from updated cost assumptions, higher resolution on granular end-use technologies, higher resolution on sector coupling, and an overall consideration of demand-side solutions. Such updates – of which some are starting to be explored by modeling teams - are likely to demonstrate that some mitigation pathways are cost saving, rather than costly.

“Unpacking the eco-social perspective in European policy, politics, and polity dimensions” by Benedetta Cotta

The special issue article “Unpacking the eco-social perspective in European policy, politics, and polity dimensions” by Benedetta Cotta has been published in “European Political Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41304-023-00453-6>

Abstract

This article introduces the symposium titled “Political science perspectives on the emerging eco-social policies, politics and polity in the European Union” that brings together the eco-social debate with mainstream theories and concepts from the political science discipline with the aim of encouraging a mutually and reinforcing theoretical and empirical exchange between the two fields. Before presenting the other contributions to the symposium, this article unpacks what “eco-social” is by presenting the existing definitions followed by a bottom-up identification of the “eco-social” essence retrieved through a systematic review of this literature. Furthermore, it takes stock and identifies areas of deficiency of the eco-social literature along the three dimensions of policy, politics, and polity while also outlining potential contributions of political science's approaches to this field.

“Conclusion: bringing together the eco-social debate and established political science perspectives: synergies and new research pathways” by Benedetta Cotta and Ekaterina Domorenok

The special issue article “Conclusion: bringing together the eco-social debate and established political science perspectives: synergies and new research pathways” by Benedetta Cotta and Ekaterina Doremnok has been published in “European Political Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41304-023-00454-5>

Abstract

This symposium makes a first step in bridging the emerging eco-social debate and the established political science theories and concepts, indicating the mutually beneficial analytical perspectives and common research pathways that may arise. In addition to identifying several aspects in the policy, politics and polity dimensions that appear to be particularly relevant in view of the emerging eco-social policies, this collection of articles points out two cross-cutting themes, namely the transformation of the welfare state set-ups, and new cleavages and power relations, which pose new questions and open a promising research agenda for political scientists.

“Ecological intensity of social provisioning in mobility systems: A global analysis” by Kevin Joseph Dillman et al.

The research article “Ecological intensity of social provisioning in mobility systems: A global analysis” by Kevin Joseph Dillman et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103242>

Abstract

Reducing the ecological intensity of provisioning systems (food, mobility, etc.) has been suggested as necessary for achieving a good life for all within the planetary boundaries. Few studies have considered the socio-ecological efficiency of such systems, however. This study therefore developed a sector-specific conceptualization of ground passenger transport as a provisioning system and defined a safe and just space for mobility. Using these frameworks, the socio-ecological performance of mobility systems of 150 countries was mapped and compared globally. The results showed that no country entered the defined safe and just space. High-income countries had high social achievement and ecological overshoot while low/middle income countries had no ecological overshoot but also low levels of social achievement. Estimating the ecological intensity of well-being, a development gap became apparent between high income countries and lower/middle income countries, but on both sides of this gap, the ecological intensity of well-being was found to worsen as GDP increased, potentially illustrating an N-shaped Kuznets curve for mobility provisioning. Our system level assessment substantiates the need to improve the socio-ecological efficiency of provisioning. We provide a brief future research agenda on the systemic, social, and political transformations potentially required to achieve it.

“A tale of two coal regimes: An actor-oriented analysis of destabilisation and maintenance of coal regimes in Germany and Japan” by Mert Duygan et al.

The research article “A tale of two coal regimes: An actor-oriented analysis of destabilisation and maintenance of coal regimes in Germany and Japan” by Mert Duygan et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103297>

Abstract

Phasing out coal-fired electricity is an urgent global task, critical to efforts to mitigate climate change and air pollution. Despite the growth and increasing competitiveness of renewable energy, phase-out progress is slow, with coal-fired power even reaching an all-time global high in 2021. A key factor blocking or delaying this energy transition is the active resistance of coal regime actors with vested interests. However, there is still a lack of a systemic understanding of why some actors are more influential in shaping transition processes such as changes in policies or institutions. In this article, we present a comparative case study of the political struggle around the coal policy in Germany and Japan. We use the Endowment-Practice-Institutions (EPI) framework to analyse how actors try to destabilise or maintain the institutional arrangements underpinning the coal regimes in these countries and why some are more influential in shaping the policy outcomes. Our findings show that while actors' strategies are largely determined by the socio-political context they are embedded in, there are also certain patterns and common sequences of practices. These include commissioning a study, disseminating it through various networks and social media channels, mobilising the public through demonstrations, and engaging in

advocacy with the aim of increasing the political bargaining power. Our analytical framework, which can be applied to various settings, helps to understand why certain policy outcomes occur amidst efforts to spur or stall energy transitions, and why regimes are destabilised in some case – but not in others.

“A wind of change in Norway: Explaining shifts in municipal stances on wind power by policy feedback and energy justice” by Per Ove Eikeland et al.

The research article “A wind of change in Norway: Explaining shifts in municipal stances on wind power by policy feedback and energy justice” by Per Ove Eikeland et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103231>

Abstract

Despite the growing need for renewable electricity, wind power development has not proceeded smoothly. This study examines the shifting stances on wind power development in Norwegian municipalities. By developing and applying a combined policy feedback and energy justice framework, we investigate how experiences from earlier wind power policies have affected the positions of municipal councils. Through a systematic text analysis of municipal council responses to a national consultation on the siting of wind power installations, combined with data from interviews in selected municipalities, we show how considerations of distributional, procedural and recognition justice, stemming from experiences with wind power policies and developments, have moulded the shift in municipal council stances. Our analysis makes clear the essential role of perceptions of justice in connection with strategies for raising acceptance of wind power development as part of the ongoing energy transition.

“Just Cessation: How Might the Climate Imperative to Phase Out Fossil Fuel Extraction Reshape the Concept of Just Transition”? by Frances Flanagan

The research article “Just Cessation: How Might the Climate Imperative to Phase Out Fossil Fuel Extraction Reshape the Concept of Just Transition”? by Frances Flanagan has been published in “International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54648/ijcl2023026>

Abstract

Just transition has emerged as a master conceptual framework for limiting environmental and socially destructive industrial activity in the climate change era. While it has been widely embraced, its anchoring in the open-ended concept of sustainable development has meant that it has been used to legitimate ongoing future fossil fuel extraction. This article discusses the implications for just transition that arise from the recognition that the timely cessation of fossil fuel extraction is the sine qua non of the realization of the sustainable development goals. It offers a historical explanation for the minimal engagement to date between just transition advocacy and fossil fuel cessation. It then discusses the implications of acknowledging the necessity of fossil fuel cessation in terms of core labour law principles. Finally, the article outlines the implications of explicitly embedding fossil fuel phase down as an objective of just transition for government actors and social partners.

“Just Transition in Belgium: Concepts, Issues at Stake, and Policy Levers” by Aurore Fransolet and Josefine Vanhille (editors)

The Scientific report “Just Transition in Belgium: Concepts, Issues at Stake, and Policy Levers” by Aurore Fransolet and Josefine Vanhille (editors) has been published on behalf of the High Committee for a Just Transition.

The full report can be found here: [justtransition.be](https://www.justtransition.be)

“Mentalities, classes and the four lines of conflict in the social-ecological transformation” by Martin Fritz and Dennis Eversberg

This special issue article “Mentalities, classes and the four lines of conflict in the social-ecological transformation” by Martin Fritz and Dennis Eversberg has been published in “European Political Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41304-023-00457-2>

Abstract

In this article, we argue that current societal struggles about whether and how eco-social policy and politics should be implemented to tackle the interlinked challenges of climate change and inequality are an expression of the main societal conflict of our times: the social-ecological transformation conflict. We identify four lines of conflict in the social-ecological transformation and explore how they are related to classes and mentalities. In the theoretical part, we conceptualize classes in social space and mentalities through a Bourdieusian relational approach. We also discuss the location of the four lines of conflict in social space. In the empirical part, we analyze survey data from Germany. Firstly, we find eight mentalities among respondents reflecting their views on various eco-social topics. Secondly, we construct the social space with socio-economic variables for the economic and cultural capital of the respondents. Thirdly, we plot the mentalities in the social space. The results show that the cultural middle class is in favor of eco-social policy, while the upper class and the economic middle class prefer green growth and ecological modernization. The lower-class fractions are skeptical of any transformation because they distrust institutions and cannot bear the transformation costs.

“Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies.” by Martin Fritz and Jayeon Lee

The Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies.” by Martin Fritz and Jayeon Lee has been published in European Journal of Social Security.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231213796>

Abstract

We are increasingly witnessing the social and ecological crises of our time becoming entangled and amplifying each other. The current policy responses from national states and international governance bodies remain within the dominant framework of economic growth-centred strategies. In this editorial, we argue that a new paradigm of sustainable welfare is needed, which includes eco-social policies addressing social and ecological sustainability concerns in integrated ways. We first demonstrate how social and ecological problems are interconnected and why green growth approaches fail to tackle them. As an alternative, and as a pointer to a social security system that can help people navigate the dire straits of increasing eco-social risks, we present the foundations and principles of sustainable welfare, and discuss how this, according to Kuhn, can be understood as a new social policy paradigm. In the second part of this editorial, we introduce the papers brought together in this special issue. The cutting-edge research of the contributing authors includes theoretical and conceptual advances, empirical case studies from different European countries, and transnational studies. Each paper discusses the implications of its findings for European social security systems.

“Peaks and gaps in eco-social policy and sustainable welfare: A systematic literature map of the research landscape“ by Katharina Bohnenberger

The article “*Peaks and gaps in eco-social policy and sustainable welfare: A systematic literature map of the research landscape*“ by Katharina Bohnenberger has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231214546>

Abstract

The social impacts of the climate crisis and the need for societal transformation to achieve climate goals require integrated research and design of environmental policy and social security. The article analyses the current state of research on eco-social policy and sustainable welfare. Based on a systematic literature review covering more than 1000 publications, the article identifies 20 research topics. Strong research progress has been made on social compensation for climate policies; economic inequality in the climate crisis; energy use patterns in housing, mobility, and nutrition; political conditions for eco-social policy; and varieties in eco-social country regimes. Future research activities should focus on the five bottlenecks detected in the emerging research topics: the reduction in the environmental burden through a change in demand structures by the welfare state; growth-independence of social security; support for

socio-ecological transformations by altered financing of welfare states; eco-social insurance and institutions; and ecological mainstreaming in the domains of social security. Discussing the explanatory factors for past research activity and sketching the elements of sustainable welfare states, the article concludes with the historical importance of including ecological concerns in social security.

“Harnessing welfare state theories to explain the emergence of eco-social policies” by Matteo Mandelli

The article “*Harnessing welfare state theories to explain the emergence of eco-social policies*” by Matteo Mandelli has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231205759>

Abstract

As complex challenges such as climate change and social inequality become more and more politically salient, eco-social policies are emerging as suitable public policy tools to pursue integrated environmental and social objectives. In spite of this, the sustainable welfare literature has been, at least until now, dominated by prescriptive studies, paying little attention to the politico-institutional conditions required for these policies to emerge. Against this background, this article aims to help filling this gap, by proposing a set of four theoretical expectations pointing to possible causal drivers and mechanisms behind the adoption of this particular kind of policies. It does so by harnessing the most established welfare state theories and reflecting on their potential and limitations when applied to the study of eco-social policies. Selected theoretical strands – functionalism, historical institutionalism, interest-based and ideas-based theories – are first reviewed and then applied to the specific object of the study, with a view to deriving the four expectations by deduction. The ultimate aim is to generate a politico-institutional theory of eco-social policies, which can guide future empirical research. The article argues that eco-social policies can be expected to emerge in strong environmental states and/or in weak welfare states, in which equally powerful labour and green interests engage in political exchanges, or where advocacy coalitions form around ambiguous ideas, such as ‘just transition’. The article concludes by arguing that only an actor-centred approach based on empirically observable policy preferences can help us to craft minimally sufficient causal inferences about the emergence of eco-social policies.

“Doughnuts for strategies: A tool for an emerging sustainable welfare paradigm” by Mladen Domazet et al.

The article “Doughnuts for strategies: A tool for an emerging sustainable welfare paradigm” by Mladen Domazet et al has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231206246>

Abstract

The Degrowth Doughnut (a modification of the original Doughnut visualization of boundaries and foundations created by economist Kate Raworth) can be considered a visualization tool for assessing the current environmental and social capacity of a country to transform into an ecologically and socially sustainable modus operandi. Its sufficiently rich set of criteria, including cultural, socio-economic and biophysical indicators, gives us an overall picture of the problems to be dealt with and the strengths to build on in the immediate future. Its simple boundary-threshold structure presents limiting and aspirational targets in a single image. As such, it is also a tool that can aid eco-social policymaking to prioritize decisions and seek synergies between choices made. This research will present the Hungarian Degrowth Doughnut and use it as a case study when applied to the aims and expected impacts of Hungary’s operational National Clean Development Strategy. We will illustrate the degrowth-relevant priorities and assess the adequacy of the responses proposed by the Strategy, providing a critical analysis of the national policy options. Behind such climate and sustainability strategies are always a wealth of important value choices and moral considerations. Is there a safe and just operating space in the minds of the Hungarian policymakers? To what extent, if at all, are the fundamental principles of post-growth theories incorporated into a Hungarian sustainability strategy? We believe that a case study like this can also provide inspiration for further practical application of the Degrowth Doughnut elsewhere.

“An eco-social solution to energy poverty? Substance and symbolism in the England's use of domestic energy efficiency policy to achieve social and environmental synergies, 1997-2023” by Paul Bridgen

The article “An eco-social solution to energy poverty? Substance and symbolism in the England's use of domestic energy efficiency policy to achieve social and environmental synergies, 1997-2023” by Paul Bridgen has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231195722>

Abstract

Domestic energy efficiency policy is potentially a means for reducing residential energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and expenses for households in energy poverty. It has often been presented as an eco-social exemplar, for example in the European Union's Green Deal. The European Commission regards domestic energy efficiency improvements as the primary means for addressing energy poverty notwithstanding the 2022/23 energy crisis. However, the case for domestic energy efficiency improvement as a tool for achieving simultaneously social and environmental goals is often assumed rather than demonstrated. This article uses Mandelli's eco-social trilemma heuristic and the symbolic politics literature to surface the tensions involved in such processes, focusing on policy efforts in the England between 1997 and 2023 as a case study. England is a good case to consider because it has been regarded as a leader of energy poverty mitigation and its policy approach is similar to the European Commission's. The article details the main policy instruments used in England, assesses outputs and outcomes using official statistics, government and independent policy evaluations and the secondary literature, and details the main problems encountered in achieving environmental/social synergies. Based on this analysis, the article argues that English domestic energy efficiency policy has generally constituted a symbolic eco-social policy, particularly on the social side and since 2010. Highlighted by the 2022/23 energy crisis, domestic energy efficiency policy is best regarded as one component of a policy toolkit for reducing energy poverty, which at the least should also include targeted social protection.

“The role of work and social protection systems in social-ecological transformations: Insights from deliberative citizen forums in Sweden” by Jayeon Lee and Max Koch

The article “The role of work and social protection systems in social-ecological transformations: Insights from deliberative citizen forums in Sweden” by Jayeon Lee and Max Koch has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231204989>

Abstract

To avoid catastrophic consequences of impending ecological crises our socio-economic systems need to be transformed in rapid and radical manners. Focusing on working life and Sweden as an example for countries of the Global North with a social-democratic welfare tradition, we ask how social protection systems may be reorganised according to the concept of ‘sustainable welfare’, the satisfaction of basic human needs across space and over time. We combine a literature review with an analysis of qualitative data from deliberative citizen forums following Max-Neef's Human Scale Development methodology. After taking stock of the existing literature that highlights the unsustainable character of current work regimes, we present our application of the methodology used in the citizen forums as well as the data. Our participants generally highlighted the importance of broadening the concept of work beyond ‘employment’ when reflecting on the role of work in addressing and satisfying multiple human needs within planetary limits. The introduction of a universal basic income, a participation income, an expansion of universal basic services, working time reduction and a sabbatical year conditioned on civic participation/education were among the eco-social reform ideas that forum participants highlighted to liberate work from its current unsustainable and capitalist contexts and turn it from a negative into a positive need satisfier.

“Working time reduction: Employers’ perspectives and eco-social implications – ten cases from Hungary” by Kata Hidasi et al.

The article “Working time reduction: Employers’ perspectives and eco-social implications – ten cases from Hungary” has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231214547>

Abstract

Working time reduction (WTR) refers to an increasingly popular group of eco-social policies, with various potential implications for social security and sustainable welfare depending on the details of implementation. Despite the growing number of international examples, WTRs constitute a countertrend in Hungary where the government aims to create a 'work-based society'. In this context, we investigate whether and how companies launch WTRs, and study their effects. Our approach is comparative and explorative. We draw on interviews with managers of 10 companies to understand the motivations behind WTRs. In addition, we use 34 interviews and two focus groups conducted at four companies, considering impacts on employees' workload and working conditions. We show that the drivers, mechanisms and impacts of WTRs differ by company size. There is far more diversity among smaller companies, where the attitudes of managers and personal relationships are decisive. Larger companies either choose low-risk WTRs that offer low gains, or target further growth and potentially cause a reduction of sectoral output while maximising profit. The latter may be the first example of profit-driven degrowth in the literature. Insights generated here can be useful to understand the potential reasons for, and barriers to, a more widespread adoption of WTRs, as well as the role of positive and negative impacts on workers in this process. We argue that this is important not only for social and economic outcomes, but also for the environment, since WTRs are necessary for a precautionary approach to sustainability. We highlight the limitations of current WTRs, in order to catalyse thinking about more radical variants.

“Towards an eco-welfare state: Enabling factors for transformative eco-social initiatives” by Tuuli Hirvilammi et al.

The article “Towards an eco-welfare state: Enabling factors for transformative eco-social initiatives” by Tuuli Hirvilammi et al. has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231195724>

Abstract

In eco-welfare states, welfare provision must operate within planetary boundaries, entailing societal transformations and significant emission reductions. This article contributes to the research on sustainable welfare and eco-social policies by examining transformative and integrative eco-social initiatives that aim to reduce environmental impacts while also ensuring that public actors have the capacities to reach legally binding social outcomes and enhance social inclusion. Theoretically, we combine welfare state transformation research with the concepts of social-ecological systems, provisioning systems and transformative capacity. Our empirical cases in Finland include public actors promoting sustainable public procurement, a network of carbon-neutral municipalities, sustainable lifestyles accelerators at the household level, and carbon footprint calculators as a potential free-to-use technique that supports widespread carbon reductions. We apply a qualitative research design to investigate what kinds of factors are crucial in enhancing the transformative capacity of provisioning systems and how various factors in practice enable the eco-social initiatives to support the transformation towards an eco-welfare state. Our findings identify key enabling factors for transformative capacity: social networks, collaboration and participation; knowledge, learning and monitoring; shared policy frameworks and visions; and financial resources. These factors are interrelated and can be brought to bear in no particular sequence. The results offer valuable insights into how welfare state characteristics with democratically governed public actors may facilitate transformation.

“The conflicts of ecological transition on the ground and the role of eco-social policies: Lessons from Italian case studies” by Marta Bonetti and Matteo Villa

The article “The conflicts of ecological transition on the ground and the role of eco-social policies: Lessons from Italian case studies” by Marta Bonetti and Matteo Villa has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231205995>

Abstract

This paper analyzes the complexity of social-ecological transition policies and processes, focusing on trade-offs and emerging conflicts engendered by combined environmental-social-technological programmes and innovations. To date, there has been only limited focus in the literature on empirical cases, analyzing the ecological transition, distributive effects, social risks and policies to counter them. To help fill this gap, the paper discusses three qualitative case studies as part of a research project on social cohesion in ecological transitions in Tuscany, Italy. In particular, it examines the ongoing transition strategies and practices, bringing out several aspects that highlight the sources of controversies among

actors and the contextual variability and complexity of their 'playgrounds', namely: (1) the role of time, space and relational patterns, and ensuing problems of governance, coordination and synchronization; (2) the way in which institutional and technological transformations are embedded in trans-contextual relations and conflicts; (3) the role of different sources and kinds of knowledge in supporting or hampering the ecological transitions; and (4) the shifting balances between top-down strategies and regulation, and bottom-up processes of civic associations and social movements. The paper then analyzes the attempts to provide social security by means of more or less explicitly designed eco-social policies and practices, highlighting some relevant lessons learned and methodological recommendations for future sustainable welfare design.

“Support for eco-social policy from a class perspective: Responsibilities, redistribution, regulation and rights” by Martin Fritz and Dennis Eversberg

The article “Support for eco-social policy from a class perspective: Responsibilities, redistribution, regulation and rights” by Martin Fritz and Dennis Eversberg has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231208929>

Abstract

The political agenda of eco-social policy seeks to create synergies between social justice and ecological goals, such as mitigating climate change. While the concept already has a strong theoretical foundation, and many concrete policy instruments have been proposed, support for eco-social policy is still insufficient to mobilize political action. We assume that one cause of this lack of action are the diverging interests and ideologies of different classes. In this article we apply a class perspective and conduct an empirical study to explore class support for and opposition to eco-social policy. We use data from a representative survey in Germany and identify nine class fractions, based on Bourdieu's concept of social space. We first compare the carbon footprints of the classes, to determine their varying degrees of responsibility for supporting political efforts to mitigate climate change. We then compare class support for eco-social policy, considering the dimensions of redistribution, regulation and rights. We find that the economic upper class – a fraction equating closely with the ruling class – and the old working class oppose eco-social policy the most. The cultural upper class are the strongest proponents of eco-social policy. The lower-class fractions showed considerable concern about the costs associated with eco-social policy. We conclude that a stronger focus on the social justice element when designing and advocating for eco-social policy could lead to greater support from the lower classes and help to build eco-social welfare states that offer protection in times of increasing social and ecological risks.

“Eco-social policy in the global political economy: Analysing shifting discourses on agricultural subsidies” by Robin Schulze Waltrup et al.

The article “*Eco-social policy in the global political economy: Analysing shifting discourses on agricultural subsidies*” by Robin Schulze Waltrup et al. has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231206002>

Abstract

While critical political economy (CPE) has yet to play a prominent role in eco-social policy research, this paper argues that a deeper engagement with CPE and a better understanding of the global political economy can enhance eco-social policy debates. CPE can help us to see the contradictions in and impediments to integrating environmental and social policies, and particularly why both of these categories continue to be mediated and shaped by economic logics. In order to develop these arguments, we analyse recent international discourses on agricultural subsidies promoted by key policy actors such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Bank, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. By examining agriculture as a nodal point between diverse scales and domains such as the local, global, environmental, social, and economic spheres, we explore how certain positions are prioritised over others. We argue that the discourse on ‘repurposing subsidies’ in global agricultural policy expresses a ‘new critical orthodoxy’ that recognises the need for transformation but fails to address the structural conditions of the global political economy responsible for environmental and social crises. Instead, the proposed solutions rely on existing institutions and capitalist logics to resolve current crises, even if the latter are underpinned by these logics. Our analysis underlines the need for eco-social policy scholarship to be cognizant of how environmental and social policy integration is always embedded

within a particular global political economy that reproduces certain inequalities and is not a neutral policy terrain.

“Mapping the social dimension of the European Green Deal” by Katharina Zimmermann and Vincent Gengnagel

The article “Mapping the social dimension of the European Green Deal.” by Katharina Zimmermann and Vincent Gengnagel has been published in the Special Issue “Tackling inequality and providing sustainable welfare through eco-social policies”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13882627231208698>

Abstract

The European Green Deal calls for various economic reforms that will deeply disrupt the social order of European societies. As the European Commission makes very clear in its communications on the EGD, societal support for the profound changes that will inevitably accompany a ‘green transition’ hinges on social inclusion of stakeholders and social groups. This article aims to identify the social policy instruments proposed by the EGD to address the social implications of its ‘green transition’, and to explore how they relate to societal expectations. Analytically, it distinguishes between protective (redistributive) and productive (economy-oriented) social policy and argues that democratic social inclusion – which the European Commission strives to achieve – requires protective social policy. Empirically, the paper analyzes a) the socio-political instruments set out in the EGD and b) public statements made by a range of European-level actors who participated in the debates on the EGD. Our findings show that productive social policy prevails in the EGD’s proposed instruments and in stakeholders’ demands, but that there are also vague indications of a more nuanced concept of social inclusion that acknowledges social conflict.

“Empowering whose future? A European policy analysis of children in energy poverty” by Irene González-Pijuan et al.

The research article “Empowering whose future? A European policy analysis of children in energy poverty” by Irene González-Pijuan et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103328>

Abstract

Children experience distinct impacts on their mental and physical health as well as their educational attainment as a result of living in energy poverty, according to multiple sources. International guidelines, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, underline the right of every child to an adequate standard of living and the need for all policies to consider the specific needs of children. This paper aims to understand the extent to which energy policies take explicit account of children in energy poverty and endeavour to address their distinct needs and the impacts they experience. The investigation is based on an analysis of EU-SILC data and policy documents across the 28 countries that (at the end of 2019) formed the European Union. The analysis reveals that children are mostly only considered within the wider family context, with larger families tending to receive greater support, despite evidence that single-parent families are at higher risk of energy poverty. Children are characterised as passive subjects in energy policy; their perspectives and needs are not considered in policy development.

“Divergent consumer preferences and visions for cooking and heating technologies in the United Kingdom: Make our homes clean, safe, warm and smart!” by Joel A. Gordon et al.

The research article “Divergent consumer preferences and visions for cooking and heating technologies in the United Kingdom: Make our homes clean, safe, warm and smart!” by Joel A. Gordon et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103204>

Abstract

Decarbonising the global housing stock is imperative for reaching climate change targets. In the United Kingdom, hydrogen is currently being tested as a replacement fuel for natural gas, which could be used

to supply low-carbon energy to parts of the country. Transitioning the residential sector towards a net-zero future will call for an inclusive understanding of consumer preferences for emerging technologies. In response, this paper explores consumer attitudes towards domestic cooking and heating technologies, and energy appliances of the future, which could include a role for hydrogen hobs and boilers in UK homes. To access qualitative evidence on this topic, we conducted ten online focus groups (N = 58) with members of the UK public between February and April 2022. The study finds that existing gas users wish to preserve the best features of gas cooking, such as speed, responsiveness and controllability, but also desire the potential safety and aesthetic benefits of electric systems, principally induction hobs. Meanwhile, future heating systems should ensure thermal comfort, ease of use, energy efficiency and smart performance, while providing space savings and noise reduction, alongside demonstrable green benefits. Mixed-methods multigroup analysis suggests divergence between support levels for hydrogen homes, which implies a degree of consumer heterogeneity. Foremost, we find that domestic hydrogen acceptance is positively associated with interest and engagement with renewable energy and fuel poverty pressures. We conclude that internalising the perspectives of consumers is critical to enabling constructive socio-technical imaginaries for low-carbon domestic energy futures.

“Energy justice in heat metering: Findings from a Danish experiment of metering and distribution in residential apartment buildings” by Kirsten Gram-Hanssen et al.

The research article “Energy justice in heat metering: Findings from a Danish experiment of metering and distribution in residential apartment buildings” by Kirsten Gram-Hanssen et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103250>

Abstract

According to EU regulations on heat metering, households should be metered individually and pay accordingly. However, in apartment blocks, heating is often provided for the whole building, and different ways of distributing costs are used. In Denmark, an investigation has been carried out into new ways of distributing costs, using indoor climate measurements of temperature, CO₂ and humidity. Incorporating these three types of measurements in payment distribution can create an incentive to encourage residents to pursue a healthier indoor climate with lower energy consumption. This paper reports on qualitative interviews with residents as well as housing staff taking part in the experiment, relating empirical findings to questions of justice and ethics raised in the literature. Analysis reveals differing levels of understanding among residents concerning metering systems and rationales, including in relation to cost distribution and questions of justice. The experiment was carried out in social housing blocks where some residents could be categorised as vulnerable in terms of limited income and specific heating needs. Furthermore, issues of global climate and justice from an intergenerational perspective are also considered. This paper therefore draws on wider discussions about energy justice and vulnerability related to types of heat metering, and shows how these issues are interlinked with the socio-material context and the interplay with socio-technical constructions of comfort norms. The relevance of country-specific insights are thus demonstrated at a European level and beyond.

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

The research article “Tool for a just transition? Community choice aggregation and energy justice in New Hampshire and beyond” by Maron Greenleaf et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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

Abstract

A number of energy policies are being used to facilitate the transition away from climate-changing fossil fuels. But the extent to which these policies either address or exacerbate existing inequities and other forms of injustice often remains unclear. Among these policies is community choice aggregation (CCA) through which local governments and related institutions purchase energy for residents and small businesses. CCA promises access to more renewable energy and at a lower cost than traditional electric utilities. This paper offers the first analysis of CCA's energy justice dimensions and thus its capacity to contribute to socially just transitions to renewable energy. It draws primarily from qualitative research on CCA's development in the politically diverse state of New Hampshire. We examine how CCA can

advance energy justice by expanding access to affordable, renewable energy for renters and other types of residents, as well as enabling forms of participation. We also assess how CCA's reliance on local governmental capacity—which reflects unequal resources—can entrench energy injustice. Additionally, we examine how CCA in NH demonstrates the limits of neoliberal models of consumer engagement with energy markets and of some other models of energy participation, as well as the benefits of what we call "networked aggregation." Through this analysis, we show how CCA in NH holds lessons about how to pursue a just transition in the context of polarized politics—like those that shape much of the energy and climate policy in the US and elsewhere.

“Energy, Ecology, and the Remaking of West German Politics in the 1970s and 1980s” by Stephen G. Gross

The research article “Energy, Ecology, and the Remaking of West German Politics in the 1970s and 1980s” by Stephen G. Gross has been published in “German Politics and Society”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3167/gps.2023.410404>

Abstract

This article traces the transformation of West Germany's political system during the 1970s and 1980s, when an extra-parliamentary ecological opposition emerged to challenge the governing Social Democratic Party (SPD). Demographic, economic, and structural features in West Germany's political system created the space for this opposition, eventually leading to the formation of the Green Party. This article argues that ideas about energy were crucial to the movement's success, providing a focal point for reform that aimed to spur an energy transition. This movement of experts and activists pulled West Germany's political system in an ecological direction, forcing the SPD to become green itself. The transformation of West Germany's political system, in turn, set the Federal Republic on a different energy trajectory than the United States, Great Britain, and France.

“The theoretical peculiarities of energy poverty research: A systematic literature review” by Zeus Guevara et al.

The review “The theoretical peculiarities of energy poverty research: A systematic literature review” by Zeus Guevara et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103274>

Abstract

Energy poverty represents a substantial burden on development strategies for the developed and developing world alike, reducing the wellbeing of several million people and causing several hundred thousands excess deaths per year worldwide. It is also deeply interconnected with other problems in environmental and social development. Despite its global relevance and increased attention from governments, academia, and international institutions in the last two decades, the field lacks a clear theoretical foundation, specifically the absence of consistent and agreed-upon conceptual and measurement approaches. This research presents an extensive systematic literature review of energy poverty and related terms since the 1970s and up to the year 2020, focusing on theoretical and methodological contributions. The objective is to synthesize the most influential doctrines, trends, and insights about the phenomenon. The results show that conceptual diversity goes beyond the widely recognized dichotomy between the Global North and Global South, despite several attempts to move towards a composed theoretical framework. Moreover, they also show that measurement, rather than theoretical development, has been the field's primary focus, leading to many composite and single metrics. Due to the latter, the conceptual development has followed measurement advances instead of epistemological, semantic, or philosophical discussions, though this has started changing in recent years. Finally, the consideration of energy poverty as a broader phenomenon has fueled a profound debate on justice, which offers a more comprehensive understanding of the actual and expected position of energy poverty in society and development.

“Justice in energy transformations as a spatial phenomenon: A framework for analyzing multi-dimensional justice claims” by Konrad Gürtler

The research article “Justice in energy transformations as a spatial phenomenon: A framework for analyzing multi-dimensional justice claims” by Konrad Gürtler has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103277>

Abstract

Energy transformations not only evoke multi-dimensional claims for just distribution, recognition, and procedures, but also reveal how these claims depend on and shape the spatial context that they address. The aim of this contribution is to provide a framework that connects spatial and multi-dimensional aspects of justice in energy transition research. It builds on literature in the fields of just transition studies and energy justice. While the relevance of considering space and scale in socio-technical transitions is widely acknowledged, a conceptual framework can help to connect justice and spatiality in transitions and support scrutiny of their interconnections. The present work seeks to address this gap by incorporating contributions from the fields of political geography and political theory. Accordingly, it discusses central intersections in the moral–spatial tension field. Spatial justice claims are conceptualized as referring at the same time to moral (substance-related) and spatial dimensions of (in)justice and relating both to each other. The paper conceptualizes how justice claims refer to multiple scales, center-periphery relations, interterritorial and infrastructure-related concerns as well as to place-based attachments. It discusses the positioning of actors in this moral-spatial field as well as the reference to directional patterns of responsibility and effect. Attention to spatial justice claims further discloses processes of boundary construction, perpetuation, and contestation as well as the regional entrenchment of widely shared justice claims. Transformation-related political institutions and processes in affected regions reveal how various spatial justice claims are publicly related to each other.

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

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

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

Abstract

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

“Of hopeful narratives and historical injustices – An analysis of just transition narratives in European coal regions” by Lukas Hermwille et al.

The research article “Of hopeful narratives and historical injustices – An analysis of just transition narratives in European coal regions” by Lukas Hermwille et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103263>

Abstract

In recent years, the public discourse on the phase-out of carbon-intensive technologies and practices has come to a near consensus that a “just transition” is required. Yet, this term seems to have as many meanings as there are stakeholders using it. The purpose of this paper is to unpack the different meanings that regional stakeholders assign to it and the underlying dimensions of in(justice) that they invoke in their political communication.

To this end, we employ a policy narrative analysis to study and compare the political discourse in four European coal and carbon-intensive mining regions: Ida-Virumaa (Estonia, oil shale), the Rhenish mining region (Germany, lignite), Upper Silesia (Poland, hard coal) and Western Macedonia (Greece, lignite). Specifically, we address the following research questions: Which narratives are characterising the political discourse around just transition? Which (in)justices are being invoked? Which patterns, similarities or differences are recognizable between regions?

We found that hopeful narratives describing structural change as an opportunity to reinvent the region are prevalent in all regions. Strong narratives of resistance only prevail in Upper Silesia and Ida-Virumaa where a phase-out decision has not yet been adopted. In terms of injustices, we find surprisingly little evidence that injustices related to the immediate effects of the transformation (e.g. lay-offs and compensation for workers and companies) play an important role. Instead, the aspects related to the historical injustices produced by the legacy industrial system prevail. And perhaps most importantly, questions about access and allocation of the opportunities of the imminent transition are key and should be addressed more explicitly.

“Paying the piper for the Green Transition? Perceptions of unfairness from regional employment declines in carbon-polluting industrial sectors” by Zhen Jie Im

The research article “Paying the piper for the Green Transition? Perceptions of unfairness from regional employment declines in carbon-polluting industrial sectors” by Zhen Jie Im has been published in the “Journal of European Public Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2023.2288689>

Abstract

I study if industrial decarbonisation yields elevated perceptions of political and economic unfairness. Decarbonising industry is central for the Green Transition, but it will disproportionately affect regions where brown sectors, which have been made uncompetitive, are concentrated. I contribute to studies on political consequences of the Green Transition by exploring perceived unfairness as one outcome from these uneven effects. In regions where industrial decarbonisation and employment declines in brown sectors have been greater than in other regions, residents may feel that they have disproportionately borne the economic costs of industrial decarbonisation for their country, and may consider their governments to have neglected their interests. I test these expectations in 60 West European regions using past (2013–2018) employment and CO₂ emissions trends from the three most carbon-polluting sectors, as proxies for industrial decarbonisation accompanied by employment declines in brown sectors, and combined them with micro-level data from the European Social Survey (2018). I find that regions exhibit elevated perceptions of economic and political unfairness only when they experience both relative CO₂ emissions and employment decline in these sectors. As perceived unfairness underpins some of the political discontent observed today, this finding highlights the need for Green Transition policies that minimise labour market disruptions.

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

The research article “Achieving emission reductions without furthering social inequality: Lessons from the 2007 economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic” by Lena Kilian et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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

Abstract

To meet global climate goals, such as limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, urgent and substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions are needed. From a consumption-based perspective, such measures include a radical reduction of emissions from private households. Despite this urgency, attention must be paid to achieve such reductions without furthering social inequalities. To address these issues, this research looks at consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions of UK households longitudinally, with a particular focus on changes that occurred after the 2007/08 economic crisis and the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns. Analysing these two events allows us to learn how emissions from different social cohorts are impacted by external shocks, providing a learning for policy. We find significant ($p < 0.05$) differences in the relationships between income and emissions of some age and income groups, as well as substantial descriptive differences between how age and income groups are impacted at a product-level. Importantly, we also find that despite existing levels of carbon inequality, substantial emission reductions are needed for all social cohorts assessed. However, to avoid further increasing existing inequalities and to make policies more effective, we propose interventions targeted at specific social cohorts. While an income reduction may reduce emissions of high-income households, increased access to high quality housing and public services may help reduce emissions of low-income households, whose emissions are already decoupled from income. Finally, age and income-specific interventions targeting specific consumption categories may reduce the impact of rebound effects, as well as reduce emission overall.

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

The research article “Citizens call for sufficiency and regulation — A comparison of European citizen assemblies and National Energy and Climate Plans” by Jonas Lage et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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

Abstract

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

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

The research article “Citizens call for sufficiency and regulation — A comparison of European citizen assemblies and National Energy and Climate Plans” by Jonas Lage et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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

Abstract

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

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

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

“Clearing the air: Public health concerns and support for natural gas restrictions in the United States” by Elena V. McLean et al.

The research article “Clearing the air: Public health concerns and support for natural gas restrictions in the United States” by Elena V. McLean et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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Abstract

Earlier policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. have often treated natural gas as a clean fuel due to its higher energy output per unit of carbon dioxide emitted compared to other fuels. However, recent local decarbonization initiatives seek to restrict residential uses of natural gas. Public support for such policies could be a key factor in determining whether local governments implement natural gas restrictions. It may also indicate the potential for state and federal governments to adopt similar measures. In this study, we conduct an online survey with 2623 U.S. adults to demonstrate how public support for natural gas restrictions varies based on policy framing. These framings include (1) household economic costs, (2) industry positions, (3) health impacts, (4) contribution to climate change, and (5) political support. Our results show that public support for policies to ban natural gas in new construction is significantly influenced by the health impact of these policies. This finding suggests that U.S. citizens are sensitive to non-economic health frames when evaluating a policy proposal to phase out natural gas use. Meanwhile, factors such as monthly energy costs, industry support, climate effects, and political backing show only a weak influence on public opinion regarding these policies.

“Measuring energy access for livelihoods, lifestyles, and welfare: Validating the Hierarchical Energy Access Framework in India” by Shaurya Rahul Narlanka and P. Balachandra

The research article “Measuring energy access for livelihoods, lifestyles, and welfare: Validating the Hierarchical Energy Access Framework in India” by Shaurya Rahul Narlanka and P. Balachandra has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103352>

Abstract

Household energy poverty is a multi-dimensional issue that extends to any service a household would like to obtain that requires energy, not just those at the household level. It is crucial to incorporate this understanding in how household energy access is measured to adequately inform any measure taken to address this issue. In recent years, a few methodologies, like the Multi-tier Framework, have been designed to reflect this thinking. However, their widespread adoption has been lacklustre primarily due to their use of complicated and yet-unmeasured parameters. Therefore, a readily deployable measurement framework in this vein remains absent from literature. This paper addresses this gap by showcasing a new household energy access measurement methodology, named the Hierarchical Energy Access Framework (HEAF) which assesses service gained by households across four hierarchical states of energy access and across four avenues of energy use, viz., household level services, productive endeavours, transportation, and community facilities. It achieves this using simple but comprehensive indicators specifically designed to be operationalizable using publicly available government-generated data. To illustrate its utility, energy access in rural Indian households in 2011 has been estimated. The results indicate that they were transitioning to modern energy sources in a highly unequal fashion both

within and across the avenues of energy use considered, and 25.69 % of them were facing abject energy poverty. Overall, data availability for deploying the HEAF in India was found to be largely adequate, except for street lighting. A discussion has also been made on the global applicability of the HEAF.

“Combating climate change through the welfare state: can social insurance boost support for carbon taxes in Europe?” by Maria Nordbrandt et al.

The comparative study “Combating climate change through the welfare state: can social insurance boost support for carbon taxes in Europe?” by Maria Nordbrandt et al. has been published in “Journal of European Public Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2023.2294146>

Abstract

Carbon taxes are an effective tool to reduce carbon emissions but their use is hampered by a lack of public support. We develop the theoretical argument that social insurance programmes may be designed to mitigate perceptions of economic risk and unfairness, and thereby increase public acceptance of carbon taxes. Employing a novel combination of cross-sectional data, we test whether and how the coverage, replacement rates, and duration of three social insurance programmes relate to support for carbon taxes in 20 European countries. The results reveal that coverage correlates significantly with support for carbon taxes, while replacement rates and the duration of social insurance exhibit no such association individually. However, a combination of broad coverage and high replacement rates is linked to greater support for carbon taxes than broad coverage alone. The relationship between social protection and carbon tax support is furthermore equally strong among economically vulnerable and other groups.

“Human Rights as a Regulatory Tool for ‘Just Transition’ in Europe (and Beyond)” by Tonia Novitz

The research article “Human Rights as a Regulatory Tool for ‘Just Transition’ in Europe (and Beyond)” by Tonia Novitz has been published in “International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54648/ijcl2023028>

Abstract

In the context of increasing human rights litigation on climate change, this article examines the potential to include labour-related concerns regarding just transitions. Taking the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) as a case study, the argument is made that there is potential to do so, not only utilizing Articles 2 and 8, but also Articles 10 and 11. The scope of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case law is examined in this respect. The article examines case law which is indicative of the potential application of Articles 2 and 8 to work and the environment, alongside the prospects of combining claims under Articles 10 and 11. Emerging jurisprudence on Articles 10 and 11 may be significant, as recent study of ‘human rights experimentalism’ indicates, since efficacious engagement in human rights litigation requires collective voice from those most affected, both in terms of crafting claims and implementing judgments. Their recognition in the context of combined environmental and labour concerns would be an important step towards transformational structural change relating to ‘just transition’

“Just Transition in the Global South: Alternative Approaches from Latin America” by Belen Olmos Giupponi

The research article “Just Transition in the Global South: Alternative Approaches from Latin America” by Belen Olmos Giupponi has been published in “International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54648/ijcl2023025>

Abstract

This paper presents a critical analysis of just transition narratives in the context of Latin America, highlighting the need for a Global South¹ approach that considers the specific socio-economic and

environmental conditions of the region. Drawing on the existing literature and the case law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR), the paper examines the role of international environmental and human rights law in promoting a fair and equitable transition to a low-carbon economy. It argues that a just transition must prioritize the needs of vulnerable groups, including informal sector workers, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized communities, who are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change. The paper also assesses the narratives of just transition in the Inter-American system, providing a new contribution to the literature on human and environmental rights in the region. By highlighting the importance of a context-specific approach to just transition, this paper aims to contribute to ongoing debates on the role of law in promoting sustainable and fair employment in Latin America.

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

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

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

Abstract

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

“Diminishing returns of growth? Economic performance, needs satisfaction and ecological impacts of OECD welfare states” by Alexander Paulsson et al.

The research article “Diminishing returns of growth? Economic performance, needs satisfaction and ecological impacts of OECD welfare states” by Alexander Paulsson et al. has been published in “Critical Social Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/02610183231218971>

Abstract

The environmental crisis, increased inequality and an aging population are likely to increase the demand for welfare services in the OECD countries. Economic growth has long been seen as a solution to these problems. However, this is no longer the case. Very few countries have managed to decouple economic performance from ecological footprints and greenhouse gas emissions. Even where this has been achieved, the rates of emission-decline are too slow to match the Paris climate targets. Consequently, interdisciplinary research is key to probe how welfare systems may cope with these challenges, and how welfare provision and economic growth may be decoupled. By drawing on the basic human needs approach and a unique set of data, we explore the social and ecological performances of OECD countries relative to their economic performances. While high-income countries display diminishing welfare returns as economic performance is not improving the satisfaction of health-related needs, the lower-income countries might yield significant surplus if moving to the level of moderate-income countries. However, the satisfaction of autonomy-related needs is so far strongly coupled to economic performance and thus much harder to achieve in an ecologically sustainable way.

“Social and contextual determinants of heat pump adoption in the US: Implications for subsidy policy design” by Miguel Poblete-Cazenave and Narasimha D. Rao

The research article “Social and contextual determinants of heat pump adoption in the US: Implications for subsidy policy design” by Miguel Poblete-Cazenave and Narasimha D. Rao has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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Abstract

Building electrification with heat pumps (HPs) is an important pillar of decarbonization. The US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 provides unprecedented cash incentives to households. However, little is understood of peoples’ preferences or constraints, and hence of the efficacy of these incentives. We develop a residential heating appliance choice model that identifies socio-demographic, contextual and economic determinants of adoption using structural estimation methods with data from the American Housing Survey (AHS). We find that households in warmer, urban areas, with younger heads of household, in larger homes, and with better insulation are more likely to adopt HPs. Using New York state as a case, we predict willingness to pay (WTP) for and adopt HPs under the IRA incentives. We estimate that half of New York households would be willing to adopt HPs by 2030, setting aside other market barriers that could prevent actual adoption. The total subsidies would amount to almost four times the IRA’s initial allocation of 9 billion for home improvement for the entire US. The subsidy cost of replacing 70 percent of the heating appliance stock by 2030 could be a third higher. However, this cost could be reduced by 15 percent if subsidies were weighted more towards higher income households, implying a modest trade-off between equity and cost efficiency. These findings underscore the importance of better understanding the heterogeneous home and household conditions that influence HP adoption. Funding for building electrification would have to be increased substantially to achieve high adoption rates.

“Securing energy sovereignty: A review of key barriers and opportunities for energy-producing Native nations in the United States” by Daniel Raimi and Alana Davicino

The review “Securing energy sovereignty: A review of key barriers and opportunities for energy-producing Native nations in the United States” by Daniel Raimi and Alana Davicino has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103324>

Abstract

As the world seeks to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel production and consumption to mitigate the impacts of climate change, communities that rely on coal, oil, and natural gas production as economic drivers are likely to face challenges. Although extensive work has identified pathways towards a “just transition” in numerous contexts, very little has been written to understand the opportunities and challenges for fossil fuel-producing Native nations in a transition towards a net-zero emissions future. In theory, Native American nations have control over the decisions that shape their energy futures because of their sovereign status. In practice, however, numerous factors limit the exercise of that sovereignty. In this review, we assess the major barriers to tribal energy sovereignty, discuss historical and ongoing efforts to secure it, and highlight the tools that can further ensure the exercise of tribal energy sovereignty in the context of an energy transition. We also discuss recent policy developments and identify cases where Native nations are taking innovative approaches to govern the future of energy development on their lands.

“Future at play: Applying Reflexive Public Reason in the case of Taiwanese energy transition” by Tadeusz Józef Rudek and Hui-Tzu Huang

The research article “Future at play: Applying Reflexive Public Reason in the case of Taiwanese energy transition” by Tadeusz Józef Rudek and Hui-Tzu Huang has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103325>

Abstract

Energy transitions around the world are characterised by the general assumption that new technologies for decarbonisation, digitalisation and electrification will provide a solution to slow down climate change. However, Ulrich Beck's work on the risk society and reflexive modernisation theory suggest that the previously assumed linear development model based on techno-scientific achievements is influencing the increasing levels of uncertainty and risk. Taiwan, the leading producer of semiconductors, plays a crucial role in the energy transition. Its complicated geopolitical situation has placed it at the centre of international political disputes. In addition to natural hazards related to Taiwan's geology, social, economic and technological challenges, there are political tensions that make any transition path highly uncertain. As a result, decisions are made in a contingent and highly uncertain environment. This paper aims to propose a new way of understanding energy transition paths through the proposed model of reflexive public reason. We contribute to the understanding of how reasoning for choosing particular futures evolves along with uncertainties and risks, ultimately leading to the emergence of new manufactured uncertainties. We describe the mechanisms behind public reason for the energy transition in Taiwan based on three types of sources: legal documents and policies on energy transition issued between 2005 and 2020 in the Republic of China (Taiwan), 150 press articles, and eight in-depth semi-structured interviews with SSH and STEM researchers working at universities in Taiwan.

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

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

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

Abstract

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

“Social innovation and global citizenship: Guiding principles for sustainable, just and democratic energy transition in cities” by Marcelo Segales et al.

The research article “Social innovation and global citizenship: Guiding principles for sustainable, just and democratic energy transition in cities” by Marcelo Segales et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103295>

Abstract

In this paper, we examine the relationship of global citizenship to social innovation and propose a set of guiding principles to facilitate sustainable, just and democratic energy transitions in cities. We applied a participatory research approach beginning with interviews with stakeholders with expertise in citizenship, participation, or energy research and policy to develop search criteria, which were used to create a

shortlist of 20 European citizen-driven energy projects. The criteria were: 1) democratic governance; 2) civil empowerment and capacity building; 3) human rights approach; 4) diversity of actors; and 5) sustainability. Key informants with relevant expertise were asked to score the 20 cases based on the search criteria, leading to a final selection of six exemplar cases from across Europe. Highlights from these initiatives included: empowerment of young community members in making decisions about the city's climate change response (Manchester), including citizen board members as regulators of energy partnerships (Viladecans), democratising activities through open voting (Leuven), and enabling community members to decide how to spend the surplus from collective energy purchases (Brixton). We argue that the integrated application of the global citizenship and social innovation concepts reveals a “sweet spot” at the interface between them that aids practical application. Social innovation perspectives can help depoliticise ideological positions around energy by bringing together “communities of makers”, while global citizenship concepts help to orient innovative proposals more clearly around social justice and environmental objectives. The five criteria are proposed as guiding principles to aid city authorities in energy transition contexts.

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

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

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

Abstract

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

“Can renewable energy communities enable a just energy transition? Exploring alignment between stakeholder motivations and needs and EU policy in Latvia, Norway, Portugal and Spain” by Karina Standal et al.

The research article “Can renewable energy communities enable a just energy transition? Exploring alignment between stakeholder motivations and needs and EU policy in Latvia, Norway, Portugal and Spain” by Karina Standal et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103326>

Abstract

As a response to societal polarisation and mobilisation against the clean energy transition and renewable energy projects, policy makers at EU level have put focus on renewable energy communities as an instrument to drive transition, due their ability to promote citizens' participation and control over decision-making in renewable energy at local level. Literature on public acceptance and legitimacy of renewable energy projects highlights issues related to who are recognised and included as stakeholders, (un)fair

distribution of the costs and benefits related to projects and the decision-making procedures involved. Renewable energy communities bring potential positive aspects that drive public acceptance, including social ownership, community development and distribution of benefits to grassroots actors. We contribute to the literature on how energy justice is perceived and can be enacted through renewable energy communities. In this article we explore what challenges for energy justice can be identified for renewable energy communities from the perspective of potential and existing shareholders in Latvia, Norway, Portugal and Spain. We also briefly discuss how identified challenges are addressed in the recast Renewable Energy Directive (REDII).

“Left in the dark: Colonial racial capitalism and solar energy transitions in India” by Ryan Stock and Benjamin K. Sovacool

The research article “Left in the dark: Colonial racial capitalism and solar energy transitions in India” by Ryan Stock and Benjamin K. Sovacool has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103285>

Abstract

India is globally renowned as a burgeoning solar energy superpower. Solar park development is occurring in the Indian context of an ascendant Hindu nationalism (Hindutva) that is violent and oppressive to minority populations, particularly against Muslims and Dalits. Yet it remains unclear how Hindutva influences solar-related land politics and resource access. Utilizing original data from extensive mixed methods fieldwork to examine the case studies of the Bhadla Solar Park and the Fatehgarh Solar Park in Rajasthan, we document a clear pattern of dispossessionary forces driving solar development, compounding the harms of climate coloniality. Drawing on literature from political ecology and racial capitalism, we ask the following research questions: 1) How do distribution conflicts arising from uneven solar development vary between projects?; 2) To what extent does solar park development perpetuate colonial production relations and the racialized dispossession of local populations? Solar park development in Rajasthan has not translated into the upliftment or empowerment of marginalized peasants struggling with energy poverty. On the contrary, solar coloniality is perpetuating and compounding the harms of climate coloniality, mitigating carbon emissions through the landed extraction of photons and the erasure of racialized peasants. Hindutva influences solar development in ways that reproduce marginality and vulnerability of racialized groups burdened by the dispossession of land and resources for solar park development for the benefit of domestic and international firms. Emancipatory and redistributive solar interventions are vital for ensuring the survival of those left in the dark within sustainable sacrifice zones by dispossessionary and destructive energy transitions.

“Fostering a democratic and socially just energy transition: How do Ombudspersons in Europe frame energy poverty?” by Ana Stojilovska

The research article “Fostering a democratic and socially just energy transition: How do Ombudspersons in Europe frame energy poverty?” by Ana Stojilovska has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103363>

Abstract

This exploratory research examines how 20 Ombudspersons in Europe frame their understanding of energy poverty and energy justice, and explores the potential link between their framing and the prevalence of energy poverty in their respective countries. The countries exhibit varying levels of energy poverty and energy injustices influenced by factors such as income poverty, housing deprivation, electricity monopoly, social protection strength, and government effectiveness. The framing of energy poverty by Ombudspersons in Europe has a grading character. Apart from Ombudspersons that do not mention any energy injustice, the least ambitious framing category is ‘consumer right’, followed by the more ambitious category of ‘social vulnerability’, while the highest level of ambition is reached when Ombudspersons explicitly mention ‘right to energy’ or energy poverty. Ombudspersons framing energy poverty as a consumer right discuss policy cohesion and institutional lock-ins that impact energy poverty. Those who view energy poverty as a question of social vulnerability consider the vulnerable groups’ needs. Ombudspersons who explicitly mention energy poverty or the ‘right to energy’ perceive access to basic services as a right, where violations of rights impact dignity. There is a partial correlation between how Ombudspersons frame energy poverty and the prevalence of energy poverty and energy injustices in their

respective countries. In cases where energy poverty is a significant issue, the Ombudspersons usually analyze it, but it is absent from their work in countries where energy poverty is a minor issue. The Ombudsperson is an emerging actor to foster a democratic and socially just energy.

“Have climate policies accelerated energy transitions? Historical evolution of electricity mix in the G7 and the EU compared to net-zero targets” by Masahiro Suzuki et al.

The research article “Have climate policies accelerated energy transitions? Historical evolution of electricity mix in the G7 and the EU compared to net-zero targets” by Masahiro Suzuki et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103281>

Abstract

Climate policies are often assumed to have significant impacts on the nature and speed of energy transitions. To investigate this hypothesis, we develop an approach to categorise, trace, and compare energy transitions across countries and time periods. We apply this approach to analyse electricity transitions in the G7 and the EU between 1960 and 2022, specifically examining whether and how climate policies altered the transitions beyond historical trends. Additionally, we conduct a feasibility analysis of the required transition in these countries by 2035 to keep the global temperature increase below 1.5°C. We find that climate policies have so far had limited impacts: while they may have influenced the choice of deployed technologies and the type of transitions, they have not accelerated the growth of low-carbon technologies or hastened the decline of fossil fuels. Instead, electricity transitions in the G7 and the EU have strongly correlated with the changes in electricity demand throughout the last six decades. In contrast, meeting the 1.5°C target requires unprecedented supply-centred transitions by 2035 where all G7 countries and the EU must expand low-carbon electricity five times faster and reduce fossil fuels two times faster on average compared to the rates in 2015–2020. This highlights the insufficiency of incremental changes and the need for a radically stronger effort to meet the climate target.

“Are global efforts coordinated for a Just Transition? A review of civil society, financial, government, and academic Just Transition frameworks” by Amanda N. Ullman and Noah Kittner

The research article “Are global efforts coordinated for a Just Transition? A review of civil society, financial, government, and academic Just Transition frameworks” by Amanda N. Ullman and Noah Kittner has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103371>

Abstract

Considering the rapid pace of phasing out fossil fuels from the economy, Just Transitions are an essential component of any energy strategy to build acceptance and reconciliation from fossil fuel damages. However, the range of competing visions that define a “Just Transition” complicates Just Transition policy-making and evaluation. With increased application of Just Transition frameworks, academic groups should consider the role of government, financial institution, and civil society frameworks for Just Transition policies. This analysis reviews 75 non-academic Just Transition documents published by non-governmental organizations, governmental figures (intergovernmental, national, sub-national, and governmental organizations), multilateral institutions, development banks, think-tanks, and private enterprises. Just Transition frameworks are highly varied in their scope and design, demonstrating the diversity surrounding the meaning behind “Just Transition” across stakeholders. Proposed economic and social policies vary across non-academic Just Transition frameworks, particularly between types of organizations/actors. Many critical issues raised by policymakers and non-governmental organizations are not found in conceptual reviews of academic Just Transition frameworks— including prominent focus areas on circular economy, waste and water management, human rights, and decolonization strategies. Furthermore, the broader Just Transitions literature reviewed expands greatly upon topics pertaining to low-carbon transitions in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, including rights for informal workers in fossil fuel industries and small and medium-sized enterprises, that are often understudied in academic reviews. Future research studies should co-evolve local, indigenous, civil society, and private sector knowledge on Just Transitions to build stronger context-specific research contributions that ensure increased participation in the transition to a low-carbon society.

“Is Europe faring well with growth? Evidence from a welfare comparison in the EU-15” by Jonas Van der Slycken and Brent Bleys

The research article “Is Europe faring well with growth? Evidence from a welfare comparison in the EU-15” by Jonas Van der Slycken and Brent Bleys has been published in “Ecological Economics”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2023.108054>

Abstract

This paper is the first to calculate welfare, measured by the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW), for the EU-15 countries in a standardized and comparable way. This paper does so by building on a case study for Belgium by Van der Slycken and Bleys (2023) that puts forward a “2.0 methodology” with two distinct ISEWs that deal with cross-time and cross-boundary issues. Both welfare and GDP per capita improved in the EU-15 between 1995 and 2018. Yet, there is an important divergence between welfare and GDP: over time experiential welfare per capita and the per capita benefits and costs of present activities improved by respectively 10,5% and 13,4%, which is less than one third and half of the growth in GDP per capita that grew by 32,4%. These welfare trends are mainly driven by individual consumption growth, the shadow economy and welfare losses from income inequality, which compensated about half of the welfare gains of the former two categories. The gap between welfare and GDP diverged especially after the financial crisis when welfare started stagnating. At the end of the studied period, the EU-15 had already recovered from the financial crisis from a GDP perspective, but not from a welfare view. Since welfare in 2018 was less than 2% lower than the period-maximum, there is no conclusive evidence in favor of the threshold hypothesis at the level of the EU-15. However, the fact that welfare levels in nine countries are more than 5% lower than their peak values signals a clear threshold for these countries. Yet, welfare can be increased beyond previous peaks with postgrowth policies that focus on social and ecological welfare.

“Lithium nexus: Energy, geopolitics, and socio-environmental impacts in Mexico's Sonora project” by Vlado Vivoda et al.

The perspective “Lithium nexus: Energy, geopolitics, and socio-environmental impacts in Mexico's Sonora project” by Vlado Vivoda et al. has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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Abstract

The global transition to low-carbon energy systems has dramatically increased the demand for lithium, essential for energy storage and transport electrification—with lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries as the dominant technology in both market segments. However, the majority control of its downstream processing by China present challenges. Enter the Sonora Lithium Project in Mexico, home to what could be one of the world's largest lithium deposits. This project symbolizes the convergence of geopolitical stakes, as both China and the United States (U.S.) have keen interests in its success. The Mexican government's 2022 establishment of Litio para México (LitioMx), a national lithium company, could reshape global lithium dynamics, but the influence of powerful drug cartels in the region presents significant security obstacles to rapid development. Further, modern mining's challenges, such as the need for sustainable practices and addressing socio-environmental concerns, come to the fore. Mexico's mining laws thus far fall short in ensuring Indigenous rights and environmental protection. The Sonora project, while promising, highlights the myriad complexities surrounding lithium mining. This paper delves into these challenges using the Sonora Project as a lens, aiming to provide clarity and insights for various decision-makers, stakeholders, and researchers.

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

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

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

“Poverty in the midst of plenty: Identifying energy poverty, hardship and vulnerable households in Russia” by Youngmin Yoon

The research article “Poverty in the midst of plenty: Identifying energy poverty, hardship and vulnerable households in Russia” by Youngmin Yoon has been published in “Energy Research & Social Science”.

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Abstract

This article aims to identify Russian households in energy poverty and measure the energy poverty rate by the regions of Russia. For this goal, the 10 well-known energy poverty indicators were reviewed and among them, 6 were employed for identifying energy poverty households in Russia. Based on the Household Budget Survey 2019 households in energy poverty were identified and, as expected, it turned out that the energy poverty rate in Russia is significantly lower than in other countries. In addition to this, we identified the core energy-poverty households, which are defined as the intersection of the 3 energy poverty metrics that are 'After Fuel Cost Poverty', 'Low Income & High Cost', and 'Double Median Expenditure', as well as with hidden energy-poverty households. This is an expansion of the horizon for energy-poverty studies and may be the first attempt to measure the energy poverty rate in Russia. We found that it has conceptual or practical limitations to apply existing energy poverty metrics that are designed for measuring energy poverty in energy-importing countries to Russia and confirm the necessity of developing a new metric for better measurement of energy poverty in energy producers and exporters like Russia. Moreover, despite the low level of national energy poverty rate in Russia, the characteristics of the core energy-poverty households and regional differences in the poverty rate indicate that the energy poverty problem can exist even in energy-rich countries and it is time for Russia to consider establishing a social policy to handle the energy poverty issues.

Books

Response measures to the energy crisis: policy targeting and climate trade-offs by Béla Galgóczi

The book “Response measures to the energy crisis: policy targeting and climate trade-offs by Béla” Galgóczi has been published.

ISBN: 978-2-87452-69-1

Abstract

Were national response measures to the energy crisis targeted, and were they social and climate friendly? These are the main questions addressed by this book, which examines whether and how short-term national responses to the cost of energy crisis applied social and ecological preferences. Europe

has 'survived' two much-feared winters without energy shortages, power cuts and recession, showing a considerable level of resilience. Between September 2021 and August 2023, EU Member States allocated almost 700 billion euros to shield consumers and industry from rising energy costs. Were these resources properly targeted and is there a climate dividend? The national case studies included in this book reveal that the measures were mostly broad-based, including subsidies, tax cuts and price controls. The chapters also address questions on how such policies tackled the conflicting objectives and examine whether there are any good practices that can be identified in which short-term social protection can be aligned with longer term ecological objectives.

Book Chapters:

“Toward a Real Green Transition? Triple Constraints Holding Back EU Member States’ “Greening” Industrial Strategies” by Zhen Jie Im et al.

The book chapter “Toward a Real Green Transition? Triple Constraints Holding Back EU Member States’ “Greening” Industrial Strategies” by Zhen Jie Im et al. has been published in the book “European Social Policy and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges to National Welfare and EU Policy”.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197676189.003.0009>

Abstract

37% of the post-pandemic NextGenerationEU (NGEU) is earmarked for projects that tackle climate change. Thus, the NGEU is an opportunity for EU Member States to achieve the EU’s goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Yet, it remains uncertain whether Member States would devote much of this funding to contentious but net zero–critical decarbonization reforms to carbon-polluting industries, or they would allocate more to popular and uncontentious reforms like improving energy efficiency. We develop a conceptual framework that elaborates the conditions under which Member States will adopt industrial decarbonization—reforms that present substantial political risks to governments. These conditions are countries’ macroeconomic vulnerability, reliance on carbon-polluting industries, and social policy institutions’ readiness to help displaced workers adapt to the demands of the green economy. We test this framework first with comparative data and then four case studies to show the necessity of these conditions for Member States to pursue such reforms.