

Dear readers of the Sustainable Welfare List,

here comes the next 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](mailto:ecosocial.wiso@uni-hamburg.de).

Best regards  
Katharina Zimmermann

## Sustainable Welfare & Eco-social Policy Network Newsletter

Edition 7 – April 2024

**Dear readers,**

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

The newsletter provides a Zotero database. It has a subfolder for each newsletter edition, where all listed papers are stored. 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](mailto:ecosocial.wiso@uni-hamburg.de) and indicate your Zotero-username (create one first at [www.zotero.org](http://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

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- "Time ToBe Blooming: A Spring for Sustainable Wellbeing" webinar series 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (ToBe, online)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the International Conference of the journal "Scuola Democratica" (University of Cagliari, Italy, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June 2024)
- What Works Climate Solutions Summit (wwsc) (TU Berlin, Germany, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2024)
- The 30<sup>th</sup> Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) & The 20<sup>th</sup> East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) Conference (Kyoto, Japan, 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2024)
- 10<sup>th</sup> International Degrowth Conference/ 15<sup>th</sup> ESEE Conference (Pontevedra, Spain, 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

- World Café of Sustainable Welfare at the Degrowth/ESEE Conference (Pontevedra, Spain, 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> June 2024)
- 16<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference "Tension, Trust, and Transformation" (European Sociological Association, Porto, Portugal, 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024)
- Summer School on Life after Growth by Tallinn University of Technology, University of Vigo and Democritus University of Thrace (1<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2024; Kalentzi Tzoumerka, Greece)
- Fit4Future Summer School 2024: "Powering tomorrow: Doing research for a sustainable energy transition" (Brandenburg University of Technology; online and onsite sessions)

## Regional Events

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

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Call for paper abstracts for the 22nd ESPAnet Annual Conference (Tampere, Finland)
- Call for poster proposals for pitch-your-project poster and proposals for pitch-your-book presentations ESPAnet Annual Conference (Tampere, Finland)
- Call for paper abstracts for stream 27 "Disability, poverty and policy" for the 22nd ESPAnet Annual Conference (Tampere, Finland)
- Call for papers Social Science Journal "Intersections between Work–Life Balance and Gender Policies: Equality and Sustainability for Caring and Family Transition"
- Call for abstracts for the Basic Income World Congress (BIEN) (Bath, UK)
- Call for abstracts for the 2024 Central and Eastern European (CEE) Conference (University of Dubrovnik, Croatia)
- Call for abstracts for the FIS-Forum & Social Policy Biennale 2024: "Lost in Social Policy? Research for an integrated welfare state" (Berlin, Germany)

## JOBS

- Call for application: ZSP Policy Grant Förderprogramm (support program)
- Call for application: Promotionskolleg "JUST. Gerechte und nachhaltige Transformation"
- Call for application: Research-Driven Ph.D. Candidate exploring the intersection of skill formation and social policy (Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration, University of Lausanne)
- Call for application: PhD opportunity on energy transition (University of Glasgow & University of Sydney)
- Call for application: Post-doctoral Researcher / Fixed-term Lecturer Post (Comparative Public Policy at the Institute of Political Science of the University of Tübingen)
- Call for application: Graduate Teaching Assistant at Johannes Kepler University Linz in Political Science

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Publications

- Alonso-Epelde, E. et al. (2024). *Climate action from a gender perspective: A systematic review of the impact of climate policies on inequality*. Energy Research & Social Science 112: 103511.
- Bell, S. E. et al. (2024). *Pipelines and power: Psychological distress, political alienation, and the breakdown of environmental justice in government agencies' public participation processes*. Energy Research & Social Science 109: 103406.
- Babic, M. (2024). *Green finance in the global energy transition: Actors, instruments, and politics*. Energy Research & Social Science 111: 103482.
- Busemeyer, M. R. and Beiser-McGrath, L. (2024). *Social policy, public investment or the environment? Exploring variation in individual-level preferences on long-term policies*. European Social Policy, 34(1).
- Di Guilio, A. et al. (2024). *Using the Theory of Protected Needs to conceptualize sustainability as 'caring for human wellbeing': an empirical confirmation of the theory's potential*. Frontiers in Sustainability.
- Im, Z. J. (2024). Variations in Social Europe? National political parties' positions on EU-level social regulations. *Social Policy & Administration*, 1–17.
- Kashour, M. and Jaber, M. M. (2024). *Revisiting energy poverty measurement for the European Union*. Energy Research & Social Science 109: 103420.
- Leffel, B. et al. (2024). *Filling the climate governance gap: Do corporate decarbonization initiatives matter as much as state and local government policy?* Energy Research & Social Science 109: 103376.
- Mahoney, K. et al. (2024). *Perceptions of competing agendas in carbon neutrality policies in Portugal: Adverse impacts on vulnerable population groups*. Energy Research & Social Science 112: 103509.
- Müller, K. (2024). *Climatization and Declimatization. Climate Advocacy in Social Sectors*. Nature and Culture, 19(1).

- Rezaeian, M. et al. (2024). *Transforming titans: The role of policy mixes in business model adaptation strategies for sustainability transitions*. Energy Research & Social Science 112: 103499.
- Sacco, R. L. et al. (2024). *Energy transition policies in Germany and the United Kingdom*. Energy Research & Social Science 110: 103460.
- Tladi, B. et al. (2024). *Assessing the social and environmental impacts of the just energy transition in Komati, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa*. Energy Research & Social Science 111: 103489.
- Trimmel, K. E. et al. (2024). *Between distributive and procedural justice claims: Reframing patterns of discursive resistance against climate action*. Energy Research & Social Science 109: 103424.
- Walk, P. (2024). *From parity to degrowth: Unpacking narratives of a gender-just transition*. Energy Research & Social Science 112: 103513.
- Weisenfeld, U and Rollert, K. E. (2024). *Explaining energy transition: A systemic social mechanisms approach illustrated with the examples of Germany and Poland*. Energy Research & Social Science 112: 103512.
- Yan, C. and Luo, Y. (2024). *Local Government-Led Climate Governance and Social Inclusion: The Case Study of J County in China*. Social Inclusion, 12.
- Yang, L. and Walker, R. (2024). *China and Climate Change: Towards a Socially Inclusive and Just Transition*. Social Inclusion, 12.

### Policy Publications

- Burni, A. and Thissen, L. (2024). *A European feminist foreign policy? The need for a progressive and transformative approach*. FEPS Policy Brief.
- European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change. (2024). *Towards EU climate neutrality: progress, policy gaps and opportunities*.
- WWF. (2024). *The Fair Way Forward: Opportunities for all through an EU Just Transition*.

## Announcements of the Network

### Online Seminar "Social-ecological dimension of the European Green Deal"(25<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 10am-4.45pm)

The online seminar "Social-ecological dimension of the European Green Deal" takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 from 10am to 4.45pm. It is sponsored by the [ToBe Horizon Project](#) and organised jointly by our Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Network in partnership with SciencesPo's new Social-Ecological Transitions Initiative ([SET](#)), which is coordinated by Anne-Laure Beaussier, Éloi Laurent, Bruno Palier and Matteo Mandelli.

The full program can be found [here](#).

Use this [link](#) for the registration.

### Summer School "The Ecosocial challenge: Politics, policy, polity" in Padova by the University of Padova and the Sustainable Welfare and Eco-Social Policy Network (Italy, 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

The Summer School on The Ecosocial Challenge: Politics, Policy, Polity offers a series of lectures and interactive activities aimed at presenting and discussing the most relevant topics, studies and ongoing projects analyzing the social consequences of environmental policies from several disciplinary perspectives (especially, political science and sociology). More specifically, it focuses on ecosocial politics (conflicts, interests, etc.), policies (proposals, decision, etc.) and polity (public opinion, institutional structures, etc.). The Summer School adopts an interactive format combining lectures and seminars led by internationally renowned scholars in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to present and discuss their own research. The Summer School targets PhD students and early career researchers who are working on the above-mentioned topics and is aimed at allowing for advanced exchanges and engaged interaction between students and lecturers.

#### The Summer School will be organized as follows:

- Morning lecture (1,5 hours) by invited speakers selected from the most prominent scholars working on ecosocial politics and policies issues.
- Morning group discussion (1,5 hours) based on the presentation of the speaker

- Afternoon workshop (3 hours) organized around the participants' presentation and comments by the invited speaker and members of the local organizing committee.
- Number of participants: 15

#### Speakers:

- Anne-Laure Beaussier (SciencesPo, Paris)
- Martin Fritz (University of Jena)
- Tuuli Hirvilammi (University of Tampere)
- Sotiria Theodoropoulou (European Trade Union Institute)
- Katharina Zimmermann (University of Hamburg)

#### Local organizer from the University of Padova:

Benedetta Cotta, Ekaterina Domorenok, Paolo Graziano

#### Application:

- How to apply: CV and research abstract (500 words) to [ekaterina.domorenok@unipd.it](mailto:ekaterina.domorenok@unipd.it) and [paolo.graziano@unipd.it](mailto:paolo.graziano@unipd.it)
- Application deadline: 21<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

For further information, please check [here](#) or write to [ekaterina.domorenok@unipd.it](mailto:ekaterina.domorenok@unipd.it) or [paolo.graziano@unipd.it](mailto:paolo.graziano@unipd.it)

## External Events

### “Time ToBe Blooming: A Spring for Sustainable Wellbeing” webinar series 23<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (ToBe, online)

ToBe is a 3-year Horizon Europe project that aims at studying how mindsets, indicators, innovations, and policies could better work together towards a sustainability paradigm. ToBe intends to contribute to filling the existing knowledge gap to create an understanding of a sustainable wellbeing economy through integrated policies and transformative indicators. One webinar has already taken place on the 19<sup>th</sup> March.

- April 23, 2024 (14:00-15:30h CET) - A Skip towards Europe: Discussion on the EU Green Deal and upcoming Elections
- May 29, 2024 (14:00-15:30h CET) - A leap to the World: Local Examples of the Global North and South

More information and the registration can be found here: <https://evenium.events/timetobeblooming>

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

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the International Conference of the journal “Scuola Democratica” will take place in Cagliari, Italy from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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](https://scuolademocratica-conference.net)

### **What Works Climate Solutions Summit (wwsc) (TU Berlin, Germany, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2024)**

The What Works Climate Solutions Summit (wwsc) will take place at the TU Berlin in Germany from the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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](https://whatworksclimate.solutions)

### **The 30th Foundation for International Studies of Social Security (FISS) &The 20th East Asian Social Policy Network (EASP) (Kyoto, Japan, 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 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](https://easp-fiss-2024)

### **10th International Degrowth Conference/ 15th ESEE Conference (Pontevedra, Spain, 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> June 2024)**

The 10<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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](mailto:jayeon.lee@socwork.gu.se); [martin.fritz@uni-jena.de](mailto:martin.fritz@uni-jena.de); [kajsa.emilsson@soch.lu.se](mailto:kajsa.emilsson@soch.lu.se)).

### **16th ESA Conference "Tension, Trust, and Transformation" (European Sociological Association, Porto, Portugal, 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024)**

The 16<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference "Tension, Trust, and Transformation" will take place in Porto, Portugal from the 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://europeansociology.org)

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

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

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

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

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

Dates:

- Online sessions CET: 24 May 13:00-15:00/ 17 June 14:00-18:00/ 05 July 14:00-18:00
- Onsite sessions in Cottbus, Germany: 10-12 September
- Onsite sessions in Poznan, Poland: 12-13 September
- Optional Writing Retreat at Haus des Wandels e.V. Steinhöfel/ Germany: 14-15 September

Target participants:

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

More information can be found here: [b-tu.de](http://b-tu.de)

## 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 paper abstracts for the 22nd ESPAnet Annual Conference (Tampere, Finland)

The 22<sup>nd</sup> ESPAnet (The European Network for Social Policy Analysis) Annual Conference takes place in Tampere (Finland) from 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

The Annual ESPAnet Conferences focus on changing paradigms in European social policy and in European social policy analysis. The conferences provide a forum for theoretical and methodological questions, reflections on inter- and multidisciplinary in social policy research and discussions of new trends. The conferences are open to all who are active in social policy research and welcomes contributions from all relevant disciplines.

Streams of your interest could be:

- Stream 8: “*Varieties of Just Transitions: Actors and Ecosocial Policies*”
- Stream 16: “*Eco-social risks and eco-welfare states: Taking stock of a growing debate*”

Information for the streams can be found [here](#).

Abstracts can be submitted [here](#).

Deadline for submissions is 25th April 2024.

### Call for poster proposals for pitch-your-project poster and proposals for pitch-your-book presentations (Tampere ESPAnet conference 2024)

The 22<sup>nd</sup> ESPAnet (The European Network for Social Policy Analysis) Annual Conference in Tampere (Finland) from 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 also invites posters and project presentations.

**Project posters:** will be placed close to the area where lunch and coffee are served and will remain there for the full duration of the conference. One coffee break on the second day will be reserved for “pitching” project posters. Posters can of course be presented at any other moment throughout the conference as well.

**Books:** will be pitched in a collective session. Each session will include 3-4 book pitches, with editor(s) or author(s) having around 10-15 minutes to pitch their book. After all books have been pitched, there will be time to discuss with the audience. The session will be chaired to facilitate discussion and to raise shared themes, topics or questions for future policy and research. Thus, the pitch-your-book sessions are intended to go beyond merely presenting recent books to also have interaction and discussion.

Criteria:

**Pitch-your-project posters:** the project must be either ongoing project or one that is about to start in 2024 and it should be relevant to the general research interests of the ESPAnet community.

**Pitch-your-book proposals:** the book should have been published in 2023 or 2024, be relevant to the general research interests of the ESPAnet community, and must not have been previously pitched at an annual ESPAnet conference.

Deadline for submissions is 25th April 2024.

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

## **Call for papers Social Science Journal “Intersections between Work–Life Balance and Gender Policies: Equality and Sustainability for Caring and Family Transition”**

The Social Science Journal is calling for papers for a special issue on “Intersections between Work–Life Balance and Gender Policies: Equality and Sustainability for Caring and Family Transition”. The following topic are particularly welcome:

- effectiveness in terms of welfare and sustainability of welfare services concerning work–life balance
- the innovativeness of governance models of care and personal services in support of work–life balance and gender equality
- the sustainability of work–life balance measures and services implemented by public, private or third-sector actors aimed at more significant equity between genders and generations;
- the analysis of differentiated work–life balance needs
- the need for new and different approaches to interpreting work–family balance from a gender perspective (e.g., diversity management; diversity–equality–inclusion; corporate social/family responsibility, etc.) involving a plurality of actors
- the impact of welfare and inclusion policies implemented by public, private or third-sector actors on social sustainability, with a particular reference to Goal 5 of the UN2023 Agenda

Deadline for paper submission: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

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

## **Call for abstracts for the Basic Income World Congress (BIEN) (Bath, UK)**

The Basic Income World Congress is calling for submission of abstracts for two panels. The conference is taking place in Bath (UK) at the end of August 2024.

### **Panel 1: UBI and the Eco-Social State: Transformation, Reform, or both?**

Possible questions and topics that we would like to address:

- What steps and policy measures are needed for a successful transformation towards an Eco-Social State? Big Bang reform or gradualism?
- How to govern green social policies towards an Eco-Social State?
- Does a UBI need additional or complementary policies to reach an impact on a social-ecological transformation?
- Debating the role of growth and UBI in the Eco-Social State
- Do we need UBI (or UBI like) policies to strengthen the sustainable development goals (SDGs)?

### **Panel 2: The role of UBI for social sustainability**

“If we want to discuss why a Universal Basic Income, or policies that come close to it, are a step towards more “Social Sustainability”, we first have to consider that there are many different interpretations of what is meant with “Social Sustainability” in both scientific and political debate.

For example, we can differentiate some general approaches "Development Social Sustainability" that allows people to satisfy basic needs so that they can begin to address bio-physical environmental problems at all. "Maintenance Social Sustainability " refers to the preservation of those practices, traditions, preferences that people want to maintain or expand as quality of life in the context of social and economic change. "Bridge Social Sustainability") can be understand as a social environment that can support a change in people's relationships with both natural and social environment (Dixon, Perkins, Vallance 2011).

To the contrary more concretely and operationally oriented definitions of Social Sustainability we find in indicator catalogues developed at many levels and sometimes also adopted as policy guidelines. For example, 52 indicators of the EU Sustainable Development Indicator Set measure the social dimension, e.g. data on poverty, inclusion, education, violence, purchasing power, suicide rates, corruption, justice expenditure and many more (Mc Guinn 2020). Last but not least, a distinction can be made between substantive and procedural understandings. While the former focus on concrete social qualities such as



poverty or crime rates, the “what”, the latter do not want to commit to such goals. What matters for the stability of societies is the “how”, the process of decision-making involving as many as possible, the acceptance of procedures.”

Deadline for abstract submission: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

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

### **Call for abstracts for the 2024 RSA Central and Eastern European (CEE) Conference (University of Dubrovnik, Croatia)**

The RSA Central and Eastern European (CEE) Conference is calling for abstracts. The conference is taking place at the University of Dubrovnik (Croatia) from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Potential topics could include the perspective of “Looking out” – CEE Place in the World – “Looking in”- places and regions in CEE – and “Looking in, looking out” – comparing trends on a regional, national and international basis.

Special Session submission deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Abstract submission deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

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

### **Call for abstracts for the FIS-Forum & Social Policy Biennale 2024: "Lost in Social Policy? Research for an integrated welfare state" (Berlin, Germany)**

The FIS-Forum and the Social Policy Biennale 2024 are calling for abstracts on the subject “Lost in Social Policy? Research for an integrated welfare state“. The conference is taking place in Berlin at GSL Campus from 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

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

#### **Of particular interest for the readers of our newsletter is the research field 1's stream on social policy and ecological sustainability:**

In the context of the newly emerging social-ecological risks, effective environmental policy can be understood as preventive social policy. However, the developmental scenarios that inform social and environmental policy remain unclear. In practical terms, the question arises: what socially equitable climate measures and new institutions can strengthen coordination between these two policy fields. We welcome contributions that engage with these aspects.

The deadline for abstracts: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

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

## **JOBS**

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

More information can be found here: [zentrum-neue-sozialpolitik.org](https://zentrum-neue-sozialpolitik.org)

### **Call for Application: Promotionskolleg "JUST. Gerechte und nachhaltige Transformation/Just and sustainable transformation"**

The Hans Böckler Foundation is expected to provide 6 doctoral scholarships for the doctoral programme "Just and sustainable transformation (JUST)" (PK 056) at the University of Kassel (Germany) to address key issues arising from the societal challenges of socio-ecological transformation. The application period is 15.02.2024-31.05.2024.

The programme focuses on a total of four thematic clusters:

- o Socio-ecological sustainability through transformative education
- o Accessibility and participation in open space, urban and landscape planning
- o Diversity and inclusion for sustainable companies and supply chains
- o Social rule of law and democratic institutions in regions undergoing structural change.

More information can be found here: [www.uni-kassel.de](https://www.uni-kassel.de)

### **Call for Application: Research-Driven Ph.D. Candidate exploring the intersection of skill formation and social policy (Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration, University of Lausanne)**

The Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration at the University of Lausanne is calling for application for a research-driven Ph.D. candidate exploring the intersection of skill formation and social policy. The position is part of a larger project on the governance of vocational training (GOVPET), financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Research and Innovation.

Deadline for application: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

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

### **Call for application: PhD opportunity on energy transition (University of Glasgow & University of Sydney)**

The University of Glasgow and the University of Sydney are calling for application for a fully funded PhD position on the energy transition. A background in housing, energy, public health, environmental, regional, or urban studies or training from the disciplines of sociology, geography, or anthropology would be necessary.

- **The Project:** The health and wellbeing impacts of the energy transition for low-income renters: A comparative UK-Australia study
- **Funding:** An annual stipend (£19,162 per year in 2024/5), a £3,000 travel grant and a training support grant (max. of £940 per year). University fees are paid for.
- **Home Institution:** University of Glasgow (College of Social Sciences). You will spend Years 1 & 3 at the University of Glasgow, and Year 2 at the University of Sydney.
- **Supervisors:** Gerry McCartney, Lynne Chester, Robert McMaster, Harriet Thomson

Deadline for application: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

More information can be found [here](#) or contact [Gerard.McCartney@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Gerard.McCartney@glasgow.ac.uk) or [lynne.chester@sydney.edu.au](mailto:lynne.chester@sydney.edu.au).

## Call for application: Post-doctoral Researcher / Fixed-term Lecturer Post (Comparative Public Policy at the Institute of Political Science of the University of Tübingen)

The Institute of Political Science at the University of Tübingen is calling for application for a Post-doctoral researcher or a fixed-term lecturer post position. For the duration of 3 years (in the first instance) from 1 October 2024 (or as soon as possible thereafter). Annual salary is commensurate with experience starting from approximately 50.000 Euro. The successful candidate will contribute to the research and teaching portfolio of the Comparative Public Policy Research Unit as well as to third-party funding applications and will be given the opportunity to pursue a Habilitation.

### Essential requirements:

- excellent undergraduate and graduate degree in political science or a related social science
- completed PhD (or close to completion) in area related to comparative social policy/welfare state research
- interest in comparative welfare state and public policy research
- excellent publication record
- excellent communication, presentation, and writing skills in English (German language skills are desirable)
- excellent intercultural communication skills
- ability to work both independently and as part of an international team

Please send your application with the usual documents (letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, publication list, etc.) in electronic form (one pdf file only) to: [julia.buchner@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:julia.buchner@uni-tuebingen.de).

Deadline for application: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Interviews are scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

For further questions, please contact [martin.seeleib-kaiser@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:martin.seeleib-kaiser@uni-tuebingen.de).

## Call for application: Graduate Teaching Assistant at Johannes Kepler University Linz in Political Science

The Institute for Political Science and Sociology at the Johannes Kepler University Linz is calling for application for a Graduate Teaching Assistant. There should be a strong interest in theory-driven quantitative research in one of the following areas: Comparative Welfare State Analysis, Comparative Public Policy, Political Representation.

### Job Duties:

- Conduct independent research and complete a doctoral dissertation in Political Science
- Teach university-level classes
- Participate in the institute's administrative and mentoring tasks

Application Deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Publications

**“Climate action from a gender perspective: A systematic review of the impact of climate policies on inequality” by E. Alonso-Epelde et al.**

The research article “Climate action from a gender perspective: A systematic review of the impact of climate policies on inequality” by E. Alonso-Epelde et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103511>

Abstract

In 1992 the United Nations committed to promoting a gender perspective in all environmental and development programs and to establishing mechanisms for assessing the impact of environmental policies on women. However, 30 years later most countries acknowledge that they have not integrated that perspective into policy assessments. This paper provides the first systematic literature review (based on the PRISMA approach) of the impacts of climate policies on inequality from a gender perspective. The results show that although this is an emerging research area, the number of works is still very low: we find only 29 papers, most of them written in the last 4 years. There is also a clear lack of quantitative analysis; and only 5 studies provide an ex ante impact assessment. A more in depth-analysis shows that the existing analyses often use gender merely as an additional explanatory variable, but key aspects for a real gender-oriented analysis such as power relations, intersectionality and gender mainstreaming are missing. The gender perspective is typically more absent in studies led by men. If science wants to contribute to the generation of knowledge that is useful for tackling some of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, such as the transition to a socioeconomic model that is more respectful with the ecological limits of the planet and gender equality, it is important to expand knowledge in this area but also to reconnect with feminist theory.

### **“Green finance in the global energy transition: Actors, instruments, and politics” by Milan Babic**

The review “Green finance in the global energy transition: Actors, instruments, and politics” by Milan Babic has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103482>

#### Abstract

All aspects of the global energy transition - from decarbonization to adaptation - require massive investments of several trillion US Dollars annually. In the respective debates in political economy and beyond, the question of how to mobilize adequate volumes of such ‘green’ finance is central. However, there is little agreement on what constitutes this type of finance and how energy research can employ the concept to critically analyze and evaluate green transitions. In order to advance the conceptual and empirical work on this key issue, I review and describe the main elements of the global landscape of green finance governing its mobilization and proliferation. I first review the major actors involved in the supply and provision of green finance. Second, I evaluate the central instruments of this provision, their volumes and transformative potentials. Third, I analyze key political faultlines and trade-offs in the provision and contestation of green finance, which will shape the coming decades of green transitions. The paper concludes by discussing how this conceptual apparatus can facilitate next research steps.

### **“Pipelines and power: Psychological distress, political alienation, and the breakdown of environmental justice in government agencies' public participation processes” by Shannon Elizabeth Bell et al.**

The research article “Pipelines and power: Psychological distress, political alienation, and the breakdown of environmental justice in government agencies' public participation processes” by Shannon Elizabeth Bell et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103406>

#### Abstract

Environmental health research has demonstrated that living near industrial activity is associated with increased stress, depressive symptoms, and feelings of powerlessness. Little is known, however, about the effects of new natural gas pipelines—or the institutional processes dictating their approval and construction—on the mental health of local residents. Through our analysis of a mail survey, an online survey, and a set of semi-structured interviews, we examine how engagement with public participation processes associated with new interstate natural gas pipelines affects mental health. Our results suggest that the public participation opportunities offered by regulatory agencies during the pipeline certification process are primarily performative, and we find that many of the people who have taken part in these performative public input opportunities experience psychological distress, stress-activated physical health effects, and a loss of trust in government institutions. We argue that when people engage in public participation processes that have little or no effect on agency decision-making, it not only disempowers, but can harm those individuals and erode their trust in government institutions. Furthermore, we contend that providing the public with participation opportunities that are merely performative, with little ability to

influence decision-making outcomes, is a violation of both procedural and recognition justice, two of the core tenets of environmental justice.

### **“Social policy, public investment or the environment? Exploring variation in individual-level preferences on long-term policies” by Marius R. Busemeyer and Liam Beiser-McGrath**

The article “Social policy, public investment or the environment? Exploring variation in individual-level preferences on long-term policies” by Marius R. Busemeyer and Liam Beiser-McGrath has been published in *European Social Policy*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/09589287231217379>

#### **Abstract**

This article studies individual-level attitudes towards long-term investment policies using novel survey data for the case of Germany. Building on a budding literature on the relationship between environmental and social policy attitudes, our first contribution to research is to show that citizens, when prompted to think about their support for long-term investment policies, support welfare state related policies such as investments in education and pensions to a greater degree than non-welfare state issues such as public infrastructure investment or renewable energy. Citizens are most supportive of using present-day redistributive policies – in our case: increasing income taxes on the rich – in order to finance long-term investment. We also find evidence that political trust is positively associated with support for long-term investment policies, but in particular investments in education and renewables. Furthermore, our analysis reveals the importance of individual political ideology. These findings have implications for public demand for tackling the long-term issues faced by society today.

### **“Using the Theory of Protected Needs to conceptualize sustainability as ‘caring for human wellbeing’: an empirical confirmation of the theory’s potential” by Antonietta Di Giulio et al.**

The research article “Using the Theory of Protected Needs to conceptualize sustainability as ‘caring for human wellbeing’: an empirical confirmation of the theory’s potential” by Antonietta Di Giulio et al. has been published in *Frontiers in Sustainability*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/frsus.2023.1036666>

#### **Abstract**

Caring for human wellbeing has the potential of offering a powerful narrative for change toward sustainability. A broad body of research confirms that a narrative linking the ideas of a good life (human wellbeing) and of solidarity and justice actually exists, and that this narrative could, if supported and reinforced by convincing concepts, relevant material structures, and coherent action, serve as a societal source of power for sustainability. With a view to providing a theory of human wellbeing that focuses on the responsibility of the community and conceptualizes achieving a good life as a public good and not as a purely individual matter, we developed the Theory of Protected Needs (PN). The Theory of PN is a theory of good life that frames quality of life for individuals as a societal responsibility (but without affecting individual freedom), thus linking the individual and the societal perspective with a view of ensuring life satisfaction of present and future generations. The Theory of PN has been subjected to a representative survey in Switzerland. In the paper, we explore whether the Theory of PN can be empirically confirmed, that is, to what extent the nine needs the theory consists of deserve the status of being protected needs. We present the theory, the empirical criteria that the nine needs have to meet in order to qualify for being protected needs, and the results of the data analysis. These results sum up to an aggregated argument in favor of using the Theory of PN as a fundament to conceptualize sustainability as ‘caring for human wellbeing’. The paper concludes with outlaying further steps both in research and in societal practice. In the Appendix A, the German and French versions of the Theory of PN are first published.

### **“Variations in Social Europe? National political parties’ positions on EU-level social regulations” by Zhen Jie Im**

The article “Variations in Social Europe? National political parties’ positions on EU-level social regulations” by Zhen Jie Im has been published in *Social Policy & Administration*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.13012>

#### Abstract

How do national political parties vary in their views on Social Europe? I focus on an aspect that has received less attention despite its growing prevalence—EU regulations with ambitions to diminish social inequality to encourage social convergence among Member States. Since the Juncker Commission, the European Commission has become increasingly active in pursuing this aspect of Social Europe. Thus, understanding parties' positions on this aspect of Social Europe has become more important. However, current literature lacks measures of national party stances towards Social Europe, and explanations for these stances. Here, I use data from the Chapel Hill Expert Survey (2006, 2009, 2014 and 2019) to develop an indirect measure of party positions on Social Europe. Leveraging studies in party politics and EU politics, I propose that party families and national economic conditions may affect parties' positions on Social Europe. The analyses suggest substantial variation in parties' positions on Social Europe both within and across party families. The analyses also demonstrate that socialist and green parties support Social Europe most, whereas radical right parties support it least. Lastly, I do not find systematic evidence that national economic conditions influence parties' support for this aspect of Social Europe.

### **“Revisiting energy poverty measurement for the European Union” by Mohammad Kashour and Mohammad M. Jaber**

The research article “Revisiting energy poverty measurement for the European Union” by Mohammad Kashour and Mohammad M. Jaber has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103420>

#### Abstract

Energy poverty constitutes a multifaceted challenge encountered by households worldwide. Given its intricate nature, the imperative to measure it entails the adoption of composite or multidimensional indices encompassing diverse indicators. Despite the comprehensive body of literature at the European level, most studies focus on assessing energy poverty within individual countries. Also, none of these studies have considered examining the causes and effects of energy poverty in their evaluation processes. In response, this research introduces a novel composite index that recognizes three fundamental drivers of energy poverty: high energy cost, poor energy efficiency, and low income, alongside three ensuing consequences: insufficient warmth within dwellings, energy arrears, and dwelling quality issues. The aim is to rank the Member States of the European Union (EU) using two criteria: solely the consequential factors and all factors collectively. By contrasting these two ranking criteria, the analysis identifies the Member States that exhibit significant differences in their standings. These states can be categorized as underperformers, denoting a significant capacity to address the issue yet exhibiting relatively higher levels, or overperformers, indicating a limited capacity to address the issue with relatively lower levels. The results underscore Czechia as an overperforming state and France as a significantly underperforming state, prompting a deeper exploration into the driving forces behind these variations. In this manner, the study introduces an approach to detect the root causes of energy poverty across EU Member States through a comparative lens.

### **“Filling the climate governance gap: Do corporate decarbonization initiatives matter as much as state and local government policy?” by Benjamin Leffel et al.**

The research article “Filling the climate governance gap: Do corporate decarbonization initiatives matter as much as state and local government policy?” by Benjamin Leffel et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103376>

#### Abstract

Companies and subnational governments are actively attempting to fill the greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation gap left by weak national policy, but how effective are their efforts in reducing GHG emissions? This is the first study to disaggregate corporate GHG reporting from CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project), down to the facility level to analyze the respective roles of corporate initiatives and subnational public policies in driving corporate decarbonization in the United States from 2010 to 2019. We find that although corporate decarbonization initiatives are associated with GHG reductions, the primary drivers of corporate facility decarbonization are state-level climate policies, in particular financial incentives for

energy efficiency. Given that the same types of incentives are significantly expanded under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), our finding suggests that state and local government mobilization of new incentives will play a crucial role in achieving private sector decarbonization goals. Last, total emissions by CDP-disclosing corporations increased substantially over our sample period, meaning that expansion of subnational climate action and corporate initiatives may be vital to reduce overall U.S. corporate emissions.

### **“Perceptions of competing agendas in carbon neutrality policies in Portugal: Adverse impacts on vulnerable population groups” by Katherine Mahoney et al.**

The research article “Perceptions of competing agendas in carbon neutrality policies in Portugal: Adverse impacts on vulnerable population groups” by Katherine Mahoney et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103509>

#### **Abstract**

The links between the political agendas of climate change, the energy transition, and energy poverty are multiple, complex, and overlapping. In line with European Union policy demands, Member States are implementing the various policies necessary to address these agendas, with an emergent focus on their synergistic potential. Successful implementation requires cooperation between multiple actors, yet little research exists on how diverse actors view the agendas. This limits the ability to account for diverse perspectives in carbon neutrality policy and related insights on trade-offs and competition points between the climate change, energy transition, and energy poverty agendas. We analyse perspectives on agenda interactions based on 39 expert interviews on Portuguese carbon neutrality agendas. Our case study results suggest strong agreement regarding theoretical linkages of the agendas but mixed views on whether this transpires in practice. These perceived inconsistencies reveal several unresolved competing agendas in Portuguese carbon neutrality policies. We also reveal important influences on citizen agency in the decarbonisation agendas. We argue these insights are valuable for current policy approaches, which promote decarbonisation policies that incorporate energy poverty and rely strongly on citizen participation.

### **“Climatization and Declimatization. Climate Advocacy in Social Sectors” by Katja Müller et al.**

The research article “Climatization and Declimatization. Climate Advocacy in Social Sectors” by Katja Müller et al. has been published in *Nature and Culture*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3167/nc.2024.190101>

#### **Abstract**

Climate change forces a reckoning with the ecological side effects of fossil-fuel-based industrial development, requiring an incorporation of climate issues into the mainstream structures of society. In this perspective article, we address this as a “climatization” process directed at aligning society with climate imperatives. We focus on the contingent dynamics of “climatization” and show how contention may be avoided by “declimatizing” climate action. Here, we emphasize the immediate co-benefits of climate action as against more distant climate benefits. “Declimatization” is therefore a strategic move: it is distinct from the “anti-climatization” backlash, though it is often figured as a reflexive response to it. We draw on climate anthropology, climate advocacy, and climate movement theory, and provide brief insights into de/climatization in Germany, India, and Australia.

### **“Transforming titans: The role of policy mixes in business model adaptation strategies for sustainability transitions” by Mina Rezaeian et al.**

The review “Transforming titans: The role of policy mixes in business model adaptation strategies for sustainability transitions” by Mina Rezaeian et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103499>

#### **Abstract**

In recent years, research on government policies in sustainability transition studies has proliferated, largely focusing on their role to drive transformational change through technological innovation. This strand of research faces two main challenges. First, the research has remained largely fragmented due to the breadth of concepts it encompasses. Second, despite the acknowledged importance of business models in sustainability transitions, there is a lack of understanding about how policies influence firms' strategies for adapting their business models towards sustainability. This paper addresses these gaps by conducting a two-step systematic literature review. It organises the research strands related to transition policies and highlights their impact on business model adaptation strategies of incumbent firms. Incumbents are chosen as the unit of analysis because they have greater capacity and potential to induce systemic transformations compared to niche firms. The results lead to a conceptual framework that elucidates how transition policy mixes affect incumbents' business model adaptation strategies by influencing their willingness and capability to transition. The findings emphasise the importance of incumbents' business models in transition programmes, cautioning against a narrow focus on technological innovation. A systemic perspective considering business models helps policymakers to better understand factors which influence incumbents' business model adaptation strategies, identify sources of inertia, address barriers to appropriate measures, and utilise incumbents' capabilities and resources to bring about transformational change for sustainability.

### **“Energy transition policies in Germany and the United Kingdom” by Rafael Luis Sacco et al.**

The review “Energy transition policies in Germany and the United Kingdom” by Rafael Luis Sacco et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103460>

#### **Abstract**

In recent years, the international community has raised concerns about global warming and climate change, which established commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and policies to foster energy transition and the decarbonization of their economies. The literature review points out that policies encouraging or subsidizing a cleaner energy mix and lowering carbon footprint have effectively reduced GHG emissions. However, such measures can challenge national energy security. The United Kingdom (UK) and Germany are important promoters of these policies. Thus, this work investigates whether these decarbonization policies impact energy security in both countries, how they affect them, and which are more vulnerable. The Vulnerability Scoping Diagram framework is a qualitative methodology we used to analyze how these measures have influenced energy security issues in the UK and Germany at the national level. Both countries are great fossil fuel importers: the UK imports from Norway, the United States, and Qatar, while Germany imports mainly from Russia. The results suggest that external events strongly impact vulnerability, which varies to a lesser or greater extent depending on the dependency on energy imports and the diversification of their energy mix and exporters. Germany is more vulnerable than the UK regarding external energy dependency. Besides the lower supplier diversity, Germany depends much more on the Russian oil and gas supply than the UK, which puts the Germans in a more delicate situation given the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

### **“Assessing the social and environmental impacts of the just energy transition in Komati, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa” by Bonolo Tladi et al.**

The research article “Assessing the social and environmental impacts of the just energy transition in Komati, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa” by Bonolo Tladi et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103489>

#### **Abstract**

In response to the Paris Agreement, South Africa has committed to decommissioning its coal-fired power stations and transitioning to renewable energy technologies. The pilot project for the energy transition that is planned for the place is the decommissioning of the 1000 MW Komati power station, in Mpumalanga province. Despite the existence of these guidelines, the energy transition may not be just for the society, power station workers and community in Komati. As such, evaluating the social impacts and investigating the environmental impacts associated with the energy transition, i.e., the decommissioning of the Komati power station was necessary, this also includes investigating the involvement or participation of the community in the transition. To conduct the study, questionnaires and in-depth interviews



were administered to residents in Komati and to environmental experts, to evaluate the above-mentioned objectives. The study found that residents are concerned with the impacts that the closure of the Komati power station may give rise to, about their job security, livelihood, well-being, community development and energy provision. They are also concerned about environmental impacts associated with the lack of rehabilitation. Furthermore, the findings in the study indicate that the community is not aware of or involved in the discussions of the energy transition of Komati.

### **“Between distributive and procedural justice claims: Reframing patterns of discursive resistance against climate action” by Katharina E. Trimmel et al.**

The research article “Between distributive and procedural justice claims: Reframing patterns of discursive resistance against climate action” by Katharina E. Trimmel et al. has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103424>

#### **Abstract**

Ambitious policy measures required for transitioning towards a low-carbon energy system often face political and societal opposition. In this paper, we study discursive resistance towards currently debated mitigation policies in Austria from a justice perspective. By carrying out a discourse analysis that was based on newspaper articles, social media entries and expert interviews, we identified five categories of counter-storylines that resonate with either distributive or procedural justice concerns. Categories related to distributive justice concerns are “denial of responsibility”, “feasibility constraints” and “adverse impacts”, while categories related to procedural justice concerns are “lack of reliability” and “lack of inclusion”. Our categorization provides a concise and comprehensive overview of discursive opposition and allows for a better understanding of resistance against climate action. Several of the identified storylines relate to valid concerns that are important to consider in achieving a just transition. Policymakers are thus well advised to address resistance to climate policy and take associated distributive and procedural justice concerns seriously.

### **“From parity to degrowth: Unpacking narratives of a gender-just transition” by Paula Walk**

The research article “From parity to degrowth: Unpacking narratives of a gender-just transition” by Paula Walk has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103513>

#### **Abstract**

In the absence of a deliberate focus on gender, efforts towards sustainable transitions run the risk of perpetuating the inequalities present in the fossil fuel-dependent economic system. Demands for a gender-just transition have gained increasing prominence within the political landscape in recent times. However, they are hardly reflected in the scientific debate on a just transition, which is why the paper explores and maps the political narratives around a gender-just transition. A search for grey literature in English on a global level without a country focus results in a collection of 65 political documents. These are analysed using the Narrative Policy Framework. The following six narratives are worked out: (1) representation narrative, (2) policy design narrative, (3) fossil phase-out narrative, (4) opportunity narrative, (5) protection narrative, and (6) transformation narrative. With reference to feminist theories, it is examined which ideas of gender justice underlie the narratives. The narratives represent very different approaches to achieving greater gender equity in the sustainability transition. They range from increasing the proportion of women on the boards of green industries to a fundamental shift away from a growth-based economic system. The paper shows how the narratives could complement each other in a multi-layered vision for a gender-just transition facilitating alliance building.

### **“Explaining energy transition: A systemic social mechanisms approach illustrated with the examples of Germany and Poland” by Ursula Weisenfeld and Katarzyna Ewa Rollert**

The research article “Explaining energy transition: A systemic social mechanisms approach illustrated with the examples of Germany and Poland” by Ursula Weisenfeld and Katarzyna Ewa Rollert has been published in *Energy Research & Social Science*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103512>

#### Abstract

In our conceptual paper, we develop a systemic social mechanisms model to explain change and inertia of energy systems. Situational, action-formation, and transformational mechanisms that drive change in a transition require corresponding framing and framing contests to create legitimacy for that transition. We conceptualize mechanisms of socio-technical transitions and of creating legitimacy for transitions as mutual drivers and outcomes, with framing contests as crucial for achieving legitimacy for change. We propose that the social mechanisms approach supports evidence-based policy-making, underlines the need for flexibility in the face of changing contexts, and highlights the key role of framing contests for meaning making and for activating further mechanisms. We illustrate our proposition with two examples, the Polish and the German electricity system.

### **“Local Government-Led Climate Governance and Social Inclusion: The Case Study of J County in China” by Chunhua Yua and Yajuan Luo**

The article “Local Government-Led Climate Governance and Social Inclusion: The Case Study of J County in China” by Chunhua Yua and Yajuan Luo has been published in *Social Inclusion*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.7458>

#### Abstract

Social inclusion in climate governance is related to social justice and inclusive climate justice explicitly aims to open up climate policy and politics to a broader range of actors and voices, especially those most exposed to climate-related injustice. This article employs qualitative research methods to comprehensively examine the issue of social inclusion in the context of local government-led climate governance in J County, Zhejiang province, China. The study finds that the climate governance in J County demonstrates a certain degree of social inclusion in terms of participation by local farmers and benefit distribution. However, this social inclusion has a hidden fragility: It is limited and unstable. The limited social inclusion is manifested in the fact that, throughout the entire process, bamboo farmers were unable to participate due to their lack of a comprehensive understanding of the climate governance action plan, and the distribution of climate governance benefits is characterised by a lack of transparency in the design process and uncertainty regarding potential benefits. The unstable social inclusion is manifested in the great differences in the environmental governance actions of J County in different periods, especially regarding public participation and benefit distribution. Fundamentally, this is mainly due to the significant influence of China’s unique top-down performance evaluation system on local government-led climate governance actions in J County. Social inclusion in local government-led environmental governance may again be marginalised if the top-down performance evaluation indicators faced by local governments change in the future.

### **“China and Climate Change: Towards a Socially Inclusive and Just Transition.” By Lichao Yang and Robert Walker**

The article “China and Climate Change: Towards a Socially Inclusive and Just Transition.” By Lichao Yang and Robert Walker has been published in *Social Inclusion*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.8050>

#### Abstract

China aims to transition from a carbon-intensive economy to carbon neutrality before 2060. Although climate change policies commenced in 2007, this goal remains extremely challenging. Reporting on China’s progress, the articles in this issue refer to three concepts. Ecological civilization is a political construct framing China’s policy response to climate change and environmental degradation; its “thin” version refers to sustainable development and modernisation, but it also describes a higher form of civilization to replace industrial society. Environmental authoritarianism describes a top-down system of governance or policy implementation that engages in minimal public participation; several of the articles report China’s green policies to be of this type. Just transition is a multifaceted evaluative concept employed in most of the articles to comment on the process or outcome of China’s climate change policies. The policy context is explained, before reviewing results from authors’ application of these concepts and offering a summary conclusion.

## Policy Publications:

### **“A European feminist foreign policy? The need for a progressive and transformative approach” by Aline Burni and Laetitia Thissen**

The policy brief “A European feminist foreign policy? The need for a progressive and transformative approach” by Aline Burni and Laetitia Thissen was published by FEPS.

Link: [fepeurope.eu](https://fepeurope.eu)

#### Abstract

The application of a feminist approach to international relations has gained significant ground across the globe since the original decision by the Swedish Social Democratic and Green coalition in 2014 at the time to explicitly adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP). While it is excellent news that FFP is becoming more ‘normalized’ in the public debate and increasingly gaining the attention of government actors, the development of a more ambitious concept, policy, and action should be a continued effort. A more ambitious, progressive, and transformative approach must be continuously advocated by feminists, civil society organisations, and policymakers alike. In particular, the European Union (EU) should be more determined to adopt and put into practice feminist principles in its external action. Given its supranational and inter-governmental nature, an explicit feminist foreign policy approach at the EU level represents the opportunity to amplify the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of marginalised groups globally. As Europe finds itself in the most severe security crisis since the end of World War II, there is momentum to transform its external action. Amid what can be considered a “feminist turn in foreign policy”, this policy brief reflects on the opportunities and challenges of more clearly linking the external action and (gender) equality agendas into a European feminist foreign policy and put forth some policy recommendations to contribute to current debates.

### **“Towards EU climate neutrality: progress, policy gaps and opportunities” by the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change**

The publication can be found [here](#).

### **“The Fair Way Forward: Opportunities for all through an EU Just Transition” by WWF**

The publication can be found [here](#).

#### Abstract

The transition to a low-carbon economy in the EU requires change at an unprecedented pace. The imperative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to ensure a liveable future translates into changes that involve citizens collectively and individually – the switch to clean energy, home improvement for energy efficiency, an evolution in mobility, and new patterns of production and consumption.

While most citizens will find new opportunities in the clean economy and all will ultimately benefit from improved well-being in a secure and sustainable society, significant segments of the population risk being disadvantaged during the transition, and will have genuine concerns about the nearer-term prospects for themselves and their families. Ensuring a just transition is therefore critical.

This publication examines the elements already in place to support a just transition in the EU, and presents recommendations for the strengthened just transition policy framework which is required to ensure a wide-reaching and inclusive transition for the EU’s low-carbon and sustainable economy.