

Editorial by



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IST'25 Was a Time to Grow for the Global Transitions Community

Lisbon hosted the 16th edition of the International Sustainability Transitions Conference (IST'25) this June. With 550 participants from over 50 countries, it was one of the most widely attended events in the history of the IST series.

Held for the first time in Southern Europe, IST'25 embraced the theme “Tensions and Conflicts in Structural Change for Sustainability Transitions.” It featured an inclusive and participatory program that fostered rich, timely discussions across both established and emerging tracks, as well as stimulating special sessions. New formats—such as debate plenaries on key themes and topics, and a networking event for all on the opening day—alongside the return of the paper development workshop, sparked meaningful exchanges among a diverse and engaged audience. These debates are expected to evolve in future forums and inspire tangible outcomes for global sustainability.

Organized by Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, in collaboration with the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Lisbon (IGOT-ULisboa) and the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology (LNEG), the conference also promoted interactions between the global transitions community and the local context—its teams, culture, and energy. Memorable shared moments, including the conference party, deepened a strong sense of community and purpose.

The organizers extend heartfelt thanks to the scientific partners (STRN and EDITS), official partner (Visit Portugal), institutional supporters (Turismo de Lisboa, Banco de Portugal), associated companies (Delta Cafés, Casa Ermelinda), and everyone who contributed—from the scientific committee to track and session convenors and volunteers. Special thanks go to the organizing committee and staff coordination team, whose year-long dedication made the event possible.

True to Iscte's slogan—“a space to grow”—IST'25 was not only about growing in numbers but about strengthening the foundations of a global community more essential than ever in advancing sustainability transitions.

Long life to IST!

Newsletter content:

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New steering group members elected

After an open call for new steering group members published via the STRN mailing list, elections took place. We received 26 applications and thank everyone wholeheartedly who put themselves forward to be involved in the running of the network. We are happy to introduce you to the two new scholars who will join the STRN Steering Group for the next two years and congratulate them on their election:

Darren Sharp (Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University, Melbourne)

Leonard Frank (Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Freiburg).

In addition, existing steering group members **Merin Raju Jacob** (Centre for Sustainability Transitions, Stellenbosch University) and Ingrid **Johansson Mignon** (Dept. of Technology Management and Economics, Chalmers, Gothenburg) were re-elected. Congratulations to both of you – we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Lastly, **Maria Altunay** and **Maja Svanberg** (Department of Technology Management and Economics, Chalmers University of Technology) were jointly elected by the NEST community to represent early-career researchers within the STRN steering group.

We warmly welcome Maria, Maja, Darren, and Leo to the Steering Group and are looking forward to their contributions in guiding our network forward.

Sustainability transitions: Hope – in challenging times.

After 13 years, IST returns to Zurich!

We are happy to welcome you to the 17th International Conference on Sustainability Transitions. The conference will be held at ETH Zurich, hosted by the transitions and innovation research group Cirus at Eawag and the Group for Sustainability and Technology at ETH.

Next year's theme invites transition scholars from all over the world to engage with ideas that spread hope.

Hope that through our individual and collective work, environmental sustainability and social justice can be cultivated – even in times marked by armed conflicts, political polarisation, and mounting planetary crises. What hopeful storylines can we draw from transitions scholarship, and how can we mobilise them to transform socio-technical systems that better serve humanity and the planet?

The IST conference is the flagship event for the international transitions research community, hosted each year on behalf of the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN). STRN connects more than three thousand researchers from diverse fields worldwide..

Timeline for IST 2026:

Call for tracks: Fall 2025

Call for papers: January 2026

Decisions: April 2026

Full papers: June 2026

Conference: 31st of August – 2nd of September

IST2026@eawag.ch



Apply to our upcoming PhD & Method Schools

Education opportunities for early-career researchers

We are pleased to announce three upcoming Schools for early-career researchers. These events provide an opportunity to engage with leading transition scholars, deepen methodological and theoretical knowledge, and build international networks.

Methods School, Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), Vienna, Austria

Dates: 17–20 November 2025

Application opens: Monday, 4 August 2025

Deadline to apply: Monday, 1 September 2025

Notification of acceptance: Monday, 15 September 2025

Confirmed speakers include: Jonathan Köhler, Flor Alkemade, Klaus Kubeczko and Julia Wittmayer in addition to a range of modelling experts from AIT.

PhD School, Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Dates: 18–20 March 2026

Application opens: Tuesday, 16 September 2025

Deadline to apply: Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Notification of acceptance: Friday, 31 October 2025

PhD School, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

Dates: 16–20 March 2026

Application opens: Tuesday, 16 September 2025

Deadline to apply: Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Notification of acceptance: Friday, 31 October 2025

More information on each School, including application procedures and thematic focus, will be shared in due course via the [STRN website](#). We encourage all interested early-career researchers to begin planning ahead and to apply.

Impressions from the NEST conference 2025

The 10th anniversary of the NEST Conference took place from 29–30 May 2025 at the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK. Over the course of two packed conference days, 100+ early-career researchers presented their work and exchanged their experiences. Below follow several brief reflections from conference participants.

Tom Hawxwell, Lund University, Sweden: This year’s NEST Conference marked its 10th anniversary in beautiful Brighton. Over two days, participants enjoyed inspiring presentations and panels, thoughtful workshops, excellent food, and great music, creating a space conducive to (re)connecting with old and new friends. Despite being organised by and for early career researchers (ECRs), the event was remarkably professional while maintaining the distinctively fun and open NEST atmosphere.

A massive thank you to the organising team for their great work, including securing funding for 14 (!) scholarships for researchers from the Global South. Special thanks to Carla Douglas González, Kanika Balani, and Ida Yamaswari (amongst others) from SPRU for hosting; You and the broader team clearly put a great deal of work and care into the event. Thanks also goes to STRN, EDRC, the University of Manchester, Sussex Business School, the Development Café, and the Young Scholars Initiative for co-financing the event and supporting the scholarships. The active involvement of more senior researchers—not only as keynote speakers or panellists, but also as discussants, workshop participants, and coffee-break conversation partners—was also greatly appreciated.



Kamal Tasiu, Istanbul University: One of the most valuable aspects of the NEST Conference was the way the sessions were structured to foster meaningful exchange. I learned new methods and approaches that will significantly enhance how I develop and communicate my work. The feedback I received—both formal and informal—was insightful and will help refine my future projects. While the conference created a rich environment for learning and networking, it's worth noting that some participants were unable to attend due to visa delays or faced challenges with online participation. Despite this, the NEST team made an impressive effort to ensure broad inclusion and engagement.

Oishika Basak, India/Netherlands: There are two things which stood out for me: First, is the growing recognition of the need to decolonise sustainability transitions research. Through invigorating discussions on Western centrism in transitions research, scholars pointed out the need to situate transitions research in ground realities, and centring justice in these conversations. One of the questions which was raised in the panels resonated with me greatly—what are we transitioning away from?

Second, a grim one but nonetheless key to understanding realities, is visa barriers which Global South scholars, like me, faced while attempting to participate in this conference. There were several scholars who faced visa rejections/delays and some had to reapply leading to immense costs and emotional burden. There were also online participants who had issues with internet connectivity therefore impeding their ability to present. These issues require a wider reckoning and discussion on how privileged spaces such as academic conferences can be made truly inclusive.

Jumuoke Oladele, University of Ilorin, Nigeria: It was exciting for me to be able to present at the NEST conference as a virtual participant which expanded global inclusivity. This really stood out for me, considering that I had funding constraints which impeded travelling.

Though there were occasional tech glitches, this reminded us of the need for infrastructural improvements for ease with digital engagements.

Nonetheless, the opening ceremony was quite interesting, and my presentation session was very engaging. Key reflections included the need for more actionable pathways, leveraging existing systems for sustainable technological engagements, community co-production, and long-term policy integration. The hybrid format proved valuable for sustainability scholarship, underscoring the potential for future conferences to be more inclusive, low-carbon, and participatory. Ultimately, the event reinforced collaboration as essential in navigating the complexities of global sustainability transitions.

Celebrate five years of the NEST webinar series with us!

This year, the NEST webinar series marks its fifth anniversary. To celebrate, we're hosting a special career webinar on September 18 at 10:00 a.m. CEST. We warmly invite you to learn about diverse career paths and discuss questions related to your own career with a group of well-known sustainability transitions scholars. Details will be circulated closer to the date via the STRN mailing list. Furthermore, we will host additional topic/concept and methods-related webinars in the coming semester. Keep an eye out for these as well on the NEST Instagram channel and the STRN mailing list. We are looking forward to your participation and engaging discussions.

Also, check out our [YouTube channel](#), where you can find webinars about diverse topics around sustainability transitions!

The NEST Webinar team—*Nadine Brühwiler, Paula De Pablos Sanz, Max Halbwachs, Sunny Dhiman, and Satoru Mizuguchi*



Save the Date – Online Seminar with Adrian Rinscheid

The Destabilization to phase-out (D2P) thematic group is excited to announce our next D2P online seminar on 25 September | 16:00–17:30 CEST with guest speaker Adrian Rinscheid.

Adrian's talk will focus on the politics and governance of phase-out, discussing learnings from an upcoming special issue in the journal *Environmental Politics*, co-edited with Florentine Koppenborg and Gregory Trencher. An invitation with more details on the session and a sign-up link will follow soon.

What's new this time: the virtual room will open 30 minutes early for informal mingling—a chance to connect, catch up, and welcome newcomers to the D2P community. We warmly encourage you to join us early!

A follow-up email with registration details will be shared closer to the date.

Thematic groups at IST

Multi-system Dynamics

During the IST'25 conference in Lisbon, we had a stimulating track on Multi-system dynamics, fully packed with presentations of the latest research and thought-provoking discussions. Over five parallel sessions and a concluding round-table discussion, we have addressed a variety of topics related to multi-system dynamics: conceptual grounds, actors and interactions, dynamics in value chains and multi-system complexes, patterns and pathways, justice and collaboration in multi-system transitions.

Reflecting back on many exciting ideas discussed throughout the track, we note a great progress in understanding tools and mechanisms that facilitate multi-system interactions, such as system (dis)entanglers, multi-system work & mechanisms for integration, system blocks to understand clusters of innovation, governance standards (valuation) linking systems, business models, as well as conceptualizing interfaces at different units of analysis like clusters, projects, value chains, or experiments. All in all, the track once again showed that a multi-system perspective is highly valuable to understand, explain and steer sustainability transitions today. Many thanks to the track convenors: Ksenia Onufrey, Meike Löhr, Allan Dahl Andersen, Ingrid Mignon, Laur Kanger, Thomas Magnusson, Sophie-Marie Ertelt, Daniel Rosenbloom, and Tuukka Mäkitie.

And for those who are finishing a paper including a multi-system perspective, do not hesitate to submit it to our [Special Issue on Multi-System Dynamics in EIST](#). The deadline is 31.08.2025.

Justice in Sustainability Transitions (Ju-ST)

At the recent 16th IST conference in Lisbon, the Justice in Sustainability Transitions (Ju-ST) thematic group took an active role in co-shaping and co-chairing Track 4 "Societal Aspects of Sustainability Transitions: Social Acceptance, Justice and Global South Perspectives", in close collaboration with the Transitions in the Global South thematic group. This partnership reflected the group's commitment to fostering inclusive and justice-oriented conversations within the sustainability transitions research community. Notably, themes of justice were not confined to a single track. Instead, they resonated throughout the conference, with related issues, questions, and engagements spinning across multiple tracks and sessions — a testament to the growing recognition of justice as a cross-cutting concern in sustainability transitions.

A major highlight for the Ju-ST group was the organization of its first in-person gathering — an informal lunch meeting aimed at bringing together STRN community members and friends with an interest in justice research. This face-to-face meeting provided space for initial connection, dialogue, and reflection. Participants shared their interests, expectations, and aspirations for the group, helping to lay the groundwork for future collaboration and collective action. Moving forward, the Ju-ST group looks forward to further strengthening ties within the community and continuing to center justice concerns in sustainability research. Please stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to get involved - and consider joining our mailing list to receive information on this meeting and further updates from the Ju-ST TG!

justsustainabilitytransitions@googlegroups.com



Transitions in the Global South

At the 16th IST Conference, Global South research stood out as a prominent theme. Among many contributions, 54 works directly addressed issues related to the Global South, either through comparative analyses with Global North realities or by exploring local cases. Although concentrated in Track 4, these works also appeared across various other tracks.

The geographic diversity was remarkable. Global South-based researchers examined a wide range of contexts, including major emerging economies (China, India, Brazil and South Africa) and other countries (Iran, Hong Kong, South Korea, Colombia, Chile, Thailand, Taiwan, Rwanda, Kenya, and Nigeria).

From grassroots innovations to national policies a rich experience mosaic was discussed. In Europe, there were Global North-based studies that tackled themes of energy poverty in Germany, indigenous advocacy in Canada, and marginalized groups in the Netherlands — reinforcing Global South as a contextual definition. Global North-based researchers also focused on Global South contexts, adding the United Arab Emirates, the Western Balkans and Nepal to the contexts present in the conference.

Among the highlighted contributions is the Stocktake Research, supported by the Transitions in the Global South Thematic Group. This paper offers a preliminary analysis and results from the Systematic Literature Review of studies conducted in the Global South over the past decade, underscoring the growing significance of Global South perspectives and reaffirming the IST community's commitment to more inclusive and context-aware transition research.

Written by Rafael Carvalho Machado and Masiel Pereira Prado, on behalf of the Transitions in the Global South thematic group

Destabilization to phase-out (D2P)

Foremost, we would like to thank the organizers of IST 2025 for organizing an inspiring event in Lisbon. The D2P thematic group hosted Track 7 on Governing Destabilization and Discontinuation: tensions, trade-offs, and conflicts, spotlighting the growing research agenda around how socio-technical systems come to an end. While innovation remains central in transition studies, this track emphasized the need to understand the governance of destabilization—how discontinuation, decline, phase-outs, bans, exnovation, or unlearning are initiated, negotiated, and contested.

The sessions addressed tensions between stability, discontinuation, and novelty, and explored governance efforts both from the top-down (e.g. policy mixes, regulation) and bottom-up (e.g. activism, social movements). Contributions covered diverse systems—from energy and mobility to agriculture—at multiple scales. We grouped papers into five individual sessions: policy and programmes, values and knowledge, incumbents, urban mobility, and energy technology. The lively discussions and overflowing room highlighted the growing relevance of D2P in transition studies. We like to thank all participants for their insightful contributions and commitment to the track.

Geography of Sustainability Transitions

The Geography of Sustainability Transitions track at IST25 was a full success. With 8 sessions, 20 full papers, 16 speed talks and high attendance in the track, it offered manifold opportunities for mutual inspiration, cross-learning and debating how the GeoST group could be developed further. Among many others, three new research directions became visible at the conference: 1) The focus is shifting from spatial factors that influence emerging socio-technical configurations in their early innovation processes to questions around scaling, diffusion, valuation and giving directionality to configurations that are poised for broader diffusion. 2) The sectors covered by GeoST perspectives are diversifying: The field is moving from a strong focus on infrastructure sectors (energy, mobility, water, etc.) to understanding the geographies of transitions in hard-to-abate sectors (steel, construction, aviation, etc.), as well as sectors with more complex and polycentric structural compositions (chemicals, agro-food, aquaculture etc.). 3) The methodological toolbox of GeoST research is broadening: From (often single case) qualitative case studies to employing discourse analysis, socio-technical configuration analysis and quantitative

methods. This is a very welcome development that promises significant opportunities for developing more cross-case comparisons and cumulative theorizing in the field.

At the conference, two new ideas for webinar series were also developed and a track on GeoST perspectives on [nature-society interactions](#) will be organized at the [2026 Geolnno conference](#). So stay tuned for further updates in the coming months.

Interested in joining the GeoST thematic group? Check out our [website](#) and join our [LinkedIn group](#).

Recent thematic group activities

Webinar Series Recap: Exploring Nature-Society Interactions in Sustainability Transitions.

The third GeoST Webinar Series, held from March to May 2025 and organised by Camilla Chlebna (ZSI), Markus Steen (SINTEF) and Christian Binz (Eawag), was a great success! With an average of 50 participants, the series brought together scholars from around the world to explore the role of nature-society interactions socio-technical transitions. There was an introductory session followed by three thematic tracks, which addressed topics such as the role of nature in regional industrial development, governance of land use, and perspectives from political ecology. The webinar series has shown that interesting work tackling nature-society interactions is well underway in the GeoST community, but also that further theoretical and conceptual improvements and specifications are needed. Missed a session or want to revisit the content and join the debate? You can access all webinar recordings on our STRN page and follow updates on related activities through our LinkedIn. The conversation doesn't end here - GeoST themes will continue in a special session at Geolnno2026. If you have suggestions for future webinar topics, session formats, or any ideas to further enrich GeoST, reach out!

Interested in the activities of STRN thematic groups

Not yet part of one or more of our thematic groups (TGs)?

Explore the different TGs on our website [here](#) and sign up for their mailing lists to receive updates, calls for collaboration, and invitations to upcoming events.



Change in EIST Editor-in-Chief role: Thank you to Bernhard Truffer

On behalf of the entire STRN community, we would like to wholeheartedly thank Bernhard for the commitment, energy and dedication with which he has steered our EIST journal over many years. He did a tremendous job and leaves the journal in a very good shape. We are very grateful to him for his service to the community. He has decided to step down from the post some time ago and led the search process of his successor. We are fortunate that this search process led to the appointment of Teis Hansen, a long time member of our community. Congratulations and thank you for taking on this role Teis. We look forward to working with you.

By *Florian Kern, Katharina Schiller and Wouter Boon*

Teis Hansen (University of Copenhagen) takes over as the Editor-in-Chief at EIST

It is a privilege to join the EIST editorial board. Thanks to the work of Bernhard and the Associate Editors, EIST operates as a well-functioning platform that plays a vital role in our research community. As such, there is no need for major renovations or overhauls.

These include advancing interdisciplinary work that bridges socio-technical perspectives with ecological insights and literatures on the social dimensions of transitions. They also include deepening our understanding of production capacity and its relationship to innovation, particularly as transitions in some fields and sectors are gaining momentum. A further priority will be to explore how EIST can engage more actively at the science-policy interface and remain dedicated to leveraging societal impact – an ambition that resonates with the goals of the STRN board.

By *Teis Hansen*

Truffer, B., Rohracher, H., Kivimaa, P., Raven, R., Alkemade, F., Carvalho, L., & Feola, G. (2022). A perspective on the future of sustainability transitions research. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 42, 331-339.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2022.01.006>

Important new information for authors submitting papers to EIST

There has been some turmoil recently in the context of submitting manuscripts to EIST, which readers of the newsletter should be aware of.

1) Preprint option when publishing papers in Elsevier Journals

Authors approached us because they were surprised by a message shortly after submission that their manuscript had been uploaded to the preprint server of Elsevier SSRN (<https://www.ssrn.com>). Shortly thereafter these same authors got approached by an open access publisher asking them to submit the manuscript to their journal, obviously for garnering the article processing fees. Preprint Servers are an established publication route in some disciplines, mostly in the natural sciences, to make manuscripts accessible at a very early

stage. SSRN is the standard option offered by Elsevier. When submitting your manuscript to EIST (or any other Elsevier journal) you will get the option to post the manuscript on SSRN. It is not mandatory to check that box, and it is not automatic. Only when the author agrees, it will be uploaded. Once you have checked the box, the process will run automatically, without interference of any humans. Therefore, be aware of which boxes to check, or else come back to the editors.

2) Changes in author list for manuscripts during the review process

Due to increasing submissions by professional paper writing companies (paper mills), Elsevier has introduced aggressive regulations to flag whenever there is a change of authors during the review process. In one case, the ethics editor canceled a manuscript shortly before the manuscript would have been accepted, without informing us. In case you want to make any changes in the author list after submission, there is a form somewhat hidden in the guide for authors page under the Ethics section (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/environmental-innovation-and-societal-transitions/publish/guide-for-authors>) with a link to that form. There you can explain why this change has become necessary. Additionally, we requested our journal manager that the ethics commissioner first consults the editors before intervening in any way.

By *Bernhard Truffer*

Special issue on "Reconfiguring Global Value Chains, Regimes, and Governance Across Scales"

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to announce a Call for Abstracts for an upcoming Special Issue in Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions, titled:

"Transition Pathways: Reconfiguring Global Value Chains, Regimes, and Governance Across Scales", co-edited by **Jonathan Friedrich, Markus Grillitsch, Roberta Rabelotti, and Iris Wanzenböck.**

This Special Issue invites conceptual, methodological, and empirical contributions at the intersection of Global Value Chains/Global Production Networks and sustainability transitions research. We are particularly interested in work that addresses the socio-technical reconfiguration of global sectoral structures in light of innovation, spatial reorganization, and governance.

Important dates:

Extended abstract: **October 15, 2025**

Notification of acceptance: **November 15, 2025**

Full paper submission deadline: **March 30, 2026**

Please submit extended abstracts (~1,000 words) to Jonathan Friedrich at jonathan.friedrich@keg.lu.se with the subject line: "Extended Abstract Submission EIST Special Issue."



Call for Papers: Sustainable Development Funds

The requested papers will be discussed in a Seminar that aims to update the proposal to establish the International Environmental Fund, which, while adding other environmental funds, would function as a compensation fund between environmentally debtor countries and environmentally creditor countries, and would be intended to finance sustainable development projects in creditor countries.

For more information, see: www.geoprogress.eu



Value Chains for Decarbonizing the Maritime Sector

The maritime sector is entering a decisive phase in its green transition, yet access to green fuels like methanol and ammonia remains limited. Our project investigates how green fuel value chains can scale and integrate more effectively with the shipping industry under current policy frameworks. We combine a policy mix approach with a firm-level analysis of risk perceptions to understand how new regulations—such as those from the IMO and EU—shape investment decisions across the value chain. Through interviews and surveys with stakeholders ranging from fuel producers to shipping companies and ports, our project seeks to identify the main barriers and enablers for green fuel adoption. The project hopes to deliver actionable insights for both policymakers and industry actors, offering policy recommendations that take maritime decarbonization realities into consideration. With its dual focus on policy mixes and value chain integration, the project is well-positioned to contribute to emerging academic debates on sustainability transitions and cross-sectoral policy design. It is hosted at the Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, and managed together with Teis Hansen.

Smart Community-Owned Renewable Energy Management-SmartCORE

To achieve an 40% increase in renewable energy (RES) production by 2030, Northwestern Europe (NWE) must harness its untapped potential. However, as intermittent RES increases, countries face grid balancing & congestion challenges. Basically, energy consumption does

not keep pace with the peaks in RES production, making it difficult for producers to utilise & sell their energy at cost-effective prices. This impacts prices, causes congestion, creates market imbalances, & leads to the shutdown of solar & wind facilities. Energy Communities (ECs) present an opportunity for a just transition to a resilient, RES-based energy system, but they must evolve from being mere energy producers to becoming collective energy managers. They also need to scale up and professionalize. SmartCORE aims to adapt & combine existing methods & tools to support ECs in engaging in new energy management activities beyond self-consumption & sharing. To scale the experience & increase their capabilities, we deliver a training to ECs incl. an on-the-job coaching. This transdisciplinary initiative is a follow up to cVPP, co-funded by Interreg NWE & led by TU Eindhoven. Learn more about the project [here!](#)

NORD-URB-EXP: Experimentation and Learning about Street Space for Just Transitions to Post-Car Nordic Cities

The NORD-URB-EXP project will develop cutting-edge research on experimentation as an urban planning paradigm, with emphasis on streets and public spaces. The conditions under which small-scale, time-limited experiments may contribute to longer-term transformative change remains a research gap. The COVID-19 pandemic saw street space experimentation emerge as a prominent policy response, yet there is a need to unpack narratives regarding the promise of 'tactical urbanism' from the perspectives of decision-making processes, power asymmetries, and citizen participation. Interrogating these questions will be especially productive through cross-regional comparison of infrastructural experimentation in different Nordic cities, which is still limited in the literature. The aim of NORD-URB-EXP is to understand how multi-actor learning processes shape the long-term impacts of experiments and their contribution to socially just transitions towards post-car cities, using Nordic cities as reference cases.

Learn more about the project [here!](#)

Connecting electricity markets and transitions research at the University of Edinburgh

The Electricity Markets Research Hub brings together cutting-edge research on electricity markets from across the social, mathematical, and engineering sciences at the University of Edinburgh. It connects rigorous and original academic research with policy debates on energy markets and the transition to net zero. The hub aims to build expertise on the technical design and societal implications of future market designs among key stakeholders in Scotland, the UK, Europe, and beyond. Website: <https://electricitymarkets.sps.ed.ac.uk> Contact: ronan.bolton@ed.ac.uk

Farms as locations and agents of transformation towards sustainability in the agri-food sector - SUTRAF

The agri-food sector needs to transform, as it is a significant driver of sustainability problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss, which can also negatively impact agricultural production and livelihoods. In this context farms represent both a locus and an agent of transformation. One important social transition in the life course of a farm business is its transfer from one generation to the next (farm succession). Transitions such as farm succession offer the potential for transformational change. However, little is known on the transformative capacity of farms. This research project, part of the EU COST Action TransformERS, focuses on farming transitions in Switzerland. By putting the farm at the centre stage of analysis, our objectives are 1) to examine the role of farm succession for farm transformation and how succession affects the transformative capacity of the farm, 2) to uncover how specific sustainability transitions in farming affect the social fabric of the farm relevant for its transformation capacity, and 3) to identify and

evaluate transformation pathways arising with succession, their sustainability and how such pathways can be influenced.



PhD Theses

Chakrabarty, A. (2025). Energy Equity in India's Renewable Energy Transition: A Policy Design Agenda

Abstract: India's pathway towards renewable energy led electrification, as in the rest of the world, is a shift towards grid based large scale technology. However, energy equity, particularly in rural India, remains an undervalued dimension of the transition. My dissertation examines the extent to which India's energy policies in renewable energy are sensitive to energy equity, with specific focus on gender equity in rural last-mile connectivity. The study is guided by the fundamental question, 'Does the energy transition to a low carbon society reduce the social and economic inequalities associated with the current energy system?'. Using a mixed-method approach that combines policy analysis with an ethnographic case study of a community solar program in Jharkhand, this research investigates the impact of small-scale solar home lighting systems on energy access and gender equity. From an ethnographic case study of a community solar program in Jharkhand, India, my study build upwards to the investigation of the policy landscape. Findings establish that energy policy in India should have a greater emphasis on equality and justice which can be contextualized in the policy objectives by creating space for coordination of non-state actors with the government.

Li, Z. (2025). Towards carbon neutrality: decarbonizing China's steel and petrochemical industries—Pathways and policies

Abstract: China has committed to peaking emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. The industrial sector in China accounts for 36% of China's direct emissions and around 56-60% when indirect emissions are included. In other words, the direct CO₂ emission from China's industry is responsible for approximately 12% of global emissions. Therefore, the decarbonization of China's industrial sector is not only crucial for achieving its own carbon neutrality target but also holds significant implications for global climate governance. This thesis explores how China's steel and petrochemical industries can transition to a carbon-neutral future. It investigates potential technological pathways for achieving deep decarbonization in these sectors and examines the role of policy in facilitating this transformation. Key findings highlight that while technological solutions exist to help China achieve its carbon neutrality goals, deep decarbonization will require significant investments in technology, industrial infrastructure, and robust policy support.

<https://portal.research.lu.se/en/publications/towards-carbon-neutrality-decarbonizing-chinas-steel-and-petroche>

Papers

We are happy to introduce the most recent issue of EIST! The full list of papers is featured below.

Bernhard Truffer, Editor-in-chief

EIST Volume 56

Davidson, K., Nguyen, T. M. P., Kadyrova, A., & Farrelly, M. (2025). Assessing directionality and institutional production in SDG localisation: Lessons from Melbourne, Australia. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 56, 100985. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100985>

Bakhuis, J., Quist, J., Spekkink, W., Hoppe, T., & Blok, K. (2025). Mapping the hydrogen transition in the Netherlands: A sociotechnical multi-system event sequence analysis. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 56, 100999. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100999>

Khatoon, T. (2025). Policy coherence of low-emission transport transition in the Global South: The case of Dhaka City, Bangladesh. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 56, 100967. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100967>

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