

Editorial by



Anna Bergek

on behalf of the Chalmers team, which included Helene Ahlborg, Maria Altunay, Hans Hellsmark, Johan Holmén, Ingrid Mignon, Ksenia Onufrey, and Björn Sandén (with contributions from Siddharth Sareen (the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway) and Sverker Jagers (Gothenburg University, Sweden)).

The STRN community has always seen the importance of taking special care of its junior scholars, who are also very good at supporting each other through NEST and other activities. The new STRN Introduction to Sustainability Transitions PhD School marks an additional step towards joint knowledge and community building. In the beginning of February, we were happy to welcome a group of 38 young transition scholars to the Department of Technology Management and Economics at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden. The participants represented 31 different universities in 18 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia and had been selected from a much larger pool of applicants.

On Monday morning, both expectations and temperature rose as our biggest lunchroom started to fill up with both PhD students and faculty. After a brief introduction to previous and current transitions research at Chalmers, the course started off with a getting-to-know-each-other session, where the PhD students were asked to describe their theoretical and methodological approaches and empirical focus areas by positioning themselves in the room. We heard many interesting stories and shared a lot of laughter as the students reflected over their own positions in relation to each other. A key takeaway from this exercise was the emerging theoretical, methodological and empirical diversity of the sustainability transitions community. This shows great promise for the future development of the field! During the week-long course, the PhD students were introduced to a wide range of topics. We started off with general transitions and systems thinking, highlighting the importance of system definition and delineation and introducing different system perspectives. This served as an introduction to one session on MLP and one on TIS, with a focus on introducing the frameworks and highlighting different perspectives on some of the associated key concepts. The class discussions also touched on the applicability of the frameworks in relation to different types of research questions and empirical contexts. The following two sessions covered geography of transitions, the Global South, and just transitions, introducing students to the potential challenges involved in exporting frameworks to new geographical or institutional contexts. Finally, the course was wrapped up with a session on transformative innovation policy, where students got to reflect on how they can use their research to inform policymakers. All sessions were characterized by interactive discussions and critical questions from the students. They not only participated actively in the class discussions but also demonstrated a clear aptitude for reflection and critical thinking. This was also shown in the paper development workshop, where the PhD students discussed each other's texts with support from appointed senior session chairs. Judging by the positive feedback from both PhD students and chairs, all students both provided and received many constructive comments and suggestions that should help them develop their papers and research proposals further. Of course, no PhD course is complete without food and social interaction. To make sure students got the full Swedish "fika" experience we treated them to two real Swedish classics: cinnamon buns and "semklas" (i.e. sweet wheat buns filled with almond paste and whipped cream). One of the most appreciated activities was otherwise the lunch at the restaurant Waste, located in nearby Johanneberg Science Park. With the overall aim to reduce food waste, this restaurant varies its menu daily depending on which close-to-the-expiry-date groceries they can get from their suppliers. Most of the students also participated in a visit to the local craft brewery Poppels Citybryggeri in downtown Gothenburg, where we learnt the basics of organic craft brewing, and in the main course dinner, which was held at a Greek tavern close to the Chalmers campus.

In the final sum-up session, the word cloud that the students co-created included words such as "inspiring", "intense", "inspirational", "stimulating", "motivational", and "educational", which of course made us very happy. The students also highlighted the value of meeting and interacting with each other. For some, this was the first time engaging with others from the sustainability transitions community, demonstrating the importance of this kind of activity for community building. On this note, STRN is extremely happy to announce that the second edition of the Introduction to Sustainability Transitions PhD School will be hosted by our wonderful colleagues Thomas Magnusson, Harald Rohrer and Wisdom Kanda at [Linköping University](#), Sweden March 16th – 20th, 2026. Stay tuned for more info!

The course team would like to thank all the course participants for bringing their best selves to the course discussions and social activities. That really made all the difference! We would also like to thank the STRN steering group for trusting us with the first version of the course and for providing input on course contents and organization. We are especially grateful to Adriaan van der Loos for his support before and during the course.

All the best,

Anna Bergek

Newsletter content:

- [STRN News & Events p.1-2](#)
- [EIST Special issue call for papers p.2](#)
- [News & Activities from the TGs p.3-7](#)
- [Other Events p.7](#)
- [New Projects p.10-11](#)
- [EIST Publications p.13-16](#)
- [Additional Publications p. 15-17](#)

IST 2025

Strong Engagement and Exciting Updates Ahead!

With just months to go, IST'25 is gaining momentum and shaping up to be a key moment for the sustainability transitions community this year. This year's theme—tensions and conflicts in structural change for sustainability transitions—could not be more timely, given the recent crises that have intensified the structural challenges of transition.

We are thrilled to share that we have received over 730 proposals for full paper presentations, speed talks, and posters. This overwhelming response reflects the vitality and attractiveness of our community. We are also pleased to announce the support of the Bank of Portugal, Portugal Events, and Tourism of Lisbon—a sign of recognition of the importance of the transitions community.

Mark your calendars:

Registration opened last week! Spots are limited, especially for those with accepted contributions (full talks, speed talks, posters). We encourage you to register early to secure your place. Early bird discount applies until the 5th of May, and registration closes on June 1.

Please register [here](#).



STRN Paper Development Workshop at IST

Following the success of last year's paper development workshop (PDW) at IST 2024 in Oslo, STRN and NEST invite early-career researchers to apply for the second Paper Development Workshop at IST Lisbon 2025. The workshop will take place on Friday, June 27th, from 09:00–14:00 at DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte and is free of charge (coffee and lunch included). Designed to foster constructive feedback and scholarly exchange, the PDW offers ECRs the opportunity to discuss their work with peers and senior scholars, gain insights into publishing strategies, and reflect on key research gaps in transition studies.

Participation is limited to 35 ECRs (within six years of entering academia) who are presenting authors at IST. **Applications are due by April 18, 2025**, via the [online submission system](#).

Please visit our [website](#) for full details on eligibility, the application process, and key deadlines.

IST Financial Support

STRN's financial support helps bring scholars from around the world to the IST conference to promote inclusivity and global connectivity. This year we were able to offer **20 complimentary conference tickets and thirteen €1000 travel grants**. Three of the travel grants are sponsored by Elsevier in connection to our journal Environmental Innovation & Societal Transitions (EIST). Our priority is to support individuals based in countries in structurally more challenging financial situations. With this initiative, STRN also seeks to enhance geographic diversity, particularly from the Global South and East. More details [here](#).

The deadline for applications is now closed and outcomes will be communicated within the next weeks.

EIST Call for papers – Special Issue

Building on the success of the special track on Multi-System Dynamics at last year's International Sustainability Transitions conference and three successful Workshops on the topic in the last years, **Ingrid Mignon, Allan Dahl Andersen, Ksenia Onufrey, Laur Kanger, and Meike Löhr** are warmly inviting contributions for a special issue in EIST on Multi-system dynamics in sustainability transitions.

Deadline for full papers: **August 31, 2025**

The review process and publication will take place continuously, with the full special issue publication completed in early spring 2026.

A full description of the call for papers can be found [here](#).

The timeframe is as follows:

Journal submission open: **Early March, 2025**

Journal submission closes: **August 31, 2025**

1st round peer review completed:

October 30, 2025

Revisions and resubmissions:

December 15, 2025

2nd round peer review completed:

January 31, 2026

Full special issue publication: **March 15, 2026**

We really look forward to reading your papers.

All the best,
Ingrid, Allan, Ksenia, Laur and Meike



We are also still warmly inviting contributions to a special issue in EIST on **Ecologies of Intermediation: navigating interactions, conflicts, and complexity in accelerating transitions**, with a deadline (extended to) April 30, 2025.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Celebrating 2000 LinkedIn followers in less than 5 months

We are excited to share that the STRN LinkedIn profile has reached **over 2,000 followers** in fewer than five months! Thank you for your interest, engagement, and support in growing our community of transition scholars and practitioners.

If you have not yet done so, follow our [LinkedIn page](#) and join the ongoing discussions in our [LinkedIn group](#).



Launch of the *Education and Learning in Sustainability Transitions Thematic Group*

We are excited to announce the formation of the Education and Learning in Sustainability Transitions Thematic Group! This group is dedicated to educators, researchers, students, and practitioners within the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN). Our mission is to revitalize dialogue on learning processes within the STRN and promote knowledge sharing of teaching and learning in and for sustainability transitions.

Why This Matters:

Education and learning are pivotal in driving sustainability transitions. Our goal is to ensure that theories and practices in this field are impactful and relevant. By integrating insights from various disciplines, we aim to foster societal change and innovate in sustainability education.

Our Priorities:

- **Advance Understanding:** Develop and refine key concepts and theories.
- **Facilitate Collaboration:** Create opportunities for interdisciplinary and international research projects.
- **Support Innovation:** Foster innovative pedagogical approaches.
- **Build Capacity:** Mentor and train early-career researchers.
- **Exchange Knowledge:** Serve as a hub for sharing research results and insights.

Read more about our mission on the STRN website [here](#), and join our network in driving transformative change in sustainability transitions education and practice (edulearn.strn@gmail.com).

Thematic Group Leadership Team:

Associate Professor Annette Bos (Monash University), **Dr Filia Garivaldis** (Monash University), **Professor Katrien Van Poeck** (Ghent University), **Dr Christopher Luederitz** (McGill University), **Dr Ying-Syuan (Elaine) Huang** (McGill University), **Johan Holmen** (University West), **Juhi Chatterjee** (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), and **Martin Egan** (University of Technology Sydney)

Announcement of funding opportunity: Building capacity of Early Career Researchers to study education and learning in and for sustainability transitions.

The Education and Learning in Sustainability Transitions thematic group is delighted to offer funding support to emerging scholars in the field of education and learning in and for sustainability transitions in their professional development in educational research. This support is provided by STRN after a successful funding application by the thematic group. Upskilling in educational research methods and principles enables collaboration, innovation, and leadership in research activity, and ultimately advances sustainability transitions knowledge and practice.

Eligibility:

This grant program is available to current STRN ECR members of the Network for Early Career Researchers in Sustainability Transitions (NEST), with the aim to increase capacity to research education and learning in and for sustainability transitions.

Up to three ECRs will be selected to receive **up to 1500 EUR** to put towards enrolment or tuition costs, or travel expenses, to attend/organise a professional course, workshop, webinar, or research collaboration (e.g. short stay as a visiting researcher) that can be demonstrated to increase research capacity to investigate education and learning in and for sustainability transitions.

Courses or collaborations may run or take place in the calendar year 2025-2026, and may cover, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Evidence-informed practice
- Research skills (theoretical, methodological, empirical)
- Quality improvement of pedagogy
- Education evaluation
- Skills-based training such as using statistical software

Dates:

Applications close June 1st, 2025, for programs that will run in the 2025-2026 academic year (August 2025-July 2026).

Successful applicants will be notified prior to the IST Conference in Lisbon, 23-25 July 2025.

Click [here](#) to apply.

GeoST Webinar Series: Exploring Nature-Society Interactions in Sustainability Transitions, March-May 2025

The third instalment of the GeoST Webinar Series will take place between March and May 2025, focusing on nature-society interactions and their implications for theoretical work on the geography of sustainability transitions. This series will bring together leading scholars to explore the evolving relationship between natural systems and socio-technical change across different contexts.

The series will begin on March 27, 2025, with a session on the fundamental understanding of nature-society interactions featuring Dr. Camilla Chlebna and Dr. Allan Dahl Andersen. Subsequent sessions will address key themes, including the role of the natural environment in regional industrial development (April 10), the governance of land use and bioeconomies (April 24), and insights from political ecology (May 22).



Each webinar will provide an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to engage in discussions on the spatial dimensions of sustainability transitions, with moderation from experts in the field. We encourage interested participants to sign up and take part in these insightful discussions.

Register for the Webinar [here](#) and find more information on our [website](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Summer School 2025 “Justice in an interlinked world: revisiting rural-urban and South-North relationships in sustainability transformations” co-organized by the Thematic Group Equity and Justice (Ju-ST)

The Summer School 2025 will address the spatial unevenness of rural-urban and South-North relationships from a diversity of justice perspectives, widening the focus from distribution, recognition, and participation to especially intersectionality and restoration. The aim is to recognize the causes of (in)justices, ambivalences, and paradoxes in rural-urban and South-North relationships and the reproduction and reinforcement of (in)justices. By encouraging reflection, we aim to develop approaches to undo injustices.

Dates: 09.09.2025 - 11.09.2025

Location: Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Dresden

This summer school is the collaboration of:

- Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER)
- JUPITA - Special Interest Group on Justice, Power and Transformative Action in Sustainability, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University
- Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)
- Thematic Group Equity and Justice (Ju-ST), Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN)
- Leibniz Research Network "Knowledge for Sustainable Development"

Our STRN Thematic Groups (TGs)

Not yet part of one or more of our TGs? Explore the different TGs below and sign up for their mailing lists to receive updates, calls for collaboration, and invitations to upcoming events.

Destabilisation, Decline and Phase-out (D2P)

This group explores how and under what conditions existing regimes destabilise, decline, or are actively phased out. It aims to complement the innovation focus in transitions research by centring processes of discontinuation and exnovation.

Contact: transitions.d2p@gmail.com

Geographies of Sustainability Transitions (GeoST)

GeoST explores how transitions unfold unevenly across places, scales, and regions, highlighting the role of spatial context, multi-scalar dynamics, and trans-local interdependencies. It provides a platform for scholarly exchange, joint publications, and engagement with geography-informed transition research and practice.

Contact: christian.binz@eawag.ch

Equity and Justice (Ju-ST)

Ju-ST brings together scholars exploring justice in sustainability transitions, aiming to build shared frameworks and integrate equity into research and practice. It fosters collaboration and synthesis across diverse justice perspectives.

Contact: just.trans.strn@gmail.com

Education and Learning in Sustainability Transitions

This group brings together educators, researchers, and practitioners to explore how learning fosters sustainability transitions, advancing theory and innovating pedagogy. It aims to build capacity, support collaboration, and strengthen education's transformative role in transition processes.

Contact: edulearn.strn@gmail.com

Art-Science

This group investigates how art and imagination can inform and challenge sustainability transitions, engaging with politics, aesthetics, and transformation. It welcomes scholars and artists to co-create knowledge across media and disciplines.

Contact: artsciencestrn@gmail.com

Digitalisation and Sustainability Transitions

This group explores how digital technologies, such as generative AI, digital platforms, and twin transitions, shape and challenge sustainability transitions. It fosters dialogue and collaboration to critically engage with digitalisation's transformative potential and tensions.

Contact: Join via

<https://groups.google.com/g/strn-digitalization>
or email strn.digitalization.group@gmail.com

Multi-System Dynamics (MSD)

MSD investigates transformations across interconnected socio-technical systems, focusing on empirical cases, theoretical insights, and methodological innovation. The group offers a platform to consolidate research on system interdependencies in transitions.

Contact: strn.tg.ms@gmail.com

Transitions in Agro-Food Systems (AFTG)

AFTG brings together scholars exploring sustainability challenges and change processes in agri-food systems, from farming practices to food provision and governance. It promotes reflexive, open-ended research on transitions-in-the-making, grounded in political, ecological, and technological dynamics.

Contact: boelie.elzen@wur.nl

Tipping Points and Pathways for Accelerating Sustainability Transitions (TiP fAST)

This group examines dynamics, interventions, and tipping points that accelerate sustainability transitions. It aims to identify effective policy and financial strategies for system-level change.

Contact: TiP_fAST@gmail.com

Transitions in the Global South

This TG functions as a dynamic network of scholars examining sustainability transitions in the Global South, focusing on systemic challenges, inequalities, and diverse pathways from interdisciplinary perspectives. It fosters global collaboration through regional hubs, dialogue sessions, and webinars on context-specific transition dynamics.

Contact: transitions.globalsouth@gmail.com

Urban Transitions and Transformations

This TG aims to foster pluralistic, inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue on whole-system change for urban sustainability, connecting diverse fields to address the fragmented, unequal, and place-specific nature of urban transformations. It supports collaboration through conferences, webinars, and joint publications to bridge theory and practice.

Contact: urban-transitions-strn+subscribe@groups.io

Recent Thematic Group activities

3rd Workshop on Multi-System Dynamics

On March 6-7, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) hosted the 3rd International Workshop on Multi-System Dynamics in Sustainability Transitions in Winterthur, Switzerland. Organized by Cristian Pons-Seres de Brauer and Jochen Markard, the workshop was arranged in connection with the newly established Thematic Group on Multi-System Dynamics. The workshop was the 3rd in a row, building on earlier events in Gothenburg (2024) and Oslo (2023).

The hybrid workshop gathered 22 people in person and up to 17 online including early career researchers and scholars from the Global South.

It provided a vivid forum for discussing ongoing research on topics such as multi-system transition pathways, value chains, systems in decline, subsumption, complexes of systems, or different types of actors such as system entanglers connecting different systems. Apart from in-depth discussions and networking, the workshop also addressed the upcoming events and activities within the thematic group, such as a dedicated open track at the IST 2025 conference and the recently announced special issue in EIST on multi-system transitions (see above).

The organizers are grateful for the co-funding they received from the Swiss National Science Foundations, STRN, and ZHAW INE.



Join the New GeoST LinkedIn Group – Connecting Researchers on Geography and Socio-Technical Transitions

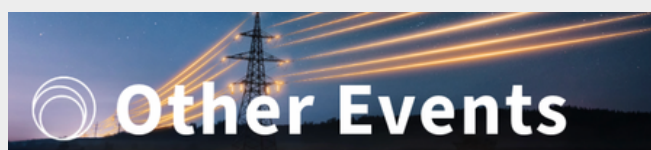
Spatial dynamics play a crucial role in shaping sustainability transitions, as transitions unfold across different places in complex and uneven ways. Recognizing the need for a stronger geographical perspective, we are pleased to announce the launch of the GeoST LinkedIn page, a dedicated space for researchers interested in the spatial dimensions of socio-technical change.

The page aims to foster discussions on multi-scalar transition dynamics, regional preconditions for transformative innovation, and the spatial inequalities of sustainability transitions. Please join us on [LinkedIn!](#)

It will also serve as a platform for sharing recent publications, event announcements, and job opportunities within the community.

By joining, members can engage with a growing network of scholars working at the intersection of geography and transition studies, exchange insights, and stay informed about the latest developments in the field. We invite all interested researchers to connect with us and contribute to this emerging conversation.

Find us at GeoST Group via this link [here](#).



Applying Behavioral Science to Create Change - Short Course by BehaviourWorks

Transitioning and transforming society often require that people do things differently! But getting people to change is not easy. Thankfully, behavior change is a core business of behavioral science, and there are proven tools, methods, and techniques that can be used so that changes to behavior are effective and long-lasting.

If changing behavior forms part of your work, come and learn behavior change from the behavior change experts at BehaviourWorks Australia and the Monash Sustainable Development Institute. This award-winning short course is self-paced and delivered fully online. Completing the course with an assessment will give you 6cp to put towards studying the Master of Behaviour and Systemic Change or the Graduate Certificate of Behaviour Change at Monash University.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Geography of Innovation Conference 2026

The Geography of Innovation Conference provides a forum for discussion to scholars interested in scientific, policy, and strategic issues concerning the spatial dimension of innovation activities. The main objective of this event is to bring together some of the world's leading scholars from a variety of disciplines ranging from economic geography and regional science to economics and management science, sociology and network theory, and political and planning sciences. The 8th edition will take place at the Corvinus University of Budapest, 28-30 January 2026.

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

The Art of Regenerative Educatorship

What if education would start from love for the world, our communities and ourselves?

A current of regenerative practitioners is redefining fields as diverse as business, fashion, agriculture, design, and architecture. Guided by the principles of living systems thinking, they draw out and cultivate the innate capacity of their systems, organizations, and practices to contribute to the well-being and thriving of the lives they touch. As educators, we wonder: how can we too participate in the regenerative current? What needs to shift in our educational systems-, communities, and selves so that education can form a cornerstone of regenerative futures?

The Art of Regenerative Educatorship is an intimate and hands-on exploration of what it means to walk a regenerative path within the field of education. The book offers a variety of regenerative principles and frameworks that can inform and inspire your own educatorship, within or outside of formal education settings.

Join for an evening on the 12th of June to explore The Art of Regenerative Educatorship with authors Mieke Lopes Cardozo, Bas van den Berg, and Koen Wessels. With contributions from Ben Haggard, co-founder and core faculty member of the Regenesi Institute and Anthony Heidweiller, Associate Lector at the Amsterdam Dance and Theater school, and with music from Anne Boerrigter and Véra Capou. You will be invited to explore your own regenerative artistry and receive your very own copy of the book for free. Let us form an increasingly strong community of regenerative educators together!

The evening is a co-production of the School of Regenerative Educators, The Mission Zero Center of Expertise of The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the Governance & Inclusive Development Research Group of the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam University Press and Pakhuis de Zwijger.

Registration and more information can be found [here](#).



Ports as Energy Transition Hubs (POTENT-X)

The POTENT-X project aims to revolutionize European maritime ports by leveraging them as dynamic energy hubs, i.e., strategic sites for renewable energy generation, storage, and distribution. As a key initiative in the EU's clean energy transition, POTENT-X addresses urgent environmental challenges and energy security concerns while fostering innovation and sustainability in the maritime sector.

The POTENT-X consortium includes seven funded partners spanning academia and industry.

The partners include Chalmers University of Technology, Copenhagen Business School, Technical University of Denmark, World Maritime University, University of Seville, Port of Trelleborg, and Port of Aalborg.

For more information, see [here](#).

SEAL: Science-based policies for a sustainable European agri-food and land use system

The mission of SEAL is to create capacity for better-informed decisions through analyses of relations between policies and technology development and adoption in different European contexts. The key assumption is that the transition towards sustainable agri-food and land use systems will largely be driven by policies, and we focus on the chain of impact from these policies to transition pathways.

SEAL, funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation, brings together researchers from the University of Copenhagen, Utrecht University, and Wageningen University.

For more information, see [here](#).

Rolling Solar Storage (ROAST): Market acceptance of smart solar EV charging at work

ROAST aims to empirically investigate the willingness of companies and their employees to co-create flexibility through the convergence of solar PV and smart EV charging strategies at the workplace. To do so, the project concentrates on the preferences of company managers shaping their investment decisions, the propensity of company employees to use their electric vehicles for storage purposes, and the financial performance of innovative business models incentivizing the participation of these two key actor groups.

The results of the project will lead to evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and facilitate the development of innovative business models.

For more information, see [here](#).

Trans4Demo (Contentious Politics and Democratic Renewal in Sustainability Transitions)

Trans4Demo is new EU-funded project addressing the contentious politics of climate change and sustainability transitions, which pose growing challenges for democratic systems. By examining the interplay between sustainability, populism, and democracy, the project aims to develop a temporality-sensitive framework, practical insights, and policy recommendations to support democratic renewal.

Through participatory and interdisciplinary methodologies, Trans4Demo investigates the causes and consequences of opposition, explores innovative engagement practices, and fosters trust in democratic processes. The project delivers actionable strategies to balance grassroots mobilisations with institutional governance, empowering societies to address the dual crises of climate and democracy effectively.

For more information, see [here](#).



PhD Theses

Ertelt, S.M. (2025). Next exit: Net-zero? Transition acceleration challenges in hard-to-abate industries: The case of heavy-duty freight transport. (PhD dissertation, Örebro University). <https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:oru:diva-118732>

Abstract:

This thesis investigates net-zero transition acceleration challenges in hard-to-abate industries, focusing on heavy-duty freight transport. It examines how incumbent actors, carbon lock-in, and path-dependencies shape decarbonisation progress, which is less likely to result from Schumpeterian creative destruction dynamics in these sectors and more dependent on the reconfiguration of existing socio-technical configurations. This reconfiguration perspective forms the theoretical foundation of the thesis and is extended to examine the conditions and mechanisms of endogenous socio-technical change processes. Conceptually, this work integrates insights from organisational studies into transitions research to analyse five acceleration challenges: whole systems change, multi-system dynamics, decline and resistance, shifts in demand patterns, and governance. Empirically, the work builds on case studies of the European heavy-duty vehicle sector, Swedish electrification, and Circular Economy initiatives. Using a multi-method and mixed-method approach, the thesis combines interviews, surveys, and secondary data analysis to examine these challenges for heavy-duty freight transport. The output offers theoretical contributions that enable a better understanding of the mechanisms behind system reconfigurations and the role of incumbents in such processes. It also informs the conceptualisation of three additional acceleration challenges, the net-zero finance gap, premature lock-in, and the resilience of carbon-intensive technologies in use, as well as proposes actionable insights for policymakers, including integrated, multi-system governance approaches and sufficiency-oriented decarbonisation planning.

Herth, A. (2024) Campus Living Labs in Transition. Delft: Delft University of Technology. DOI: [10.4233/uuid:4757dd92-05a3-4fc5-8a1b-4b67d33f2421](https://doi.org/10.4233/uuid:4757dd92-05a3-4fc5-8a1b-4b67d33f2421)

Abstract:

This dissertation investigates how Higher Education Institutions can contribute to a climate-neutral future by leveraging campus-based living labs—real-world spaces where stakeholders co-create innovative sustainable solutions. By investigating the case of the Delft University of Technology, this research quantifies the university's carbon footprint and identifies major emission hotspots, providing a baseline for targeted climate action. Campus living labs are a promising approach to address complex sustainability challenges, such as creating a climate-neutral campus. However, the intricacies of facilitating and running these living labs remain underexamined. This dissertation addresses this gap by examining the challenges of campus living labs and highlighting key enablers—such as effective stakeholder collaboration, organizational integration, and a supportive work culture. Central to this research is the "Campus as a Living Lab" framework, a comprehensive approach where the entire university serves as a breeding ground for sustainable experimentation and innovation. Moving beyond isolated initiatives, the Campus as a Living Lab seeks to foster synergies across activities, thereby amplifying their potential impacts towards climate neutrality on campus and beyond. Through practical insights and actionable recommendations, this dissertation provides a base for Higher Education Institutions and living lab practitioners to co-create sustainable solutions for today's complex challenges. The time for action is now.

John, N. (2025) Digital innovation and sustainability transitions: Exploring the twin transition in energy-intensive processing industries. [Doctoral Thesis, Utrecht University, The Netherlands]. <https://doi.org/10.33540/2693>

Abstract:

This thesis provides guidance for understanding digitalization in sustainability transitions, introducing two frameworks: Digital Meta-Regime, capturing digital technology's multi-system influence, and Digital Innovation Systems, analyzing industry-specific dynamics. Case studies include artificial intelligence in the decarbonization of the global steel industry, and digital innovation in Dutch processing industries. Findings show AI contributes to a range of applications but may reinforce the incumbent regime. Resources, systemic problems, system-building activities, and higher-order mechanisms in the digital innovation system are studied. Additional contributions are made to the resource-based perspective of TIS, and methodologies for twin transition policy. Future work is discussed in relation to institutional logics, deep transitions, and mission-oriented innovation policy.

Mahmoudi, M. (2025) Transitions to Sustainable Energy Systems: An Agent-Based Evolutionary Economics Approach. PhD thesis. Department of Energy Engineering, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran. Supervisors: Y. Saboohi, J. Köhler, H. Khajepour.

Abstract:

Global challenges such as natural resource depletion, climate change, imbalances in energy supply and demand, and social inequalities increasingly highlight the need for fundamental transformations in socio-technical systems to achieve sustainability. This doctoral research focuses on the energy sector—one of the key pillars of sustainable development—and employs agent-based mathematical models grounded in evolutionary economics and the Multi-Level Perspective (MLP) framework. Through these models, the thesis examines the mechanisms, dynamics, and effective policies for guiding transitions toward sustainability. Key findings reveal that the adoption of low-carbon technologies alongside retrofitting existing systems—complemented by stringent environmental regulations—can considerably accelerate sustainability transitions. In Iran's energy sector, implementing energy optimization strategies that promote efficiency and stakeholder participation yields substantial savings particularly benefiting lower-income households. The primary contribution of this thesis is to provide a quantitative framework that reduces uncertainty, thereby enabling policymakers

Sivonen, M.H. (2025) 'Petroholism, Competitiveness, and Looking to the West: The construction of security in energy transitions in Estonia, Finland, and Norway (2006–2023)', Tampere University Dissertations. <https://trepo.tuni.fi/handle/10024/170992>

Abstract:

This doctoral thesis, successfully defended at Tampere University, Department of Sociology, examines the discursive construction of security within energy transitions in Estonia, Finland, and Norway. It explores how energy transitions intersect with security and defence policies as part of climate change mitigation. The study addresses the negative and unintended consequences of energy transitions, focusing on role of discourses in shaping sustainability policies and rethinking security both in practice and theory. Drawing from social constructivism, discursive institutionalism, and sustainability transitions theorisations and utilizing the toolbox of discourse analysis, the thesis combines policy document analysis and expert interviews to reveal how state-based security thinking hinders energy transitions. The research stresses the need for inclusive, comprehensive policymaking to achieve just and truly sustainable transitions and upkeeping democratic social order. The PhD dissertation is an output of the project IDEALE (Interplay between National Defence, Security and Low-Carbon Energy Policies: a sustainability transitions perspective), conducted at the Finnish Environment Institute.

Suzuki, M. (2024). Political Acceleration in Energy Transitions: Historical Interventions and Their Outcomes in the G7 and the EU. Doctoral Dissertation. Central European University, Vienna. <https://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.24939.45604>

Abstract:

Climate change mitigation requires a significant political acceleration in energy transitions to rapidly replace fossil fuels with low-carbon technologies within the next decades. Are there historical precedents for such acceleration? Are recent transitions faster with climate policies?

Existing studies do not answer these questions due to their analysis being too broad looking at global transitions, or too narrow focusing on granular changes in specific countries. This dissertation develops a middle-range methodology to systematically categorise, trace, and compare national energy transitions. I apply this approach to the electricity sector in the G7 and the EU and compare their historical developments with the transitions required for 1.5°C to highlight key challenges ahead. I find that, throughout the last six decades, electricity transitions in these countries have been primarily driven by changes in electricity demand, where climate policies have not accelerated the growth of low-carbon technologies or the decline of fossil fuels beyond historical trends. Moreover, none of these countries have yet empirically demonstrated or even planned the rates of acceleration necessary for 1.5°C. In other words, contrary to the prevalent claim in the literature, there is no case of a 'successful' transition yet. Meeting 1.5°C, therefore, requires radically different energy transitions with an unprecedented level of political acceleration.

Papers

We are happy to introduce the most recent issue of EIST, published in Volume 55. The full list of papers is featured below.

Bernhard Truffer, Editor-in-chief

EIST Volume 55

Policy brief

Rosenbloom, D. (2025). Building momentum for a 'policy turn' in sustainability transitions: Lessons from Canada to consolidate strengths and bridge science-policy divides. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100956. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100956>

Research article

Tinnefeld, F., Swart, J., & Fumagalli, E. (2025). The green knowledge space: Climate change mitigation technologies in developing countries. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100944. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100944>

Kortetmäki, T., Timmermann, C., & Tribaldos, T. (2025). Just transition boundaries: Clarifying the meaning of just transition. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100957.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100957>

Mittenzwei, K., Britz, W., & Burton, R. J. (2025). The potential impact of cultivated protein on agriculture in Norway. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100960.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100960>

Song, L., Sun, Y., & Gao, X. (2025). Maintaining legitimacy through the integration of discursive and visual strategies: A multimodal study of incumbents' clean energy facilities in China. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100961.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100961>

Ertelt, S., & Hawxwell, T. (2025). The polysemous nature of the German Verkehrswende—Exploring the role of floating signifiers in shaping mobility futures. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100963.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100963>

Bolton, R., & Poulter, H. (2025). Low carbon technologies and the grid: Analysing regulation and transitions in electricity networks. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100964.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100964>

Wood, L., & Lubell, M. (2025). Resource constellations and institutional logics shape network structures of the organic seed niche innovation system. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100965.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100965>

Van Dijk, J. G., Wieczorek, A. J., Gevers, J. M., & Groenleer, M. L. (2025). Developing governance capacities for regional energy transition: The case of Eindhoven Metropolitan Region. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100968.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100968>

Sierhuis, D. (2025). Exploring (De)politicization in policy-driven urban sustainability experiments: Insights from a case study in Amsterdam. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100969.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100969>

Perspectives

Weiss, D., & Hasselwander, M. (2025). Super apps and the mobility transition. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100955.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100955>

Bălan, S. A., Van Bergen, S. K., Blake, A., Buck, T., Coffin, S., DeWitt, J. C., Goldenman, G., Von Hippel, F. A., Von Hippel, S., Leonetti, C. P., Rist, D., Scheringer, M., & Trier, X. (2025). Confronting the interconnection of chemical pollution and climate change. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100966.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100966>

Benner, M. (2025). Multiple-challenge regional industrial transitions: The example of chemical regions.

Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions, 55, 100971. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100971>

Review article

Rodhouse, T., Cuppen, E., Pesch, U., & Correljé, A. (2025). Challenge accepted: Sub-national government authorities and the legitimacy of co-creative redevelopment projects in fossil-industrial regions. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100962.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.100962>

Special Section on Geographies of Missions

Molica, F., Pontikakis, D., & Miedziński, M. (2025). Why a challenge-oriented approach is a good match for the needs and challenges of EU Cohesion Policy. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100947. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100947>

Special Section on Household innovation and agency in sustainability transitions

Dańkowska, A., Stasik, A., Niedziółka, T., & Dembek, A. (2025). Getting warmed up: Challenges to participatory decarbonization of a local residential heating system in Poland. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100959. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100959>

Silvikko de Villafranca, M., Numminen, S., & Hyysalo, S. (2025). Characterizing hybrid heating in the households: Diverse configurational arrangements premised on citizen's agency and peer-support. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100958. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100958>

Special Section on Alterity as an interdisciplinary bridge between alternative forms of enterprise and global sustainability transitions

Sanz Abad, J. (2025). Exploring alternative economies and subaltern knowledge derived from waste: Insights from an ethnographic study of Traperos de Emaús-Navarra, Spain. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 55, 100948. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100948>

Additional publications

Antwi, S. H., Stephens, C. G., Rolston, A., Getty, D., & Linnane, S. (2025). Public participation in environmental decision-making: A water sector perspective. *Environmental and Sustainability Indicators*, 26, 100656. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indic.2025.100656>

Avelino, F. Katinka Wijsman, Frank van Steenberg, Shivant Jhagroe, Julia Wittmayer, Sanne Akerboom, Kristina Bogner, Esther F. Jansen, Niki Frantzeskaki and Agni Kalfagianni (2024). Just Sustainability Transitions: Politics, Power, and Prefiguration in Transformative Change towards Justice and Sustainability, *Annual Reviews of Environment & Resources*, Vol. 49:519-547. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-environ-112321-081722>

Backhaus, J. and John, S. (2025). Generalization as local and translocal embedding: interrogating governance and deconstructing democratization in living labs', *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*, 21(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2025.2450856>

Bahadorestani, A., Motahari Farimani, N. and Karlsen, J. T. (2024). Projects as game changers for navigating sustainability transitions in societies: Multi-level effects from micro-level decisions', *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 115, p. 105758. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2024.105758>

Berge ten, G. (2025). Multiple levels of agency in socio-technical transitions – Mnemonic agents and the constitution of group identities', *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 491. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2024.144554>

Binz, C., Coenen, L., Frenken, K., Murphy, J. T., Strambach, S., Trippel, M. and Truffer, B. (2025). Exploring the Economic Geographies of Sustainability Transitions: Commentary and Agenda', *Economic Geography*, pp. 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00130095.2024.2445530>.

Chlebna, C., & Suitner, J. (2025). The transition development nexus. disentangling growth and transformation agendas in regional sustainability transitions. *Review of Regional Research*, 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10037-025-00231-5>

De Graaff, A., Wanzenböck, I. and Frenken, K. (2025). The politics of directionality in innovation policy through the lens of policy process frameworks', *Science and Public Policy*, 2025;, scae083. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scae083>.

Feola, G. (2025). Postgrowth food systems: critique, visions, pathways', *Degrowth Journal* 3, 00278. <https://doi.org/10.36399/Degrowth.003.01.02>

Ehnert, F., 2025. Sustainability transitions as contextual reconfiguration: Governance innovation through local experimentation. *Earth System Governance* 23, 100237. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esg.2025.100237>

Friederich, C., Mouthaan, M. and Frenken, K. (2025) 'Growing pains in upscaling: A constructive technology assessment of sea lice treatment innovations in the stagnating Norwegian aquaculture regime', *Progress in Economic Geography*, 3(1), 100030. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pge.2024.100030>.

Hasanefendic, S., Hoogstraaten, M., Bloemendal, M., Boon, W., Brezet, H., Chappin, M. M. H., Coenen, L., Dai, Y., Elzinga, R., Femenías, P., Frishammar, J., van der Grijp, N., van Hal, A., von Hauff, E., Heller, R., Hellsmark, H., Hoppe, T., Isabella, O., Janssen, M., ... Bossink, B. (2025). Sustainable energy experiments and demonstrations: Reviewing research, market and societal trends. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 122, 104018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2025.104018>

Hasankhani, Mahshid, et al. "Coordinating Social Dynamics for Integrating Hydrogen in the Netherlands." *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, vol. 212, 2025, p. 115372, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2025.115372>.

Herth, A., Verburg, R. and Blok, K. (2024) 'The Innovation Power of Living Labs to Enable Sustainability Transitions: Challenges and Opportunities of On-Campus Initiatives', *Creativity and Innovation Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/caim.12649>

Hess, D.J., Seo, H. and Belletto, K., 2025. Strengthening local siting authority for utility-scale solar: effects on regulatory decisions and public opposition. *Climatic Change*, 178(3), p.38. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-025-03885-9>.

Lane, R., Wahlen, S., Lindsay, J., Arunachalam, D., Raven, R.P.J.M., 2025. Repair and maintenance in Australian households: what drives this critical consumption work in the circular economy?. *Consumption and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1332/27528499Y2024D000000043>

Luetkehaus, Hauke (2025) 'Looking under the hood—How incumbent characteristics reduce the innovation impact of trajectory-changing demand-pull policy mixes for battery electric vehicles', *Research Policy*, 54 (5). DOI: [10.1016/j.respol.2025.105212](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2025.105212).

Mora, L., Gerli, P., Batty, M., Binet Royall, E., Carfi, N., Coenegrachts, K., de Jong, M., Facchina, M., Janssen, M., Meijer, A., Pasi, G., Perrino, M., Raven, R.P.J.M., Sancino, A., Santi, P., Sharp, D., Trencher, G., Shale Sagar, A., van Zoonen, L., Westerberg, P., Woods, O., Zhang, X., Ziemer, G., 2024. Confronting the smart city governance challenge. *Nature Cities*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44284-024-00168-9>

Meelen, T. and Sluijs, J.P., (2025). 'Government-owned enterprises and sustainability: Review and research agenda.' *Energy Research & Social Science*, 122, p.103994. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2025.103994>

Moilanen, F. and Turunen, J. (2025) 'Opportunities of Workplace Innovation in Sustainability Transitions: A mixed-methods analysis of environmental initiatives at the workplace', *European Journal of Workplace Innovation*, 9, pp. 140-162. <https://doi.org/10.46364/ejwi.v9i1.1407>

Moqadassi, Z., Miremadi, I., Khajehpour, H. (2024) 'Innovation or acquisition? Emissions mitigation strategies and the role of renewable technologies', *PLoS ONE*, 19(12). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0316020>

Nielsen, P., Christensen, A. A., & Bolwig, S. (2024) 'Comparing contested sustainabilities: how diverse human-nature relationships give rise to different approaches to sustainability', *Sustainability Science*, 20, pp. 55–76 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-024-01595-2>

Persson, B.M., Andersson, J., and Forsberg, P.B. (2025) 'Exploring Pathways for Change: A Practice-Oriented Integration of Foresight and Sustainability Transitions'. *Futures & Foresight Science*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ffo2.209>

Polido, A., Ehnert, F., Jossin, J., Mascarenhas, A., 2025. Theatre of the Innova(c)tors: an interactive theatre tool to create transformative spaces. *Sustain Sci*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-025-01628-4>

Pons-Seres de Brauwer, C. and Yanguas Parra, P.A. (2025). 'Fast because it's just: fostering acceptance to accelerate sustainability transitions in coal-dependent regions', *Environmental Research: Energy (2)*, 013002. <https://doi.org/10.1088/2753-3751/adaaf7>

Purvis, B., Else, T., Genovese, A., Jimenez, A., & Venkataraman Guru, R. (2025) 'Grassroots initiatives for a bottom-up transition to a circular economy: Exploring community repair', *Local Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2025.2467385>

Raofi, Z., Mahmoudi, M. and Pernestål, A. (2025) 'Electric truck adoption and charging development: Policy insights from a dynamic model', *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 139, p. 104515. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2024.104515>

Saleh, R., Vidican Auktor, G. and Brem, A. (2025). 'Incumbency and sustainability transitions: A systematic review and typology of strategies', *Energy Research & Social Science*, 122, 104000. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2025.104000>

Sasson, E. et al. (2025) 'Social acceptance of energy storage technologies: Empirical evidence from the Southern Arava Region, Israel', *Sustainable Energy Research*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40807-025-00150-6>.

Shrestha, S., Haarstad, H., Rauws, W., & Buijs, P. (2025). From experiments to organizational change: Learning from urban logistics projects in Groningen and Bergen. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 213, 124023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2025.124023>

Sovacool, B. K., Geels, F. W., Andersen, A. D., Grubb, M., Jordan, A. J., Kern, F., ... & Yang, K. (2025). The acceleration of low-carbon transitions: Insights, concepts, challenges, and new directions for research. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 121, 103948.

Toledo, L., Wright, A. and Cropper, P. (2024) 'Case study investigation of overheating in low-energy homes: insights from a post-occupancy evaluation in England', *Building Research & Information*, 53(1–2), pp. 139–164. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09613218.2024.2417274>

Verbruggen, A., Yermekova, G. and Baigarin, K. (2025) Dubious promises of hydrogen energy in a climate constrained world. *Energies* 2025, 18, 491. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en18030491>

Wang, S., Bai, X., van der Heijden, J., & Tong, X. (2024). The evolving roles of actors in sustainability experiments: Evidence from community waste management in a Chinese city. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 205, 123469. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2024.123469>

Books & book chapters

Halonen, M., Albrecht, M. and Kuhmonen, I. (Eds.) (2025) Rescaling Sustainability Transitions. Unfolding the Spatialities of Power Relations, Governance Arrangements, and Socio-Economic Systems. Palgrave Macmillan. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-69918-4>

Kutu Obeng, J., & Emru Tadesse, M. (2024) 'Exploring the Potential of an Ecosocial Approach for African Social Work Education; In Routledge Handbook of African Social Work Education. Taylor & Francis. DOI: [10.4324/9781003314349-5](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003314349-5)

Nguyen, T. M. P., Davidson, K., & Farrelly, M. (2025). Embedding Transformative Innovation into Mission-Oriented Policy and Innovation Districts: The Case of Melbourne. In N. Frantzeskaki, M. Moglia, P. Newton, D. Prasad, & M. Pineda Pinto (Eds.), Future Cities Making: Mission-oriented Research for Urban Sustainability Transitions in Australia (pp. 241–262). Springer Nature Singapore. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-7671-9> 11