

Just Transitions to a Net Zero World

Third Annual International Conference

Just Transitions in Implementation

Durham University, Durham

10-11 September 2026





Just Transitions to a Net Zero World Third Annual International Conference

On behalf of Durham University's Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP) and the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, we are delighted to announce the Third Annual Conference on Just Transitions to a Net Zero World, to be held on 10-11 September this year at Durham University. This year we focus on Just Transitions in Implementation.

Conference Synopsis

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement a broad theoretical consensus has been reached towards accomplishing – globally – the paths to a Net Zero World. How to implement this consensus at the national level remains a contested issue. The concept of Just Transitions encompasses a wide range of dimensions and perspectives, reflecting the complexity of global shifts towards more just and low carbon economy. They include labour-oriented approaches, integrated justice frameworks, socio technical transition approaches, governance strategies, and public perceptions of what constitutes a 'just' transition. At a time when transition pathways and even their scientific necessity are once again subject to political challenge, even the already existing just transition commitments are threatened. Our concern is not merely what climate law and governance promise, but how these frameworks can be modelled, enacted and operationalised in practice.

Firmly grounded in the theoretical work of the first two conferences, this 3rd edition of our joint conference seeks to move beyond theory and explore the concrete and innovative pathways that translate agreed-upon changes into practice. We have put together a programme of critical, interdisciplinary and practice-oriented contributions that explore multifaceted pathways seeking to balance social, ecological and economic aspects of transitions while remaining sensitive to context-specific factors. This year's presenters will engage with the implementation aspects of just transitions, address the challenge of bridging gaps between theory and practice, and examine the development of processes that shape transition outcomes.

Outcomes

Following our conference, we look forward to sharing a report covering the following themes:

- Just Transitions to Govern Net Zero Strategies and Sustainable Development
- Just Transitions: Reality or Utopia?
- Just Transitions in Industry and Technology
- Just Transition: For Whom, By Whom, With Whom?

Conference Day One Thursday 10 September		
08:30-09:00 Registration, Coffee & Networking		
09:00–09:15 Welcome Remarks		
Time	Speakers	
09:00–09:15	Prof Sarah Hainsworth , Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Durham University (<i>tbc</i>) Prof Martin Evans , Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Durham University Prof Petra Minnerop , Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability), Director of the CSDLP, Principal Investigator of the JusTN0W Initiative, Durham University Prof Laura Marsiliani , Faculty of Business Associate Dean for Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability (ERS), Principal Investigator of the JusTN0W Initiative, Durham University Dr Pia Andres , Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Durham Law School, Durham University Prof Christian Tietje , Chair for Public Law, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University, Germany PD Dr Katrin Seidel , Senior Researcher, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University, Germany	
09:15–10:00 Morning Keynote Presentation with Q&A. Chair: Petra Minnerop (Durham)		
Time	Speaker	Presentation
09:15–10:00	Prof Josephine van Zeben Provost for Education and Academic Staff Development, European University Institute; Professor of Transnational Law, Florence School of Transnational Governance	Who Gets to Be Resilient? Power, Vulnerability and the Just Transition
10:00–11:30 Plenary: Dimensions of Just Transitions		
10:00–10:20	Prof Tim Stephens FAAL FRSN, Professor of International Law and Associate Dean (External Engagement), The University of Sydney Law School (online presentation)	The law of the sea and the transition from fossil fuels
10:20–10:40	Prof Martin Evans Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Durham University	Working with nature to mitigate climate change
10:40–11:00	Prof Elisa Morgera UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights; Professor of International Law and Sustainability at Durham University; and part-time Professor at the University of Eastern Finland	Fair defossilization of our economies: insights from human rights analysis and health evidence
11:00–11:30	Q&A with the audience	
11:30–11:45	Coffee, networking & posters	



Time	Speaker	Presentation
11:45–13:00	Judicial Voices on the Just Transition Presentations with Q&A.	
11:45–12:15	Judge Maria Teresa Infante Caffi , International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)	
12:15–12:45	Honourable Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla , Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal	
12:45–13:00	Panel discussion & questions from the audience	
Group Photo		
13:00–13:40	Lunch, networking & posters	
13:40–14:20 Afternoon Keynote Presentation with Q&A. Chair: Prof Laura Marsiliani , Professor in Economics, Faculty of Business Associate Dean for Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability (ERS), Principal Investigator of the JusTNOW Initiative, Durham University		
Time	Speaker	Presentation
13:40–14:20	Prof. Dr. Phoebe Koundouri Athens University of Economics and Business & University of Cambridge; Founder and Director AE4RIA Research Centers; Co-Chair, United Nations GSDR, President World Council of Environmental Economists; Chair SDSN Global Climate Hub; Co-Chair SDSN Europe(online presentation)	United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2027: A Global Commons for Accelerating SDGs Implementation
14:20–14:30	Break to move into parallel sessions	

Parallel Sessions Track A		
14:30–15:30 Value Chains and Carbon Pricing for a Just Transition <i>Includes Q&A. Chair: Dr Pia Andres, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Durham Law School, Durham University</i>		
Time	Speaker	Title / Topic
14:30–14:50	Dr Viet Nguyen-Tien Research Officer, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics and Political Science (online)	Input Uncertainty in the Green Transition: Firm-level Evidence from Critical Minerals
14:50–15:10	Edward Clinton Policy Officer, TPI Global Climate Transition Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science	<i>Just value chains: How decarbonising activities impact communities</i>
15:10–15:30	Héloïse de Gaulmyn Ph.D. candidate CREST École Polytechnique	The Social Cost of Electricity: Location, Market Design, and Local Air Pollution in Europe
15:30–15:50	Coffee, networking & posters	

Parallel Sessions Track B		
14:30–15:30 Law, Finance and Accountability in Just Transitions <i>Includes Q&A. Chair: Dr Katalin Sulyok, Associate Professor in International Law and Sustainability, Durham University</i>		
Time	Speaker	Presentation
14:30–14:50	Dr Matteo Fermeglia Assistant Professor of Climate Law and Governance, University of Amsterdam (online)	Just transition through the lens of socio-ecological wellbeing and the SDGs: An analysis of the EU and South Africa
14:50–15:10	Prof Diana María Beltrán Vargas, Prof Katherine Flórez & Paula Sánchez Universidad Externado de Colombia (online)	<i>Beyond Circularity: Reframing Sustainability as a Regulatory Principle in Economic Law for a Just Transition</i>
15:10–15:30	Dr Giada Giacomini Lecturer in Law, University of Hull	<i>The Accountability Gap in International Climate Finance: The Role of Independent Accountability Mechanisms in Advancing a Just Transition</i>
15:30–15:50	Coffee, networking & posters	





Parallel Sessions Track C

15:50–17:10 Political Ecology, Representation and Indigenous Rights in the Transition

Includes Q&A. Chair: PD Dr Katrin Seidel (Halle)

Speaker	Presentation
Nathan Whitebrook Doctoral Researcher, University College London	Reassembling Power: Tracing the Controversies of Indigenous Participation in the Pilbara Energy Transition
Dr Stefan Knauß Senior Researcher, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University (online)	Spirits, Proxies, and Silicon: Charting the Dangers and Opportunities of Representing Nature
Dr Piotr Szwedo Associate Professor, Sustainable Development Law Centre, Jagiellonian University in Kraków	Rights of Nature and ecocentric approaches in international economic law
Dr Diana Vela Almeida Assistant Professor, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University	Where is reproductive labour in the just energy transition? A feminist analysis of extraction and manufacturing in Chile and Sweden

Parallel Sessions Track D

15:50–17:10 Sustainable Finance, ESG and Long-Term Investment Governance

Includes Q&A. Chair: Dr Chien-Yi Chang, Assistant Professor of Law and Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Durham University

Speaker	Presentation
Prof Anna Tilba Professor in Strategy and Governance, Durham University Business School	Financing Net Zero in a Short-Term World: Temporal Narratives and the Limits of Long-Term Investing
Prof Kim Schumacher Associate Professor (tenured) in Sustainable Finance and ESG, Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies, Kyushu University and Visiting Lecturer in Sustainable Finance and ESG, School of Environment and Society, Tokyo Institute of Technology	AI and greenwashing, how next-gen algorithms are changing sustainable finance
Dr Conrad Landis Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Ioannina; Senior Researcher, AE4RIA Research Centers, Athens University of Economics and Business and ATHENA Research Center	Sustainable Finance, ESG and Long-Term Investment Governance
Astrid Fionna Doctoral Researcher, Durham University	Islamic Finance Development and Climate Resilience: A Cross-Country Comparative Analysis

Parallel Sessions Track E

15:50–17:10 AI, Data and Digital Tools in Just Transition Governance

Includes Q&A. Chair: Dr Milad Kazemi, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Durham University

Speaker	Presentation
Tobias Schimanski Doctoral Researcher, University of Zurich	AI and transition plan analysis (title tbc)
Dr Anne Sietsma Climate Justice Policy Officer, Climate Policy Radar	Building justice classifiers for global climate policy
Dr Carsten Meyer Associate Professor, Department of Biosciences, Durham University	Common problems in interdisciplinary coupled models usable in transition research
Dr Milad Kazemi Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Durham University	Article 6 Readiness Tool
Prof Petra Minnerop Professor of International Law, Durham University	
Dr Katalin Sulyok , Associate Professor in International Law and Sustainability, Durham University	
Prof Camila Caiado Deputy Executive Dean (Impact and Research Engagement), Durham University	

17:10–17:30 Plenary Panel Discussion & Questions from the Audience Reflecting on the day's parallel sessions. Moderated by Christian Tietje (Halle)		
17:10-17:30	Panel discussion with chairs from parallel sessions.	17:10-17:30
Time	Speakers	
17:30–17:45 MOU Signing Ceremony Signing of MOU between the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC), Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, and the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy, Durham University. Presided by Petra Minnerop (Durham) and Christian Tietje (Halle)		
17:45–18:00 Closing Remarks Day One Petra Minnerop (Durham) and Christian Tietje (Halle)		



Drinks Reception from 18:00 in Durham Business School





Conference Day Two Friday 11 September		
09:00–10:30 Plenary: From Climate Data to Climate Justice Chair: Includes Q&A. Chair: Christian Tietje (Halle)		
Time	Speakers	
09:00–09:30	Prof Ilan Noy , Chair in the Economics of Disasters and Climate Change, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; Professor of Applied Economics, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy (online presentation)	Who bears the climate-change-attributable impacts of extreme weather, and who may pay for it?
09:30–10:00	Dr Angel Hsu Director, Data-Driven EnviroLab; Associate Professor of Public Policy and the Environment, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Can We Trust AI for Climate Action? Evidence, Integrity, and the Net-Zero Transition
10:00–10:30	Prof Darren McCauley Professor of Environmental & Social Justice Newcastle Law School, Newcastle University	Unifying Dimensions of Just Transitions
10:30–11:15 Morning Keynote - Human Rights and Rights of Nature in the Just Transition Presentation with Q&A. Chair: Prof Laura Marsiliani		
Time	Speakers	
10:30–11:15	Prof Veronika Fikfak , Professor of Human Rights and International Law, University College London; and a co-Director of the UCL Institute for Human Rights.	Just Transition and Compliance Minimalism: Lessons from Human Rights Cases
11:15–11:30	Coffee, networking & posters	

Parallel Sessions Track F		Parallel Sessions Track G		Parallel Sessions Track H	
11:30–13:00 What makes transitions "Just"? Includes Q&A. Chair: Christian Tietje (Halle)		11:30–13:00 Places and Knowledge in Just Transitions Includes Q&A. Chair: Katalin Sulyok (Durham)		11:30–13:00 Agents in the Delivery of a Just Transition Includes Q&A. Chair: Chiara Gemoll, Research Associate, Just Transition Center, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg	
Speaker	Presentation	Speaker	Presentation	Speaker	Presentation
PD Dr Katrin Seidel Senior Researcher, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University, Germany	Rethinking Climate Responsibility as Human Duty for Just Transition: Lessons from the African (Banjul) Charter	Alba Perez Victorio Doctoral Researcher, European University Institute	The governance of 'place' in wind energy law	Rachel Somerville Climate Policy and Delivery Officer, Newcastle City Council	A Just Transition from a Local Authority Context: Newcastle City Council's perspective
Ebru Metin Doctoral Researcher, Department of Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Estonia	Whose Knowledge Counts? Epistemic Justice and the Sensing Layer in Just Transition Governance	Dr Rebecca Clube Senior Research Fellow, UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources, University College London	Land Governance for Mining Transitions in Low and Middle Income Countries	Dr Jillian Schacher Postdoctoral Researcher, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures, University of Leeds; Project Lead, Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission	The Good Futures Framework: A practical tool to integrate Just Transitions into local and regional policymaking
Vincenzo Elia Research Associate, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore	From Abstraction to Benchmark: Operationalising Climate Responsibility in Just Transition Governance	Mônica Faria Doctoral Researcher, University of Coimbra	Proposals for Achieving a Just Transition For the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil	Dr Philippa Hammond Behavioural Scientist, CSIRO, Australia	Building living roadmaps for transition using a place-based participatory systems approach
Lena Helińska Doctoral Researcher, Jagiellonian University	Can transitions be objectively just? Indicator-based frameworks in the light of plural narratives	Dr Jonathan Davis Smith Visiting Lecturer, Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies, Universitas Gadjah Mada; Visiting Research Fellow, University of Leeds	Why some energy transitions increase polarization: geothermal energy developments in Indonesia	Dr Maja Pupovac Research Fellow, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade (online)	A Future without Guarantees: Workers' Agency under Prolonged Uncertainty in Southeast European Coal Regions

13:00–13:50	Lunch, networking & posters
13:50-14:30 Plenary: Towards a Just Transition Roadmap: Top Level Recommendations <i>Reflecting on both days' themes. Moderated by Petra Minnerop (Durham)</i>	
Time	Speakers
13:50-14:30	Panel Discussion Prof Veronika Fikfak , University College London Prof Elisa Morgera , Durham University Judge Maria Teresa Infante Caffi Prof Josephine van Zeven , European University Institute Prof Lorenzo Cotula , Principal Researcher and Head of the Law, Economics and Justice Programme, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); Visiting Professor, Durham Law School Prof Glenn McGregor , Professor of Climatology, Durham University
14:30-15:00	Closing Remarks & Final Reflections Petra Minnerop (Durham) and Christian Tietje (Halle)
15:00	End of conference



Please visit the following link or scan the QR code to registration

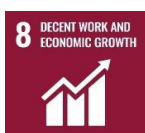
[Event Booking Details](#)



For further information about the conference, please contact:

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Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, European Centre of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC)
Transregional Just Transition Governance: socio-legal and polit-economic perspectives
PD Dr. Katrin Seidel, katrin.seidel@jura.uni-halle.de



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