

# INTERPRETIVE POLICY ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 2021

**Panel Title:**

*P2 - Critical Interpretations of “Justice” in Sustainability Transitions*

**Panel Convenors:**

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Climate change is one of the preeminent environmental and social/political challenges of our time. Many governments, civil society organizations, and even businesses across the globe are addressing climate change by developing a broad range of “transition” policies. Some of these do address issues of justice, others do not. Theories on justice, largely from social movements, put environmental justice on the agenda (Schlosberg 2007). The current emerging notions of climate justice or energy justice draw our attention to (1) the disproportionate burden that vulnerable communities, areas, and/or generations will bear for climate change (Schlosberg 2014), and (2) the additional burden they face due to the transitions themselves in energy, food production and consumption, often toward more circularity or renewables (Evans & Phelan 2016).

Different developments across the globe propose different notions of climate change and just transitions. Interesting developments in the US include the NY Renews Coalition and the transformative climate legislation it won in New York with major environmental justice statutes, and the Red Deal that centers indigenous points of view and aims to dismantle capitalism, neoliberalism, and colonialism to address the injustices of these systems. In European policies, Green Deals and Clean energy packages give more and more attention to how to better include and take care of the interests of minorities, people with a low income, and others not recognized as potentially disproportionately burdened. Very often the starting point is societal resistance and protest against these policies. We see similar attempts at just transitions globally.

This panel seeks papers that address important question in conceptualizing climate justice, energy justice, environmental justice: justice according to whom? What are the normative claims of justice and how are those constructed? What are the particular forms of injustice that are articulated in different contexts and what are the historical trajectories of those claims? What policy solutions have been developed and how are these animating different participants in discourse coalitions for or against climate action? How are societal groups, communities, citizens framing the problem of climate change in relation to climate justice? What is the interpretive work that they’re doing to proposal reforms or radical transformations? What types of counter-framing are they confronting as they attempt to make sense of climate as a problem of justice, and how are they addressing these counter-frames, particularly those that lose their connection to agreed up facts about anthropogenic climate change and espouse climate denial? We invite papers that address these questions to advance interpretive policy analysis on climate justice and related forms of normative and critical analysis (see also Ellis et al 2020).

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## Key references

Evans, G. & Phelan, L (2016). Transition to a post-carbon society: Linking environmental justice and just transition discourses. *Energy Policy*, 99, 329-339.

Ellis, G., Gerlak, A. K., Daugbjerg, C., Feindt, P. H., Metze, T., & Wu, X. (2020). 21 Years of Research for the Twenty-First Century: Revisiting the Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning. *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*, 22(5), 569–580. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1523908X.2020.1816937>

Schlosberg, D. (2007). *Defining environmental justice: theories, movements, and nature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Schlosberg, D. & Collins, LB (2014). *From environmental to climate justice: climate change and the discourse of environmental justice*. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Review: Climate Change* 5,359–374.