

Call for Papers

NESS Workshop: Green Innovation Policy – exploring the Green Deal Foundations

Workshop chairs:

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The Green Deal proposed by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in July 2020 aims to stimulate economic recovery following the Covid-19 crisis, transforming Europe into an inclusive, sustainable and low-carbon economy.

For these ambitions to materialize, an upscaling of established green technologies is a necessary but insufficient precondition, as a range of novel green innovations will be required to target production processes and consumer products currently locked into a fossil fuel resource base and economy.

Green patents are providing a basis for new value chains, but most of them are generated in R&D intensive regions, while there is no systematic analysis of the extent to which there are spillovers to more deprived regions. Disadvantaged countries and regions are often lacking the financial and human resources that would allow them to bet on greening and can be reluctant towards challenging transformations. Even countries acknowledged as leaders in green technology and low-carbon development experience significant internal contrasts, making an inclusive green transition challenging. The programs and financial resources now announced intend to bridge these divides, yet considering the deep crisis faced, advancing from rhetoric to reality will be a thorny path.

This workshop aims to explore the interface of green innovation policy and sustainable low-carbon recovery. Research contributions (disciplinary as well as cross- and interdisciplinary) that address governance, policy instruments and actor networks and their dynamic potentials at this critical junction are invited, i.e. with studies of green innovations or transformations at local, regional, national or supra-national level and their wider societal implications. Theoretically informed and based on sound research methodology both quantitative and qualitative papers are welcome. A selection of papers will be published in a special issue of *Sustainability*.

The NESS workshops follow a standing session format (similar to ECPR), which allows for substantive discussions on research in progress. The conference invites scholars from multiple disciplinary backgrounds in environmental social science. The overall **objective** of the **workshop** is to facilitate and encourage participation, equality and collaboration between younger and more established scholars. Each paper is expected to relate to the theme of the workshop, and the participant submits and presents a paper (or work in progress) for the discussion. Workshop participants will be asked to comment on at least one

other paper in the respective workshop and participate in the general discussion of the other papers presented. Participants should only choose and attend one workshop for the duration of the conference. The ambition with this format is that the workshops allow for in-depth and coherent discussions of the respective themes and provide opportunity for potential joint publications or other continuing collaborations between the participants.