



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Call for Papers for Workshops

for the Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference (NESS), University of Gothenburg, Sweden, June 7-9, 2022. [Link to Conference site](#)

Workshop: Just Transition and the Role of the State

Workshop chairs:

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This workshop is aimed at the intersection of two related and occasionally conflicting areas of social scientific thought: a desire to strengthen the welfare state arrangements to enhance the provision of social justice and a desire to build greener states that can effectively respond to the challenges of climate change and related ecological pressures. The movement for a just transition to a post-fossil carbon society seeks to bring these concerns together but this movement raises many questions. What is the role of the state vis-à-vis other actors in orchestrating a just transition? How to manage the unavoidable tensions between the need for boldness and timeliness of climate action, versus the need for inclusiveness, justice, and orderliness to ensure democratic legitimacy and political support. This also raises familiar tensions between political pragmatism and radicalism while also raising challenging questions regarding the fiscal, redistributive and administrative capacity of contemporary welfare states to fund and manage an equitable greening of society. The empirical record thus far is mixed. We welcome theoretical and empirical research on all the roles of the state in just transition, including case studies on particular state initiatives (successes as well as failures), or the establishment of special ministries, agencies and commissions to manage ecological transitions. The 'state' is broadly construed to include welfare and (neo)liberal democratic states, as well as national and/or sub-national levels of government.

We also welcome submissions from across social science that explore the various theoretical and empirical dimensions of just transition. Submissions could comprise, but are not limited to, studies of justice in theory and/or practice; just transition and intersectionality, and de/reconstructions of the philosophical underpinnings of different approaches. Thus, we also welcome theoretical and

normative papers on the principles of just transition (and the meaning of 'justice' that goes into just transition) and the role of the state (and also the limits of the state) vis-à-vis other actors in orchestrating and managing the transition process. This extends to case studies of non-state initiatives that demonstrate whether the state is indeed necessary, or how the state might have assisted and/or thwarted the initiative.

Instructions for Workshop Participants

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 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. Participants should only choose and attend one workshop for the duration of the conference, but you may send abstracts to more than one workshop. Workshop participants will be asked to comment on at least one other paper in the respective workshop, read the other papers and participate in the general discussion of the papers. 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.

Send your abstract of up to 300 words to all the workshop chairs no later than **December 15, 2021**. Chairs will respond to questions which relate to the workshop theme. For questions of a general nature (i.e. not workshop specific) they should be directed to ness@globalstudies.gu.se

The conference organizers will notify the participants of their acceptance to the workshops by **March 1, 2022**. Workshop papers are to be submitted to the workshop chairs and the other workshop participants at the latest **May 20**. May 20 is also the last day to register for the conference on the website. A workshop schedule including information on presentations, session chairs and discussants will be available on the conference website at the end of May. The workshop format only allows for very short paper presentations (ca. 5 min) and all workshop participants are expected to have read and be able to comment on the papers in the workshop.