



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: Transformative Change for a Green Industry: Nordic Experiences and Challenges

Workshop chairs:

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The literature has devoted increased attention to so-called sustainability transitions, which refer to the long-term transformation processes that shift established socio-technical systems (e.g., the energy system, industrial processes, etc.) into more sustainable modes of production and consumption. For instance, it is widely recognized that reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the industrial sectors, e.g., iron and steel production, can likely not be realized without the development of zero-carbon technologies.

Sustainability transitions are typically characterized by relatively long development periods during which technology-specific systemic structures, i.e., actor networks, institutions, value chains, etc., must be put in place and aligned with the emerging technologies. This suggests, it is often argued, that the development of sustainable technologies will be subject to multiple market, system and institutional failures. This, in turn, requires the use of mixes of policy instruments, e.g., technology push instruments, demand-pull instruments, and systemic instruments supporting various functions at the innovation system level.

This session invites research papers addressing how new, zero-carbon technologies can be developed and adopted in various industrial sectors, e.g., iron and steel, pulp and paper, mining, cement, etc. Both conceptual and empirical papers are welcome. These could address how various institutional, economic and political factors may support or hinder key technological development processes, including how various policy mixes can be designed and implemented to facilitate such processes. Empirical research that investigates key experiences from historical sustainability transitions in industrial sectors, not least in the Nordic countries, are encouraged; what challenges

characterized these transitions and how were these overcome? The role of the (green) state in governing the sustainable transformation of industry also represents topical issue.

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.