

**SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE:
GREEN TRANSITIONS? JUST TRANSITIONS?
POLS692, Fall 2022
(Working Draft, August 26, 2022)¹**

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I. Content of Seminar: This seminar explores questions of social and environmental justice during sustainability transitions, broadly construed, through the lens of the concept of just transition. A just transition is one that is socially and ecologically just towards the people and natures vulnerable due to a transition. Such a transition may be due to environmental or social factors, a disaster or a crisis. Assuming that all social transitions are also environmental and all environmental transitions are also social allows us to broaden and deepen socioecological thought and practice. This is not a seminar exclusively and narrowly on just transition but, rather, uses the concept to explore broader debates in the political economy/ecology of socioecological justice and sustainability transitions.

Upon completion of the seminar students will have a sophisticated understanding of the central issues and debates amongst scholars in the field of green political economy/ecology and will have advanced their own research agendas. Specifically, students will be able to:

- Address questions of just green transitions from various theoretical and methodological approaches;
- Address questions of socioecological justice and just transition, also from various theoretical and methodological approaches;
- Address questions of sustainability transitions, also from various theoretical and methodological approaches;
- Identify the key concepts and debates that comprise these areas of academic study;
- Be aware of key issues and approaches on which these areas are silent;
- Research, analyze and write about these issues as a social scientist.

II. Course Materials: While I will provide significant background and advance guidance I will not lecture. The class material, including your work, will be posted on Canvas. A large number of readings consists of articles and a smaller one of chapters. Because the debates about just transition are emergent we will also read a number of reports, review a number of websites and see recorded webinars. If our library has electronic versions of the journals you will be expected to get the articles directly from the journals [electronic]. Articles and chapters that are not readily available will be placed on Canvas.

III. Format, Contact Hours and External Work: The seminar will meet from 2:00pm to 4:50pm MST every Friday. Attendance expectations are those of any seminar, i.e., absences kept to the absolute minimum and for emergency reasons only. During class meetings we are going to often use breakout sessions and other ways to enhance interaction. I welcome suggestions. Students are expected to invest at least 3 hours of external work every week for every credit hour.

IV. Office Hours: WF 11-12, W 1-2 and by appointment (including virtually).

¹ This provides you with a dependable roadmap. Revisions will be announced in a timely fashion and I will try to take into account your interests as these unfold. Amount for reading will be kept to an average of five readings a week (four if readings are long, six, if short). Guidance on presentations as well as a research guide will be provided in a separate communication.

V. Academic Integrity. This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Colorado State University has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 Page 1).

VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation.

Precis/short weekly synthesis essays (25% total). Six précis/review essays of not more than 500 words, not including references (of which the **five** best will be counted), (5% of your grade each). **Please note that you have to submit six precis regardless of whether you are satisfied with your evaluations. For every missing precis I will subtract 5% of your final grade.** These should be as spaced as possible by avoiding sequential ones (unless appropriate for your research and approved by me). That will help in spreading preparation even more evenly. Post precis on Canvas (under assignments) by class time on the day of the seminar. Precis should provide frequent and appropriate references to the readings. Please see guidelines in VII below, and samples in the Samples Learning Module. **You should write a précis for any session that you will be missing, even if this results in more than six precis. Precis are due, by class time, on Canvas.**

Participation (class facilitation, presentations, timeliness, and contributions to weekly discussions) (30%): Each of you will be asked to lead the class three times during the semester. There will also be one short and one longer research presentation. Regular and thoughtful participation is a requirement. The expression of doubts and difficulties in understanding particular issues is as important as strong insights into them. They should all be based, however, on a strong engagement with the class material. I would ask those of you who are more comfortable talking in public to be attentive to the class dynamics. Each of you will also be asked to provide peer evaluations/comments for the short research proposal and will be a discussant for one research project presentation. The timeliness and constructive nature of these comments will also be part of your evaluation.

Research/writing project and presentations (Total 45% - Research Idea 5%; Short Research Proposal 15%; Research Paper 25%): The project will reflect your state of preparation and degree to which you have settled on a research agenda. For some of you the best option may be a literature review, for others a research proposal for still others a full draft of a paper you can present at a meeting and include in your thesis or dissertation— hence the research/writing format. The project will take place in stages and should be strongly articulated to the rest of your class work. In all cases this research/writing project will help you make progress in terms of your research agenda. Please see Steps of Research Process in Research Module. We will start discussing this at our second meeting. **The carious components are due on specific times noted in syllabus.**

Facilitations. Each week 2-3 of you will serve as facilitators (the number will depend on final enrollment). You should plan on three non-sequential facilitations during the semester. During the weeks you facilitate you should also write a precis. The facilitators should collaborate on developing some key themes and/or activities for the class and will run the class. These themes and/or activities should be shared with the instructor by 8pm the Wednesday before for any comments. Keep them short. Once vetted they will be shared with the class by 8pm the night before. Please note that creative activities are encouraged. I will place some examples on Canvas but the goals are described below. The facilitation outlines will not be graded but will be taken into account in the Participation evaluation.

VII. Themes for Class Discussions, Facilitations, and Precis. The key goal of the seminar is for you to learn how to organize weekly readings/writings around key themes while aiming to relate them to broader themes on the governance of the world political economy. Stated differently, you should view weekly readings as steps towards understanding broader themes and not as ends in themselves.

1. What is the central theme or themes of the readings? The goal here is to organize the

- readings around **one or two** key issues, questions, debates, similarities or differences. The fewer these are, the better. Tables, ranges, diagrams and other visuals are always welcome and encouraged.
2. Are the arguments, methods and evidence of the various readings appropriate, clear and persuasive? How are they related to the central themes? What else do they bring up? Here we will go into some detail into each author's views.
 3. How do the themes, issues, or concepts raised by a particular week's readings relate to previous readings or other material you are familiar with?
 4. What are the silences/hidden figures of the readings (actors, questions, issues that seem to be marginalized)? What themes and figures are privileged?

SCHEDULE

August 26

**Introductions
Individual Background and Interests
Logistics and Goals**

The Origins of Explicit Just Transitions

Tony Mazzocchi (1993) An Answer to the jobs-environment Conflict? At <https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/answer-jobs-environment-conflict>

Les Leopold (1995) Address to the Great Lakes International Joint Commission. [Canvas Readings Part I]

Samantha Harvey, Samantha (2018) Leave No Worker Behind. *Earth Island Journal*. At http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/magazine/entry/leave_no_worker_behind/

Labor Network for Sustainability (2021) *Love, it Hate it: You've Heard the Term now Hear the Story*. Go to <https://www.labor4sustainability.org/just-transition-listening-project/> and click forward until you get to the one with the title above.

September 2

History of Explicit Just Transitions

Barca, Stefania (2012) On Working-Class Environmentalism: A Historical and Transnational Overview. *Interface: A Journal for and About Movements* 4(2): 61-80. (Canvas, Readings).

Hampton, Paul (2015) *Workers and Trade Unions for Climate Solidarity: Tackling Climate Change in a Neoliberal World*. Routledge. Ch 3, especially pp. 68-79. [Canvas, Readings]

Stavis, Dimitris, Edouard Morena and Dunja Krause (2020) Introduction: The Genealogy and Contemporary Politics of Just Transitions. In Edouard Morena, Dunja Krause and Dimitris Stavis (eds). 2020. *Just Transitions: Social Justice in the Shift Towards a Low-Carbon World*. Pluto Press, pp. 1-31. [Canvas, Readings] [Please note that whole book has been downloaded in Readings Part I – please refer to it every time you see a chapter from that book.]

Rosemberg, Anabella (2020) No Jobs on a Dead Planet': The International Trade Union Movement and Just Transition. In Edouard Morena, Dunja Krause and Dimitris Stevis (eds). 2020. *Just Transitions: Social Justice in the Shift Towards a Low-Carbon World*. Pluto Press, pp. 32-55. [Canvas Readings]

Pucheta, Mauro and Ana Belen Sanchez (2022) *Just Transition in the Global South: Perspectives from Latin America*. At https://etui.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Just%20transition%20in%20the%20Global%20South-Perspectives%20from%20Latin%20America_2022.pdf

September 9 The Diffusion of Just Transitions: Academic Literature

Pai, Sandeep, Kathryn Harrison and Hisham Zeriffi (2020) *A Systematic Review of the Key Elements of a Just Transition for Fossil Fuel Workers*. Smart Prosperity Institute, Clean Economy Prosperity Series 2020 -WP04. DOI:10.13140/RG.2.2.29003.75046

Wang, Xinxin and Kevin Lo (2021) Just Transition: A Conceptual Review. *Energy Research and Social Science* 82. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.102291>

Wilgosh, Beccam, Alevgul Sorman and Inaki Barcena (2022, March) When Two Movements Collide: Learning from Labour and Environmental Struggles for Future Just Transitions. *Futures* 137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2022.102903>

Abram, Simone et al. (2022) Just Transitions: A Whole Systems Approach to Decarbonization. *Climate Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2022.2108365>

TBA

September 16 The Diffusion of Just Transitions: Actors and Issues

Climate Justice Alliance. Just Transition Principles. At https://climatejusticealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CJA_JustTransition_highres.pdf

Just Transition Centre and The B Team (2018) *Just Transition: A Business Guide*. At <https://bteam.org/assets/reports/Just-Transition-A-Business-Guide.pdf>

Climate Investment Funds (2022). *Just Transition*. Read landing page and framework paper. At <https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/topics/just-transition>

Hughes, Sarah and Matthew Hoffman (2020) Just Urban Transitions: Toward a Research Agenda. *WIREs Climate Change* 11 (Canvas, Readings).

C40 (2022) Why a Just Transition is essential for advancing ambitious city climate action? At https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Why-a-just-transition-is-essential-for-advancing-ambitious-city-climate-action?language=en_US

September 23

The Diffusion of Just Transitions: Actors and Issues

Schwane, Tim (2021) Achieving Just Transitions to Low Carbon Urban-Mobility. *Nature Energy* 6: 685-687. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-021-00856-z>

&

International Transport Workers' Federation (2021) *A Just Transition for Urban Transport Workers*. At <https://www.itfglobal.org/en/reports-publications/just-transition-urban-transport-workers>

HEAL (Health and Environment Alliance) (2020) Just Transition for Health Protection. At <https://www.env-health.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/HEAL-Just-transition.pdf>

&

Medicare for All and Just Transition. At <https://djdinstitute.org/m4a-and-just-transition/>

Viglione, Giuliana (2021) Climate Justice: The Challenge of Achieving a 'Just Transition' in Agriculture. At <https://www.carbonbrief.org/climate-justice-the-challenge-of-achieving-a-just-transition-in-agriculture/>

Melissa Pinfield (2021) Why we Need a Just Rural Transition? At <https://justtransitioninitiative.org/why-we-need-a-just-rural-transition/>

Bastos Lima, Mairon (2022) Just transition towards a bioeconomy: Four dimensions in Brazil, India and Indonesia. *Forest Policy and Economics* 136. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102684>

September 30

Just Transitions From the Past, Into the Future and In the Present

Zabin, Carol et al. (2016) *Advancing Equity in California Climate Policy: A New Social Contract for Low-Carbon Transition*. At <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2016/Advancing-Equity-Executive-Summary.pdf>

Mulvaney, Dustin (2014) Are Green Jobs Just Jobs? Cadmium Narratives in the Lifecycle of Photovoltaics. *Geoforum* 54: 178-186 along with exchange between Alex Heard and Dustin Mulvaney. (Canvas, Readings).

Pearl-Martinez, Rebecca and Jennie Stephens. 2016. Toward a Gender Diverse Workforce in the Renewable Energy Transition. *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* 12(1): 8-15. (electronic)

Anderson, Jeremy (2021) Part 1: Defend and transform – mobilizing workers in all sectors for climate justice and Part 2: Just transition beyond the industry shutdown scenario. [Canvas Readings]

White, Damian. 2020. Just Transitions/Design for Transitions: Preliminary Notes on a Design Politics for a Green New Deal. *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 31(2): 20-39. (electronic)

Iskander, Natasha and Nicola Lowe. 2020. Climate Change and Work: Politics and Power. *Annual Review of Political Science* 23: 111-131. (electronic)

September 26-30 Consultations on Research Ideas²

September 30 The Political Economy/Ecology of Just Transitions

Connelly, Steve (2007) Mapping Sustainable Development as a Contested Concept. *Local Environment* 12(3): 259-278. (Canvas, Readings)

Hopwood, Bill, Mary Mellor and Geoff O'Brien (2005) Sustainable Development: Mapping Different Approaches. *Sustainable Development* 13(1): 38-52. [Canvas, Readings]

Peter Newell and Dustin Mulvaney (2013) The Political Economy of the "Just Transition. *The Geographic Journal* 179 (2): 132-140. (Canvas, Readings).

Stevis, Dimitris and Romain Felli (2016) Green Transitions, Just Transitions? Broadening and Deepening Justice, *Kurswechsel* Heft 3: Klimapolitik und Systemwandel: 135-145 (Canvas, Readings)

JTRC (2018) *Mapping Just Transitions to a Low Carbon World*. UNRISD, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and ULIP. [Canvas, Readings] [Framing]

Ciplet, David and Jill Harrison (2019) Transition Tensions: Mapping Conflicts in Movements for a Just and Sustainable Transition, *Environmental Politics*, 29(3): 435-456. (electronic) <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2019.1595883>

October 7 The Depth of Just Transitions: Nature and Society

Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne (2011) Peril or Prosperity? Mapping Worldviews of Global Environmental Change. Chapter 1 from their *Paths to a Green World*. The MIT Press, pp. 1-18 (Canvas, Readings)

Felli, Romain (2014) An Alternative Socio-ecological Strategy? International Trade Unions' Engagement with Climate Change. *Review of International Political Economy* 21(2): 372-398. (Electronic)

Daly, Herman (2008) A Steady-State Economy: A failed growth economy and a steady-state economy are not the same thing; they are the very different alternatives we face. Prepared for Sustainable Development Commission, UK (April 24, 2008). (Canvas, Readings)

Jacobs, Michael (2012) *Green Growth: Economic Theory and Political Discourse*. Center for Climate Change Economic and Policy, WP 108 and Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment WP 92 (Canvas Readings,)

² I will provide detailed guidance on research projects in due time.

Pollin, Robert (2018) De-Growth vs a Green New Deal. *New Left Review* 112: 5-25. (Canvas, Readings)

Hickel, Jason and Giorgos Kallis (2019) Is Green Growth Possible? *New Political Economy*, 25(4): 469-486. (electronic)

October 10 (M) Research Ideas Due (noon) [~500 words plus annotated refs]

October 14 The Depth of Just Transitions: Environmental (In)justice

Wright, Erik Olin (2016) Two Approaches to Inequality and Their Normative Implications. At <https://items.ssrc.org/what-is-inequality/two-approaches-to-inequality-and-their-normative-implications/>

TBA

Evans, Geoff and Liam Phelan. 2016. Transition to a Post-carbon Society: Linking Environmental Justice and Just Transition Discourses. *Energy Policy* 99: 328-339. (electronic)

Healy, Noel and John Barry (2017) Politicizing energy justice and energy systems transitions. Fossil fuel divestment and a 'just transition'. *Energy Policy* 108: 451-459. (electronic)

Tschersich, Julia and Christiaan Kok (2022) Deepening Democracy for the Governance Toward Just Transitions in Agri-Food Industries. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 43: 358-374.

Farrell, Caroline (2012) A Just Transition: Lessons Learned from the Environmental Justice Movement. *Duke Forum for Law and Social Change* (4): 45-63. (Canvas, Readings)

October 17-20 Consultations on Short Research Proposal

October 21 The Depth of Just Transitions: Ecological (In)justice

TBA

Malm, Andreas and Rikard Warlenius (2019) The Grand Theft of the Atmosphere: Sketches for a Theory of Climate Injustice in the Anthropocene. Ch 4 in Kum-Kum Bhavnani, John Foran, Priya Kurian and Debashish Munshi (eds) *Climate Futures: Re-Imagining Global Climate Justice*. Zed Books

Rodriguez-Labajos, Beatriz et. al. Not So Natural an Alliance? Degrowth and Environmental Justice Movements in the Global South. *Ecological Economics* 157: 175-184. (electronic)

Vucetich, John et al. 2018. Just Conservation: What is It and Should We Pursue It? *Biological Conservation* 221: 23-33.

Cliggett, Lisa. 2014. Access, Alienation, and the Production of Chronic Liminality: Sixty Years of Frontier Settlement in a Zambian Park Buffer Zone. *Human Organization* 73(2): 128-140.

Wienhues, Anna. 2018. Situating the Half-Earth Proposal in Distributive Justice: Conditions for Just Conservation. *Biological Conservation*. 228: 44-51.

Satgar, Vishwas (2018) 'The Anthropocene and Imperial Ecocide: Prospects for Just Transitions. In Vishwas Satgar (Ed) *The Climate Crisis: South African and Global Democratic Eco-Socialist Alternatives*. Wits University Press. (Canvas, Readings)

October 28 The Breadth of Just Transitions: Spatial and Temporal Scales

Gismondi, Michael. 2019. Historicizing Transitions: The Value of Historical Theory to Energy Transition Research. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 36: 193-198. (electronic)

Newell, Peter and Andrew Simms (2021) How Did We Do That? Histories and Political Economies of Rapid and Just Transitions, *New Political Economy* 26 (6): 907-922.

Adam, Barbara. 2008. Of Timescapes, Futuresapes and Timeprints. Talk at Lüneburg University, 17 June 2008 (Canvas, Readings)

Givens, Jannifer, Xiaorui Huang and Andrew Jorgenson. 2019. Ecologically Unequal Exchange: A Theory of Global Environmental Injustice. *Sociology Compass*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12693>

Shutaro Takeda, Alexander Ryota Keeley, Shigeki Sakurai, Shunsuke Managi, and Catherine Benoît Norris. 2019. Are Renewables as Friendly to Humans as to the Environment?: A Social Life Cycle Assessment of Renewable Electricity. *Sustainability* 11. (Canvas, Readings)

Hull, Vanessa and Liu, Jiaghuo. 2018. Telecoupling: A New Frontier for Global Sustainability. *Ecology and Society* 23(4): 41 (electronic)

or

Sébastien Boillat, Jean-David Gerber, Christoph Oberlack, Julie G. Zaehring, Chinwe Ifejika Speranza, and Stephan Rist. 2020. Distant Interactions, Power, and Environmental Justice in Protected Area Governance: A Telecoupling Perspective. *Sustainability* 10. (Canvas, Readings)

November 4 The Breadth of Just Transitions: Sectoral and Social Scopes

Reitzenstein, Alexander et al. (2018) *A Just Transition for All or Just a Transition?* Read introductory material on site *and* whole Discussion Paper. At <https://www.e3g.org/library/a-just-transition-for-all-or-just-a-transition>

Piggot, Georgia et al. 2019. Realizing a Just and Equitable Transition from Fossil Fuels. Intro and whole brief. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). At <https://www.sei.org/publications/just-and-equitable-transition-fossil-fuels/>

Mertins-Kirkwood, Adrian and Zoe Deshpande. 2019. Who is Included in a Just Transition: Considering Social Equity in Canada's Shift to a Zero-Carbon Economy. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. At <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/who-is-included-just-transition>

WEDO (2016) Gender, Equality and Just Transition. At <https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/gjtransition.pdf>

Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh. 2013. Extractive industries and Indigenous peoples: A Changing Dynamic? *Journal of Rural Studies*, 30: 20-30. (electronic)

Cock, Jacklyn (2018) The Climate Crisis and a 'Just Transition' in South Africa: An Eco-Feminist-Socialist Perspective. Ch 3 in Vishwas Satgar (Ed) *The Climate Crisis: South African and Global Democratic Eco-Socialist Alternatives*. Wits University Press

November 7 (M) Short Research Proposals Due (noon) [~1500 words plus annotated refs]

November 11 The Ambition of Just Transitions

Kohler, Jonathan et al. (2019) An Agenda for Sustainability Transitions Research: State of the Art and Future Directions. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 31: 1-32. (electronic)

Temper, Leah et al. (2018) A Perspective on Radical Transformations to Sustainability: Resistances, Movements and Alternatives. *Sustainability Science* 13: 747-764. (electronic)

Bennett, Nathan, Jessica Blythe, Andres M. Cisneros-Montemayor, Gerlad Singh, U. Rashid Sumaila. 2019. Just Transformations to Sustainability. *Sustainability* 11: 3881. (Canvas, Readings)

Eckersley, Robin(2021) Greening States and Societies. From Transitions to Great Transformations. *Environmental Politics* 30 (1-2): 245-265.

Rapid (3 minutes/3-4 slides plus 3 minutes comments) presentations of short research proposals Each of you will also be asked to provide more focused comments on one or two research proposals.

Nov 14(M) Comments on Short Research Proposals due to me (5pm)

Nov 18 The Ambition of Just Transitions

Newell, Peter (2019) Transformismo or Transformation? The Global Political Economy of Energy Transitions. *Review of International Political Economy* 26(1): 25-48.

Brand, Ulrich and Markus Wissen (2018) What Kind of Great Transformation? The Imperial Mode of Living as a Major Obstacle to Sustainability Politics. *Gaia* 27 (3): 287-292. (Canvas, Readings)

Burke, Matthew and Jennie Stephens. 2018. Political Power and Renewable Energy Futures: A Critical Review. *Energy Research & Social Science* 35: 78-93.

Movement Generation. 2020. Transition is Inevitable, Justice Is Not: A Critical Framework for Just Recovery. <https://movementgeneration.org/transition-is-inevitable-justice-is-not-a-critical-framework-for-just-recovery/>

TBA

Nov 24 **Thanksgiving Recess**

Dec 2 **Research and Writing
Consultations with Instructor**

Dec 9&TBD **Presentations of Research Project (Let us discuss feasibility of second set of presentations in the afternoon or evening of December 6, 7, or 8. If so each seminar meeting will be 90 minutes long. Alternatively we can have a longer meeting on the 9th but not later than 5:30.**

Dec 16 (Fr) **Research Project Due (5pm) [~3,500-4,000 words plus refs]**