

Energy and Energy Transitions

1. Role of Public Policy in India's Energy Transition: Exploring Challenges at the Intersection of Governance, Technology, and Politics

Convenor	Dwarkeshwar Dutt, Principal Project Scientist, IIT Delhi
Co-Convenor(s)	Anita Pinheiro, Independent Researcher
Keywords	Energy Transition, Policy, Politics

Call for Abstracts

The theme of the panel is to explore the role of public policy and the state in conceptualising, examining, and addressing the multifarious challenges associated with India's energy transition. It explores various facets of public policy including design (i.e. process of defining policy goals and tools to achieve them), politics (i.e. power relations shaping various policy aspects), process (i.e. different sequential stages of policy), and implementation (i.e. how policies are put into effect).

The panel will focus on the governance and justice aspects of public policy and welcomes empirical, theoretical, and methodological contributions. The panel will explore critical questions on the role of public policy in various aspects of politics, technology, and governance of India's energy transition by focusing on, but not limiting itself to, the following questions:

- How effectively can policy address the challenges to renewable energy technology deployment, cross-sectoral supply chain management, and aligning different energy policy goals that can sometimes seem to be in conflict with each other?
- How is energy policy shaped by changes in technological and political domains?
- What is the role of public policy in ensuring a just energy transition in India?
- How can decolonization and non-western conceptual frames aid in understanding the unique context of energy transitions in developing countries like India?
- What are the policy barriers in the adoption of decentralised renewable energy technologies like rooftop solar, solar irrigation pumps etc. and how can these be overcome?
- What are the various conflicts and complementarities between different policy goals such as environmental sustainability, social equity, energy security, energy affordability etc. of energy transition? How can policy minimize these conflicts and leverage complementarities?

2. Energy Transitions & Policy Implications: Perspectives from the Global South

Convenor	Maitreyee Mukherjee, Institute for Environment & Sustainability (IES), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), NUS
Co-Convenor(s)	Sapan Thapar, Associate Professor, TERI School of Advanced Studies Sebastian Sewerin, Senior Research Fellow, IES, LKYSPP, NUS

Keywords	Energy, Energy Transitions
<p>Call for Abstracts</p> <p>Emerging economies in the Global South play a key role in the fight against climate change, given their vulnerability to climate impacts and enormous potential for emissions reduction through green transitions. However, expectations of a linear energy transition in the Global South often overlook the complexities of economic growth trajectories, poverty alleviation struggles, energy security concerns and energy access challenges.</p> <p>Understanding the opportunities, challenges, and policy drivers of energy transitions in the Global South holds the key to unlocking the potentials for transitioning towards a low-carbon economy. By promoting inclusive and equitable climate solutions, fostering international cooperation, and providing technical as well as financial support to the Global South, the world can advance along a more sustainable, resilient, and just energy transition path.</p> <p>The panel aims to stimulate discussion around developing effective policy solutions for the energy transition that will align with socio-economic, political, and sustainable development priorities of developing and emerging economies in the Global South. The panel would examine the opportunities, barriers, and policy design approaches to address energy transition bottlenecks in Asia and the Southeast, drawing upon best practice cases. The panel invites theoretical/ conceptual and empirical papers exploring policy levers and barriers for energy transition pathways in the Global South, specifically focussing on Asia and the South-east. A few guiding questions of interest (but not exhaustive) include,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What drives adoption and scale-up of emerging technologies to accelerate energy transition in developing countries in the Global South? ● What approaches for innovative policy design can inform policy makers to effectively address technological, financial, and capacity related challenges to lay down effective energy transition pathways? ● How can countries in the Global South, ensure a just & equitable energy transition pathway, while addressing economic and energy security threats? ● What is the role of regional energy partnership agreements like SAREP, JETP, in accelerating energy transitions? How can carbon markets be used effectively to mobilise private finance towards developing low-carbon energy alternatives? 	

3. Policy Processes of Energy Transitions in the Global South	
Convenor	Pooja Vijay Ramamurthi, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)
Co-Convenor(s)	Nihit Goyal, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)
Keywords	Energy Transitions, Policy Processes, Climate Policy
<p>Call for Abstracts</p> <p>The world needs to undertake coordinated and rapid action to decarbonise its economy, a crucial element of which will be an energy transition. This is particularly important for the Global South whose additional energy demand will play a key role in determining global sustainability futures. Techno-economic policy solutions, theories of policy making, market tools and decision-making aids applied to the Global North may not be best suited to industrialising countries which have varying levels of institutional capacity, levels of economic</p>	

growth and resource constraints. It becomes important to understand whether it is necessary to move away from the one-size-fits-all approach when trying to achieve impactful and scalable policy change for decarbonisation.

The key research questions this panel wishes to engage with are:

- Why and how do state and non-state policymakers in the Global South involve themselves in or with energy transitions?
- What role do international public administrations or developments elsewhere play in influencing energy policymaking in the Global South?
- (How) Do policy processes in energy transitions in the Global South differ from those in the Global North?
- To what extent do existing theories explain policy processes in energy transitions in the Global South?

We invite scholars to submit conceptual or empirical papers using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods within the scope of the above-mentioned questions. We are especially interested in manuscripts that challenge conventional thinking; synthesise concepts, theories, or frameworks; or investigate understudied empirical settings. The paper may focus on a single country, a group of countries or a comparative piece.

4. Strategic Autonomy, Green Technology and Challenges to Just Transitions

Convenor	Mel George, Center for Global Sustainability, University of Maryland
Co-Convenor(s)	Anjali Sharma, Ashank Desai Center for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay Pallavi Das, Council for Energy, Environment & Water (CEEW), New Delhi
Keywords	Just Transitions, Trade Protectionism, Climate Change

Call for Abstracts

The Covid supply chain crises, the invasion of Ukraine, conflicts in the Middle East, the rise of protectionism, and trade wars have had significant impacts on global energy and material security, leading many major economies to seek more control over resource access. These events have highlighted the risks in relying too heavily on external sources for critical materials and energy supplies, as well as upended the global world order established at the end of the Cold War. In response, countries are taking steps towards strategic autonomy to safeguard their interests. Alongside these developments, there is also a growing but even focus on climate policies. However, the motivations are not solely environmental; there is a competitive aspect as well. Countries are using subsidies, domestic policies, and trade measures to gain a competitive advantage in clean energy technologies. This panel seeks to evolve into a detailed discussion on the changes in energy strategies due to geopolitical issues and the competition in clean energy technologies. Our panel will explore new scenarios in the energy-climate realm in the light of the recent geopolitical events, examining the current global distrust and the green technology race and how it impacts the Global South, and especially the most vulnerable sections in those populations. What is the impact of protectionist measures in a high ambition climate policy and Just Transition context respectively? We invite papers on related themes and especially intend to promote papers and contributions improving our understanding of how brown energy import taxes, technology cooperation, and domestic revenue recycling affect various outcome variables in these contexts.

5. The Malady of Just Energy Transition: Negotiating Climate Change in a fiercely Contested and Fragmented Global Space

Convener	Manashvi Kumar, Joint Secretary, (MoHFW), New Delhi
Co-Convener(s)	Sushanta K. Chatterjee, Chief Regulatory Affairs, CERC Navdeep Mathur, Professor, IIM Ahmedabad. Gurneet Tej, School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi
Keywords	Anthropocene, Anthropomorphism, Just Transitions

Call for Abstracts

We are living and surviving in an era of 'anthropocene'. The impending climate crisis has an innate anthropomorphic dimension and delirious connect. This panel makes an attempt to shed light on the apparent disjuncture between maligned understanding and a heavily promoted rhetoric, both of which go by the epithet of polysemy that shrouds the concept of just transition in the fiercely contested space of climate change. The torment of the just transition phenomenon begins with its definitional penumbra. Frequently, this key term is conflated with a set of disparate qualitative traits that are not definitionally entailed.

The first task of the panel, therefore, is to cast a broader and practical concept for purposes of operational discussion. The panel emphasizes upon the fact that, the phenomenon under study cannot be generalized across a larger set of socio-cultural units. Further, by the definitional standards of praxis, the phenomenon remains at a secluded distance from the action arena of just action.

In other respects, the predicament of a just transition phenomenon is not merely definitional but rather inherent to the concept itself. Firstly, a just transition phenomenon builds upon a variety of covariational evidence; there is no single type of just transition evidence. Second, the phenomenon assumes a categorical distinction when studied units are located in different cultures and geographies. It is never entirely clear as the units /parameters of evaluation that are brought into the analysis compromise on the real context of its functional trajectory. Third, this phenomenon apparently performs a dual function; it is a manifestation (of the development culture itself) as well as a concept (comprising different evaluative parameters and non-axiomatic assumptions). Finally, the inference(s) pursued by an evaluative procedure for this phenomenon may be either illustrative or falsifiable. These methodological issues bedevil the understanding of just transition phenomena. And they shall continue to do so, for they are inherent in the debate between survival and luxury in terms of a production system.

The panel shall delve into issues emanating from deeply entrenched incursions within the 'space of energy transition'

- Agenda setting through a product proponent aiming at greening production systems
- Influence of collusive lobbies and interest groups which occupy the contested space
- Locational proximity to political power
- Supply side issues of transition management
- Incapacitated institutions to brace the impact of swift changes
- Nascent and evolving technology
- Muted socio-cultural spaces of energy consumption and end use.

The panel shall navigate through three dominant conceptions of policy making vis a vis managing and sustaining 'just energy transition', viz., rationalist-positivist, discursive- interpretative, and strategic. The contextual labyrinth shall provide meaningful lessons for policy makers and practitioners on-the-ground, attempting to implement context-specific, energy transition approaches, often with fewer resources than they actually need, to support rapid energy transitions.