



Institute for Social Sciences
Research (ISSR)
University of Dundee

**Just Transition Hub
Institute for Social Sciences Research**



New Approaches to Just Transition
Report

**2021 Annual International Symposium
25 June 2021
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New Approaches to Just Transition

2021 Annual International Symposium

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25 June 2021

University of Dundee

Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4HN

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INTRODUCTION

The symposium 'New Approaches to Just Transition' was organized by the Dundee Just Transition Hub via live webcast on 25th June, 2021. The symposium brought together over 200 attendees from different parts of the world and from different backgrounds ranging from academia, NGOs and UN agencies.

The primary objective of the symposium was to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching about just transition, notably by developing new interdisciplinary, epistemological and methodological approaches to just transition; and to serve as a focal point for academics across social sciences who are interested in the topic, to debate and research.

The symposium was structured to review many aspects of the conversations surrounding just transition. The first panel addressed the different methodological approaches to just transition and here, thoughts of how the research on just transition could benefit from some of the methods used in human rights were highlighted. The second panel spoke about the global experiences of just transition policies where different speakers from different parts of the world shared national experiences of the transition. The third panel focused on the different tools to implement a just transition where different strategies and policies to implement a just transition were discussed. The fourth panel concluded by exploring the critical perspectives of the just transition.

This report is therefore a summary of the discussions that occurred in the symposium and aims to stimulate more conversation and debates on the just transition.

The Just Transition Hub Team

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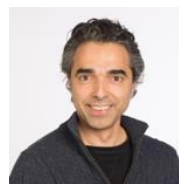
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OPENING REMARKS

RAFAEL HEFFRON, DIRECTOR, THE JUST TRANSITION HUB

Professor Heffron extended a warm welcome on behalf of the Just Transition Hub and its organizing committee to all the attendees. He thanked the **Institute for Social Sciences Research** (ISSR) at the University of Dundee for funding to kickstart this initiative. He thanked everyone for being part of the journey in ensuring the success of this symposium. He reminded everyone that in essence, the key theme of the symposium implied a journey. He pointed out that the ‘transition’ as the word itself implies, is very much about a journey and we are thinking of that journey; the transition to a low carbon economy and about how we will have justice in that journey. Professor Heffron acknowledged last year’s United Nations call for all states to declare a climate emergency and stressed that we all have a role and an obligation to be part of this action and that is essentially what we should all aim to achieve.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DARREN MCCAULEY, ERASMUS UNIVERSITY, ROTTERDAM, NE

RESEARCHING THE JUST TRANSITION

Professor McCauley's gave the keynote talk, which focused on adopting an approach towards methods that is not restricted to a particular methodological approach. The first methodological step he discussed was systematic reviews which includes looking at strategic documents such as labour union documents and government documents in a systematic way. The second method which is quantitative in nature, consists in the use of the existing measures available e.g. use of freely, available, open access data. The third type of methodological approach that he spoke on was more qualitative in nature. He explained that for this type of research, what we tend to get is a detailed analysis of data interviews with either organisations in terms of organisational perceptions or in terms of community perceptions. Another type of qualitative research is on critical interpretations of the just transition. For this, he gave an example of Professor John Barry's work on the coal supply system connections between the US and Colombia which was a great example of taking a more critical view of the capitalist structures that exist through an assessment of interviews. The fourth approach that he shared was mapping which allows us to map where inequality exists. The last thread of methodological research that he discussed was what he referred to as mixed methods. This method involves combining GIS mapping with qualitative interviews in order to identify the just transition mechanisms in more detail and specification. Professor McCauley concluded by stating that all these methods provide such great enrichment of the just transition, telling us where iniquities emerge in the transition away from fossil fuels, how we will enable this move away from fossil fuels and subsequently, to give clear policy recommendations across the literatures stated.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- *To what extent do you think that energy justice and just transition are different approaches, and how are their focuses different? And do you think there are any dangers of using the language interchangeably?*

According to Professor McCauley, the two concepts are quite distinct both in their focus and objectives. For just transition, the employment consideration has to be a central point of concern for researchers and policymakers. The reasoning behind this is that the just transition concept emerged from trade unions in the past and this is not the case in energy justice. However, some of the dimensions in energy justice and just transition can often overlap. Environmental justice, climate justice, energy justice and just transition often refer to similar concepts and ideas such as distribution and recognition. He considers energy justice to be more powerful when applied to an energy system, as it allows you to look at where the inequalities are, the policy remedies, the legal remedies, etc.; for just transition, you could indeed do this, but you cannot limit your frame to one energy system. In addition to that, energy justice does not engage explicitly with the transition. According to Professor McCauley, the just transition framework places the transition

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aspect front and centre in a way that energy justice does not and to him, the overlaps between these different justice concepts is not precisely a danger but a strength.

- *The ILO and authors like Atteridge and Strambo have developed principles for the just transition. Do you find these useful and is your work guided by what is happening more in EU policy contexts?*

Professor McCauley acknowledged the importance of the development principles particularly from an ILO perspective. He went on to describe how in academia, many scholars want as many inputs as possible into what the underlying principles should be and then go out to test whether they are useful or not. He contended that he is driven by principles and ideas that can be tested, and indeed, should inspire research for both policy practitioners as well as academics. He underscored the need to go out there and test those principles and see to what extent they are useful and they can make a change.

- *Countries in the global South transitioning to low carbon economies might have slightly different conceptions of justice, and by extension those of the just transition. Would universal frameworks of a just transition still make sense? and what approaches in general would be suited for such developing economies.*

Professor McCauley pointed out that we cannot take justice from a single perspective, as the concept of cosmopolitan justice shows. What we need to do is to combine different justice frameworks to stop us from simply deciding to have one global justice view. We need to have these different dimensions so that we are aware of the distributional inequalities that are, for example, much heavily set in the global South than in the North in a way that a single cosmopolitan perspective would not recognise.

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PANEL 1: METHODS FOR JUST TRANSITION

CHAIR: DR SUFYAN EL DROUBI, DIRECTOR, THE JUST TRANSITION HUB

SPEAKER: EDZIA CARVALHO, UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE, UK

WHAT LESSONS CAN SCHOLARS OF THE JUST TRANSITION LEARN FROM HUMAN RIGHTS MEASUREMENT?

Dr Carvalho opened this session by providing some insights on two concepts of measurement. The first one was what she referred to as the moment of measurement and the second concept was the purpose of measurement. In talking about the moment of measurement, she addressed two questions. The first question is, what is (and isn't) being measured in relation to human rights and the second question is how is this concept being measured. In seeking to answer the first question, Dr Carvalho explored the following features of human rights which are human rights in Principle e.g. laws and constitutions; human rights as Policy; human rights in Practice and a fourth "P" which is human rights as Perception. These conceptualizations of human rights give us a somewhat clear concept that would allow us to measure what human rights are. There is however a challenge when it comes to having a clear concept and that is it binds that concept in time and in context and so as events change and as experiences change, changing the meaning of that concept becomes extremely difficult. When it comes to how is it being measured, Dr Carvalho emphasized that measurement is also not just about numbers, it is also about context and discourse and this is because measurement is about concepts and distilling abstract concepts into an empirical reality. The second concept of measurement, the purpose of measurement, addressed three questions which are: who is doing the measuring? for what purpose? and how are the measures being used? Dr Carvalho answered the first question by explaining that there are groups that collect data and then turn these data into measures, mainly NGOs and states. She answered the second question of why do we measure by stating that we measure human rights in order to produce scientific knowledge and to facilitate organizational management and reform within states, NGO's etc. About how these measures are being used, she stated that these measures are used for a variety of reasons outside academia. Dr Carvalho concluded her presentation by expressly stating that good practice in human rights measurement is about being transparent about what is being measured and how it is being used.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- *At the beginning of your presentation, you mentioned the problem of open definitions or open concept definitions that aim to have too much information. How widespread do you think this is? first, is this a real problem? and second how widespread is it in human rights?*

Dr Carvalho stated that in terms of how widespread the absence of definitions are, it depends on the sector so when it comes to organizations that deal with international law or with legal issues, they automatically

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turn towards what human rights definitions are in the law. More often than not, these organisations do not measure human rights, or if they do measure human rights, they do not do it explicitly. When it comes to measuring human rights, it is extremely widespread. This is because it is very rare to find in human rights, a definition of what is being measured. If the definition is there, it is usually a definition that comes from one of the international covenants and that definition is then treated as law rather than the definition of a concept.

- *In reference to Adcock and Collier's work on measurement, the process of choosing one definition to apprehend an empirical phenomenon, looks subjective. How do you deal with these incongruency while doing a positivist research where the issue of bias might crop up especially given the context of rational universal human rights of the Enlightenment era?*

Dr Carvalho agreed with the aforementioned statement and stressed the need for transparency. She added that it is subjective choosing a definition, treating that definition as if it were the only definition and having a consensus on that definition because that is precisely what we are trying to avoid. When we choose a definition, we really need to be clear about why we have chosen that definition and what that definition does not include. That is where the limitations of the measures start by what you exclude in the definition. Dr Carvalho concluded by mentioning that she agrees that it is absolutely subjective and because it is subjective, there is need for transparency of measurements.

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PANEL 2: GLOBAL EXPERIENCES OF JUST TRANSITION POLICIES

CHAIR: DR FERNANDO FERNANDES, DIRECTOR, JUST TRANSITION HUB

SPEAKER: ANDRZEJ BLACHOWICZ, CLIMATE STRATEGIES, UK

JUST TRANSITIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Mr. Blachowicz's paper focused on three countries: Colombia, Ghana and Indonesia. His findings revealed that first, just transition strategies must be adapted to suit each country's context. Second, he suggested that we engage with partners in developing countries when talking about just transition as they provide local knowledge and expertise. His final point was on knowledge sharing between government departments. He emphasized this because in most countries, departments dealing with NDC submissions also deal with national policies and therefore might be unaware of just transition conversations happening elsewhere.

SPEAKER: SIMÓN LADINO-CANO, UNIVERSITÉ SORBONNE NOUVELLE- PARIS 3, FR

CHALLENGES FOR A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION IN ANDEAN ECONOMIES

Dr Ladino-Cano's paper provided a comparative view of the energy transition processes in the two main Andean economies of Chile and Colombia. He analyzed two regional case studies: La Guajira in Colombia and Antofagasta in Chile where several projects are under construction. He noted that these large-scale projects are rapidly transforming the landscape and the social relationships that constitute it. In this regard he highlighted the following intertwined challenges to prevent that dependency from spoiling the transformative potential of the energy transition underway. First, the environmental challenge of decarbonizing as a way to solve socio-environmental conflicts associated with mining extractivism and thermal generation. Second, the economic challenge of replacing coal revenues and jobs with a new regional value change around non-conventional renewable energy (NCRE) sources. Third, the social challenge of transcending the fossil fuel enclave logic to solve energy poverty phenomena. Dr. Ladino-Cano concluded by stating that a novel vision to move towards a just transition in the Andean economies must interrelate with these challenges.

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SPEAKER: ANA ESTEFANÍA CARBALLO, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, AU

LATIN AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMAGINING A ZERO-CARBON FUTURE

Dr Carballo's paper addressed three questions: What exactly constitutes a just transition to a sustainable future? How do we construct these imaginaries that will guide the transition? What voices do they privilege? She noted that in Latin America, imagining the transition to a more sustainable future has been at the core of the academic and policy discussions on post-extractivism. She argued that bringing these conversations of post-extractivism closer helps in rethinking the just transition narrative and its articulation efforts. In conclusion, Dr Carballo mentioned that engaging this Latin American literature highlights the importance of thinking relationally on the possible iterations of this transition to a zero-carbon world. It also enables a new set of questions that connect us with the rationale and impetus behind extractivism and energy production and to the worlds that they will enable.

SPEAKER: JOSÉ GÁLVEZ CONTRERAS, SOLAR ONE, THE NEW SCHOOL FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, US

THE ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY GROUPS IN ENERGY DEMOCRACY FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Mr. Contreras called attention to the importance of intermediary groups and policymakers in making this transition happen. There are three main questions that his paper addressed. Firstly, why are intermediary groups important in advancing a just transition framework and in particular implementing energy democracy systems? Secondly, how do intermediary groups bridge knowledge of local grassroots social movements groups at the state level? And thirdly, what is the impact of intermediary groups on current energy democracy systems, the energy economy and governance? He adopted a mixed qualitative approach comprising of systematic reviews and case study analysis through interviews and surveys. He concluded by highlighting that his paper is significant because it explores the composition of intermediary groups involving energy democracy initiatives for a just transition by looking at what characteristics they all share.

SPEAKER: MARIANO FÉLIZ, UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA, AR

LIMITS TO RADICAL ALTERNATIVES BEYOND A LATIN AMERICAN GREEN NEW DEAL

Professor Feliz began by stating that there are many proposals for Green New Deals that are grounded in a capitalist vision. According to him, these proposals have several limits. First, they ignore the structural dependency, which means that the North gets greener at the cost of increasing super exploitation, plundering and pollution in the South. There is also the question of racial capitalism, which remains at the core of the hegemonic transitional green projects. He added that these projects tend to put their capitalist state at the centre of these transitions, which is really a problem because the state has been promoting

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and defending big static corporations in many countries. Professor Feliz proposed that we have to build a new deal from below to the left and he noted that there are many environmental groups that began to move from the opposition to proposing viable alternatives to extractivism. He also suggested that we have to move from individualisation processes for just transitions to collective departures in order to begin building a new world.

SPEAKERS: KATHARINE MCGOWAN, MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY, CA AND NINO ANTADZE, UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CA

A NEED TO DECOLONIZE THE EFFORT TO DECARBONIZE

Professors McGowan and Antadze highlighted the importance of indigenous and marginalized voices in just transition and underscored the need to foster reciprocal and respectful inclusion of these voices in the research and policy development processes. As part of producing a knowledge synthesis report on just transitions, they have been working with members of the Siksika Blackfoot Nation (Alberta, Canada) in order to understand and incorporate their perspectives on the concept of just transition. From their findings, the elders highlighted important points related to just transition. The first and most powerful was the idea of just stewardship. For them, just stewardship was key to reconciliation and that to reconcile or to decolonize is to have a just transition. The elders also stressed on the role of women in just transition as they felt it was underdeveloped in the literature. They concluded their presentation by encouraging others to build reciprocal relationships with elders and marginalized communities as key co-researchers and co-designers as it is very important when it comes to just transition dialogues.

SPEAKER: MATHEUS GOBBATO LEICHTWEIS, UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BR

JUST A GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION OF JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Dr Leichtweis argued that energy transition under the current institutional and normative design of Agenda 2030 is not necessarily just. He analyzed SDG7 as a model for his study and demonstrated that energy transition under the current framework account just for a 'green' or 'clean' energy transition, rather than for a 'just' energy transition. By using Brazil as a case study, he demonstrated that even countries engaged in a clean energy transition are still unable to tackle challenges such as energy poverty and injustice. Therefore, he suggested that only by incorporating tradeoffs and synergies between goals, social justice concerns, historical and class antagonisms (North-South divide), can transitions be just under SDGs Agenda.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- *In relation to underlying historical, structural issues across the global south such as armed conflicts and the overlap between energy transition and existing land conflicts as well as issues of race and*

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structural racism in society. How does all these overlap with issues and challenges for energy transition?

Mr. Contreras commented that when we think about climate and environmental justice we cannot dismiss that people of colour, marginalized communities and indigenous groups are the ones that have been impacted the most either from the global north or the global south. It is therefore important to understand that just transition can only be just when people who have been impacted the most have a seat at the table and they are the ones making the decisions and having ownership of the matters that really are important to them.

Dr Carballo added that most of the time when we think about transitioning to renewable energy systems, it is very difficult for countries in the global south to envision that as it is usually perceived as a very northern perspective. Using Argentina as an example, Dr Carballo contends that there are people living around the lithium mines who do not even have electricity and they therefore have to negotiate with companies coming from the global north to extract the lithium without even a little stake in the provision of this renewable energy resource. She thinks that these perspectives are very important to have and that the inequality that we need to address in the global north is central to the just transition.

Dr Antadze also stated that it is very important to be sensitive and attentive to the language that these communities use. She noted that people in academia have certain set of concepts that they use that are not useful to what the communities have. The communities have their own language and way of explaining the lived experience that they have. Drawing from her own experiences, she describes working with communities that oppose hydro power developments in South Eastern Europe. These are the phenomena that we can describe through environmental justice literature, but this is not the language that these communities use. She appreciated the need to be appreciative of different discursive ways of how these experiences are conveyed by different communities.

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PANEL 3: TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT A JUST TRANSITION

CHAIR: DR FERNANDO FERNANDES, DIRECTOR, THE JUST TRANSITION HUB

SPEAKER: JOHN BARRY, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST, UK

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND NAVIGATING THE JUST TRANSITION

Professor Barry highlighted two important points in the just transition concept. Firstly, we need contestation, and secondly, is the idea of non-violent disagreement as an essential part of non-progressive, just transition politics. He emphasized that conflict is inevitable and therefore, we need to think of how we can actually conceptualise it and integrate it into any action-oriented research that we may do. In his paper, he adopted a civic or green republican approach which has three elements. Firstly, the idea of democracy as non-violent disagreement is something that is both healthy and inevitable. The second point is with regard to contestation as (sometimes) being more important than consensus. And finally, agonistic conflict can improve both solutions and democratic legitimacy of decisions and strategies. He concluded by declaring that conflict is inevitable, that we will have winners and losers in the transition to a low carbon or indeed renewable energy future. We need to recognise that and build in from the lessons we have seen in ethno-nationalist conflict transformations in places like Northern Ireland.

SPEAKER: DANIEL SANDOVAL-CERVANTES, METROPOLITAN AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY, MX

JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND ENERGY DEMOCRACY IN DEPENDENT SOCIETIES

Professor Cervantes spoke about what energy transition means for Mexico, signaling some conditions that may be present in other dependent economies. Mexico has very high energy vulnerability because it is dependent on gas and gasoline from the US. This integration has posed many limitations for Mexican energy policy as it is defined mainly by the US energy policies. He highlighted several things that Mexico should do to deal with these challenges. First, he insisted that Mexico needs to lead by a concept of energy democracy. Energy democracy requires us to socialize with communities and indigenous people in terms of what kind of energy system they want to have. The other point is for Mexico to create a different term of integration, maybe think of intake of energy integration with countries that it is less dependent on. He concluded his presentation by suggesting that it is important for Mexico to start discussing degrowth and discussing industrial reconfiguration by acknowledging that renewable energies are necessary but won't be able to keep the demand that they have at the moment.

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SPEAKERS: MICHIEL A. HELDEWEG, UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE, NE AND SÉVERINE SAINTIER, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER, UK

EMBEDDING RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES AS SOCIO-LEGAL INSTITUTIONS: FOSTERING A BOTTOM- UP JUST AND DEMOCRATIC ENERGY TRANSITION.

Professor Saintier began by describing how decentralization and democratization of energy provisions are together seen as promising, policy approach towards an effective and just climate change driven energy transition, building upon the role of renewable energy communities e.g., the RED II directive. She suggested strengthening of the position of such communities by arguing for their recognition as legal entities to be embedded within a separate socio-legal institutional regime. Professor Heldeweg concluded by adding that in embedding community energy in the civil society network, we can help to achieve a transition towards a just and viable new energy system.

SPEAKER: LEONIE REINS, UNIVERSITY OF TILBURG, NE

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEMOCRACY AS A NEW REGULATORY APPROACH TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION.

Dr Reins' paper dealt with the legal aspects of energy transition more precisely sustainable energy democracy as a new regulatory approach towards a just transition. She argued that as much as there is a lot of debate in social science literature with regard to sustainable energy democracy, the concept is very much under explored with respect to what it means for law or regulation. Her presentation therefore focused on the legal categorization of sustainable energy democracy and this is where the triads comes into play. This basically refers to the hierarchy of norms which are rules, principles, and objectives. She concluded by suggesting that sustainable energy democracy should be viewed as an objective and she proposed the principle of sustainable development as the main principle for this purpose.

SPEAKER: KRISJANIS RUDUS, NORWEGIAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NO

THE RELATIONAL ECOLOGIES APPROACH AS A TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING ENERGY JUSTICE

Dr Rudus adopted a relational ecologies approach in investigating justice framings particularly in community renewable energy literature. Over the past few years, three specific framings of justice have dominated in the literature: justice as distribution, procedure, and recognition. He noted that the relational ecologies approach allowed him to identify the more dominant and emergent framings of justice as well as

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the potential implications of such justice landscape not only in terms of the current state of the field, but also the potential implications for policy making.

SPEAKER: MORGAN SCOTT, THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, US

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR A CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Ms. Scott presented on disadvantaged communities who have historically seen many of the costs and few of the benefits of energy system development. Disadvantaged communities could either be advanced by this transition or largely left behind by electrification initiatives, energy efficiency programming etc. She highlighted three main points that we must focus on. Firstly, we need to recognise that this is about the fair distribution of those costs and benefits. Secondly, collaboration and co-development should be prioritised. She affirmed that EPRI as an institute has been really thoughtful about how they can be an access that brings collaborators together to advance both research as well as the implementation of these concepts. Her last point was on the concept of demonstration projects being an opportunity to deliver early benefits. She mentioned the idea of advanced energy communities and how they can help in understanding how R&D technology pilots can help deliver early benefits to both low-income and historically disadvantaged communities.

SPEAKER: CECILIA ELIZONDO, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER, UK

JUST TRANSITION AND FOOD SECURITY: CONTEXTUALIZING JUSTICE IN THE FOOD SECTOR.

Dr Elizondo closed this session by presenting on the concept of just transition and food security. She highlighted three issues in relation to food security which are definitional, framing, and focal issues. She added that a just transition toward food security will require a comprehensive approach to food systems. The vulnerabilities of one sector of the food system will have huge implications to food security as a whole due to the interconnectivity of events. She concluded by highlighting the importance of changing frames. For a just transition, we need to move from rationales about feeding the world based on the need to increase production. A just transition will also require support for those mostly affected, mainly those that are already vulnerable to the inadequacy of the current system.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- *Do you think that democracy can be achieved without justice and vice versa justice without democracy?*

Professor Heldeweg underscored the need for human rights and he went on to acknowledge what Professor Cervantes brought forth about enshrining energy justice in terms of human rights which is hugely important as we have seen in recent climate change litigation. In his opinion, the two concepts are related to each other, with democracy being more of a tool towards the other.

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- *Can you have energy democracy within a larger authoritarian system?*

Professor Barry responded by saying that he did not think that it is possible to have energy democracy in such a circumstance. He went on to describe how what we really should be talking about here is not necessarily democracy, but democratization as an active force. That democracy, as Dr Elizondo noted, should not be associated with state-level liberal democratic systems. We need to ask ourselves these questions, why should democracy end at the factory gate? Why should democracy end at the office door? why should democracy end at a wind energy installation? These are important questions not just for energy democracy, but for the democratization of the energy means of production and the Marxist implications of all that.

Professor Heldeweg responded to this question by quoting principle 4 of Elinor Ostrom's 8 principles for managing the commons, 'make sure the rulemaking rights of the community members are respected by outside authorities.' He concluded by stating that while we could see this happening within an authoritarian context, the sort of institutional resilience of this would be fairly low.

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PANEL 4: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON JUST TRANSITION

CHAIR: DR SUFYAN EL DROUBI, DIRECTOR, THE JUST TRANSITION HUB

SPEAKER: ODYSSEAS CHRISTOU, UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA, CY

JUST TRANSITION TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Professor Christou's paper focused on six main characteristics of defining a just transition: financial investments, early assessment, public consultation, re-education, re-training, social welfare and lastly, economic diversification. When we look at the European Green Deal, we see that some elements, particularly on financial investments and economic diversification have been mentioned often while, we see very little focus on other principles such as labour, re-education, re-training and social welfare. He concluded by stating that the way forward is the recognition of the centrality of green skills acquisition and citizen engagement. There are a variety of elements already that lead us in that direction but there is so much that can be done. According to him, the process is under specified in terms of both a green skills framework and the role of education and training in the proliferation of these tools.

SPEAKER: TEAGAN GOFORTH, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, US

BALANCING COST, SUSTAINABILITY, AND DISTRIBUTIONAL EQUITY FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Ms. Goforth's paper focused on the question of how decarbonization policies impact sustainability and equity across the US. To answer this question, she developed a framework for analyzing the trade-offs between cost, sustainability, and equity under different electricity system decarbonization transition pathways. She accomplished this by coupling a least cost energy optimization model with a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) model. Her findings revealed that the lowest income group will be worse off by 2050 and that there are actually increasing trends of inequality. She concluded by stating that this analysis showed that using least cost methods to drive decarbonization decisions does not lead to equitable outcomes. This means that if an equitable energy transition is our goal, we need to include environmental sustainability and distributional equity in our decision-making framework.

SPEAKER: ALEXANDER HARRINGTON, ALBANY LAW SCHOOL, US

SDGS AS A TOOL FOR JUST TRANSITION IMPLEMENTATION.

Dr Harrington began by giving a background on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She noted that they were non-binding which means that they did not have the legal force of a treaty. She went on to describe how the vast majority of the SDGs do align with various aspects of what we think of the just

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transition and the obvious intersection is with SDG8 because it looks at decent work and economic growth and that is usually where many people, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, leave their analysis. It is therefore important to see how just transitions, from a policy perspective, a scientific perspective and from a legal perspective can be used to meet the sustainable development goals, targets and agenda. She concluded by acknowledging that SDGs are multi-faceted and they can bring together the concept of just transitions which is itself multi-faceted and both are intended to evolve and involve multiple disciplines and to function at the national and sometimes international level.

SPEAKER: GUL OZEROL, UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE, NE

INTERSECTIONALITY AND JUST TRANSITION: A CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

Professor Ozerol’s presentation emphasized the need to address the needs, interests and voices of vulnerable, disadvantaged or marginalized groups towards sustainable transitions. She stated that intersectionality is a concept that actually responds to these calls to say that these groups are not homogeneous, they are heterogeneous and that there are different levels and different aspects of social injustices that play out differently in the global north and in the global south. She noted that intersectionality can serve both as a concept and a method to address these issues and enhance the theoretical and empirical functions of just transition. As a concept deeply rooted in feminist theory and gender studies, intersectionality points out the multi-faceted social differences, such as gender, age, ethnicity, and income. As a method, intersectionality can be applied to co-create and analyze data with specific attention to contextual injustices, which play out differently in different localities, and to cross-sectorial injustices that arise from multiple sectors that relate to climate change.

SPEAKER: JO CUTTER, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, UK

WORKER VOICE IN JUST TRANSITION - BUILDING EVIDENCE IN PLACE-BASED CLIMATE POLICY

Dr Cutter began by mentioning that the ILO’s guiding principles and UNFCCC’s subsequent technical papers on the implementation of just transition place considerable emphasis on mechanisms for social dialogue as a tool for building coherent policy which assumes that mechanisms exist for stakeholders, including workers affected by low-carbon transitions, to have a voice within related climate policy making. She was therefore interested in the kind of empirical context of innovation that is going on locally in terms of how these systems of social dialogue are developing and the views of workers. She and her colleagues commissioned a national study where they surveyed over 2000 workers across the UK. From their findings, Dr Cutter highlighted the importance of dialogue as well as the importance of the survey as it challenges the narrow view of workers being resistant to change and sort of challenging it in terms of a fairly narrow

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sectional distributive justice frame. She concluded by stating she had a strong desire to see a transition policy developed in a way that connects to both worker and community voices.

SPEAKER: ZAFARI KHURSHID, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, RU

SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Mr. Khurshid's paper focused on monotowns which are very unique features of post-socialist and post-soviet countries. They refer to industrial towns that were established around a single factory mainly in the energy sector. Mr. Khurshid suggested that if we are going to reform these factories, we should also consider the role of those factories in the livelihoods of people who are living in those cities, for example in post-soviet area the livelihood and social services like education and healthcare are provided by those factories. Bringing energy efficient technologies into those factories will compromise the livelihood of majority of the population. Therefore, social protection schemes must also be designed for workers and for families who are benefiting from education and from health care. He added that social protection schemes can contribute to just transition in two ways: they can help to adapt to climate change and mitigate the consequences of climate change.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- *Do you think SDG's can actually deliver a just transition or put us on this pathway at least? I am wondering about it placing us on a pathway towards green capitalism which won't be just and risks delaying necessary efforts we need to make, to face the current multiple environmental crisis. SDG 8.4 for instance, relies on the decoupling between economic growth and environmental degradation while this decoupling has been so far not demonstrated.*

Professor Harrington commented that the SDG will certainly not be met or even partially achieved if we do not have a real focus by the private sector as well as the public sector on meeting the terms of the SDGs. She added that when we look at not only the SDG 8 work requirements, which have not been met in many instances to this point, we do see a real focus on making sure that we at least have basic levels of poverty addressed and basic levels of lack of access to work addressed etc. She noted that the SDGs can be a very meaningful tool and being a really critical time, it will be interesting to see what governments will commit to in terms of resources and which aspects of the SDGs they will give primacy to. She concluded by stating that we are seeing such a focus on the economic aspect of the SDGs which is often left out of the discussion because we focus more on the human rights aspect and thus this can be quite beneficial.

- *Why do we need to focus only on 'workers' in just transition related sectors? What about bankers or hospitality and other small business employees? if their businesses go bankrupt or slow down, they will also have to look for more jobs. If fossil fuel related companies experienced this, why do they get preferential treatment? Is that just?*

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Professor Cutter responded to this by stating that this is a debate that rages within the UK trade union movement as to why should energy workers have preferential treatment. There is a really interesting debate happening in terms of the transition not just being in the energy sector and that all sectors will need, to a varying degree, to make certain transitions. She concluded by saying that when we talk to certain industrial workers, they are perfectly happy to contemplate that change. They are not necessarily as narrowly encased in their vision for the future as some people suggest.

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CLOSING REMARKS

DR SUFYAN DROUBI, DIRECTOR, JUST TRANSITION HUB

Dr Droubi closed the symposium by thanking all the attendees and participants. He specifically thanked everyone for responding to the call for papers and for being in attendance. He thanked the Institute for Social Sciences Research (ISSR) at the University of Dundee for the funding and the assistance provided. He also thanked Dr Carvalho for organizing the online session as well as the researchers, Dr Naiara de Souza, Ruth Lelei and John O'Boyle who were crucial in ensuring the success of the event. He thanked Professor Heffron and Dr Fernandes who worked very hard to make the Just Transition Hub a reality. Dr Droubi concluded by reminding everyone of the main objectives of the Hub which are to build a network, work towards new projects, and help articulate the global debate on just transition.