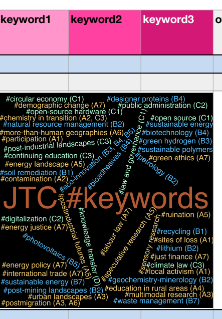
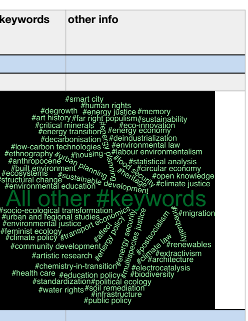
	category	group	name	description	branch	discipline	location (research)	keyword1	keyword2	keyword3	other keywords	other info
▾ **Database Description and Keywords**												
▾ **Description**												
	Database Description and Keywords	**Description**		The goal of the **JTC_Oak: Open Academic Network** is to facilitate dialogue amongst scholars working on social, ecological, and policy ramifications of regions undergoing structural change. This is accomplished using a non-proprietary, open-source database, map, and social network visualization. This database combines three qualitatively different datasets: 1. JTC employees and of members from its affiliate institutions 2. JTC_Oak Members, whose information has been verified with them, and who have given their express consent to be represented on the database, map, and network visualization. 3. JTC Open Knowledge Index, which includes brief, indexical information gathered from university websites and database. This database has been compiled using publicly-available data, and whenever possible, sources are stated. This database was compiled by Dr. Gregory Gan as part of JTC work for the A3 Team. Invaluable assistance on the spreadsheet, map, and data visualization was provided by HiWi members Milan Harms (2025), and Susanna Rütz (2026). As always, if you would like your profile modified or removed, or have any suggestions for scholars we should connect with, please contact network@jtc.uni-halle.de	Branches mirror JTC Pillars, and are represented by: 1. Social sciences (Pillar A) 2. Natural sciences (Pillar B) 3. Law, policy & education (Pillar C) 4. Applied research (Pillar D)	Stated **discipline**, **physical location**, and **research locations** were gathered from public sources. For the sake of subsequent data visualization, and to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, **keywords** have been narrowed to the following:		 #circular economy (C1) #designer proteins (B4) #demographic change (A7) #public administration (C2) #open-source hardware (C1) #chemistry in transition (A2, C3) #open source (C1) #natural resource management (B2) #sustainable energy #more-than-human geographies (A6) #biotechnology (B4) #participation (A1) #green hydrogen (B3) #post-industrial landscapes (C3) #sustainable polymers #continuing education (C3) #green ethics (A7) #energy landscape (A5) #eco-innovation (B3, B4, B5) #bioadhesives (B4, B5) #law and governance (C1) #petrology (B2) #soil remediation (B1) #contamination (A2) JTC#keywords #digitalization (C2) #ruination (A5) #energy justice (A7) #postindustrial futures (A5) #knowledge transfer (D) #labour law (A7) #speculative research (A5) #sensory research #recycling (B1) #sites of loss (A1) #photovoltaics (B5) #lithium (B2) #just finance (A7) #energy policy (A7) #climate law (C3) #international trade (A7) #local activism (A1) #sustainable energy (B7) #geochemistry-minerology (B2) #education in rural areas (A4) #post-mining landscapes (B2) #multimodal research (A3) #urban landscapes (A3) #waste management (B7) #postmigration (A3, A6)			 #smart city #human rights #degrowth #energy justice #memory #art history #far right populism #sustainability #critical minerals #eco-innovation #energy transition #energy economy #decarbonisation #deindustrialization #low-carbon technologies #environmental law #ethnography #housing #labour environmentalism #anthropocene #urban planning #statistical analysis #built environment #food security #circular economy #ecosystems #heritage #open knowledge #structural change #sustainable development #climate justice #environmental education #energy planning All other #keywords #socio-ecological transformation #migration #urban and regional studies #transport economics #environmental justice #feminist ecology #affect #energy policy #energy security #multispecies justice #postsocialism #inequality #climate policy #climate law #renewables #community development #artistic research #extractivism #architecture #chemistry-in-transition #electrocatalysis #health care #education policy #biodiversity #standardization #political ecology #water rights #soil remediation #infrastructure #public policy	
▾ **JTC Structure**												
▾ **JTC Introduction**												
	JTC Structure	**JTC Introduction**		**About us** The European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) deals with questions of the day after tomorrow for a just, sustainable and climate-neutral transition. This transfer is a two-way process between science, society and business, in which scientific findings are translated into practical innovations and practical experiences are examined in research. {{https://jtc.uni-halle.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/jtc-strukturwandel-square.webp}} **Innovation teams** The aim of the JTC is to find research-based, practice-oriented solutions for the specific challenges and needs of the post-mining region of Central Germany. This is the aim of 17 innovation teams, which are made up of interdisciplinary members from the humanities and social sciences as well as the natural and material sciences at Martin Luther University. The innovation teams are an interface between theory and practice and thus actively promote transfer and start-up orientation. [[https://jtc.uni-halle.de/en/just-transition-society-halis/]]								
▾ **Advisory board**												
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Prof. Dr. Thomas Brockmeier**	Chief Executive Officer, Halle-Dessau Chamber of Industry and Commerce; spokesperson The Chief Executive Officer of the Halle-Dessau Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) has led the institution since 2011. He studied economics in Marburg and at the University of Illinois and completed a dissertation on *competition and entrepreneurship in system transformation*. Before joining the IHK, he held senior management roles at an international media research institute, served on the board of a cooperative focused on regional economic development, directed an institute for cooperation and SME research at Philipps University Marburg, and worked as a research associate in economics. He teaches economic policy and the history of economic thought at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and holds several mandates, including positions at the Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, and the University of Applied Sciences Merseburg. He is a member of the Verein für Socialpolitik, the Schumpeter Society, the Marburg Society for Economic Order, and the State Integration Council of Saxony-Anhalt.	Applied research	Economics	*unspecified*	#public policy	#inequality	#law and governance		
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Christine Sattler,**	Managing Director, Halle (Saale) Volunteer Agency; deputy spokesperson Christine Sattler is the long-standing managing director of the **Freiwilligen-Agentur Halle-Saalkreis e.V.**, where she has been shaping civic engagement and community participation in Halle for many years. Her work focuses on building bridges across sectors and strengthening social cohesion through large-scale engagement initiatives such as the annual *Freiwilligentage*, which she describes as moments that show "what community truly means: people who step in with heart and joy simply because it matters to them" . She is a visible voice in Halle's civil society, actively supporting democratic culture and community resilience. In her posts, she highlights the importance of initiatives like the WIR-Festival, which she praises for standing up "for democracy, diversity and respectful coexistence in Halle" . Under her leadership, the Freiwilligen-Agentur drives innovative formats such as the *nAchtschicht Halle*—an eight-hour creative marathon connecting designers and IT professionals with nonprofits—and regional cooperation platforms like *Gute Geschäfte für Klima & Umwelt*.	Applied research	Pedagogy	Halle-Saalekreis	#community development	#inequality	#participation		
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Peter Hinrichs**	Advisor for Research Funding, Technology Transfer, Cooperation between Science and Industry at the Ministry of Economics, Science and Digitalisation of the State of Saxony-Anhalt Peter Hinrichs is a senior policy officer at the Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection and Environment of Saxony-Anhalt, where he has worked since 2011. His portfolio covers a broad range of responsibilities in research policy, research funding, and knowledge and technology transfer. His work includes the state excellence initiative, support for university and non-university research clusters, funding of innovative individual projects, EU structural-fund programmes, budget and evaluation processes, cooperation between science and industry, patent utilisation at universities, graduate funding, and the promotion of equal opportunities in academia. Before joining the ministry, he spent seventeen years at the Ministry of Education of Saxony-Anhalt, working in science policy, press and public relations, and research funding. He began his career as a policy officer at the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture of Brandenburg, focusing on general science policy and the work of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs.	Applied research	Science and Innovation Policy	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#public policy	#law and governance	#standardization		
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Stefan Kipfelsberger**	Head of Department for Structural Change in Central Germany and Coordination Office for Funding Policy at the State Chancellery and Ministry of Culture of Saxony-Anhalt Stefan Kipfelsberger is the head of Department 29: "Structural Change in the Central German Revier and Coordination Office for Funding Policy" in the State Chancellery of Saxony-Anhalt. In this role, he oversees the implementation of the Coal Commission's recommendations in Saxony-Anhalt and coordinates funding policy related to the region's long-term transformation. His work focuses on supporting municipalities, businesses, and research institutions as they navigate structural change, ensuring that funding instruments, development strategies, and regional partnerships are aligned to create sustainable economic perspectives.	Law, policy & education	Governance	Halle (Saale, Germany)	#public policy	#infrastructure	#participation		
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Prof. Dr. Raj Kollmorgen**	Sociologist, Zittau-Görlitz University of Applied Sciences **Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Raj Kollmorgen** is a leading scholar of **comparative transformation research**, with a focus on revolutions and reforms in the 19th and 20th centuries, post-socialist change, socio-ecological transformation, regional development, demographic change, social inequality, and political populism. His work bridges theory and empirical research on social change, management and organizational studies, political sociology, and urban and regional research, with strong expertise in qualitative methods. He studied philosophy, social sciences, and economics at Humboldt University and TU Berlin (1985–1991), completed his PhD in sociology at the University of Jena (1999), and received his habilitation at the University of Magdeburg (2010). Between 1992 and 2013 he held academic positions as researcher, lecturer, and professor at institutions in Halle, Berlin, Jena, Magdeburg, Toronto, Erfurt, and Cluj-Napoca. Since 2013 he has been **Professor of Management of Social Change** at the University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Görlitz, where he also served as programme director of the Master's degree in *Management of Social Change* until 2021. From 2020 to 2025 he was the university's **Vice-Rector for Research**. In April 2025 he became **Director of the Research Institute for Transformation, Housing and Social Spatial Development (TRAWOS)**.	Social sciences	Political sociology	Germany, East Germany,	#postsocialism	#inequality	#postindustrial futures	#far-right populism	
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Prof. Dr. Judith Miggelbrink**	Director of the Institute for Regional Geography in Leipzig **Prof. Dr. Judith Miggelbrink** is Director of the **Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)** and Professor of Regional Geography at the University of Leipzig. Previously, she was Professor of Human Geography at TU Dresden and held long-standing research and leadership roles at the IfL. She studied geography, mathematics, sociology, public administration, spatial planning, and history in Münster. Her work focuses on **human geography, borders, regional development, socio-ecological relations, visual geographies, populism, and peripherisation**, and she is active in several major research networks and editorial boards.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Global	#migration	#postsocialism	#more-than-human geographies		
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Prof. Dr Marcel Quint**	Professor of Crop Yield Physiology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg **Prof. Dr. Marcel Quint** is a W3 Professor of Crop Physiology at the Institute of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, a position he has held since 2015. His research focuses on **plant physiology, temperature-dependent growth processes, thermomorphogenesis, and climate-related crop performance**, supported by major DFG and EU-funded projects. Before joining MLU, he led junior and senior research groups at the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Minnesota. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Hohenheim and a Diplom in Horticultural Sciences from Hannover University.	Natural sciences	Crop Physiology	Halle (Saale, Germany)	#biodiversity	#renewables	#biotechnology		
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Prof. Dr Gerd Unkelbach**	Head of Research 'Polymers & Molecular Bioproducts' at UPM Biochemicals Prof. Dr. Gerd Unkelbach is a technical chemist with more than twenty years of experience, he specializes in the **development and scale-up of pretreatment, fractionation, (bio)chemical conversion, and downstream processing of renewable raw materials**. He has extensive expertise in securing national and EU-level funding, acquiring R&D contracts, and managing large multi-partner projects involving industry, academia, and policy stakeholders. He is a member of the **Saxon Academy of Sciences**, **DECHEMA**, and serves on the **Board of Directors of BioEconomy e.V.**	Natural sciences	Chemistry	Germany; EU	#renewables	#eco-innovation	#biotechnology		
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Maraike Müller**	Head of Graduate School								
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Person of trust**	All project stakeholders								
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Plenum**	All project stakeholders								
	JTC Structure	**Advisory board**	**Project office**	Coordination and communication, finance								
▾ **Scientific Management**												
	JTC Structure	**Scientific Management**	**Prof. Dr. Jonathan Everts**	Spokesperson for HALIS, Unit A **Jonathan Everts** has been Professor of Human Geography at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) since 2018. He previously held academic positions in Sheffield, Bayreuth, Bonn, and Dresden. His research focuses on theories of social practices, socio-spatial transformation, and human-environment relations. Prof Everts is the founding director of the Centre for Just Transition and Sustainability (HALIS) at MLU and director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS). He currently leads two inter- and transdisciplinary research projects on Strukturwandel (just transition) in Central Germany: Agentur für Aufbruch (funded by the STARK programme, in cooperation with Werkleitz Society) and the Just Transition Center (funded by the JTF). Both projects support the mutual transfer of knowledge between the university and the region. Source: https://jtc.uni-halle.de/en/jonathan-everts/	Social sciences	Human Geography	Central German Mining Region	#structural change	#socio-ecological transformation	#knowledge transfer		
	JTC Structure	**Scientific Management**	**Prof. Dr. Ralf Wehrspohn**	Spokesperson for CSME, Unit B Managing Director of the German Lithium Institute and Professor for Microstructure-based Materials Design at the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg Distinguished Adjunct Professor KENTECH, S. Korea Source: https://www.physik.uni-halle.de/fachgruppen/mikromd/mitarbeiter/	Natural sciences	Experimental Physics	*unspecified*	#natural resource management	#eco-innovation	#raw materials		
	JTC Structure	**Scientific Management**	**Prof. Dr. Christian Tietje**	Spokesperson for Labs: Unit C Chair Prof. Dr. Christian Tietje, Jean Monnet Chair for EU Value Oriented Neighbourhood and Trade Policy, Chair of Public Law, European Law and International Economic Law. Source: https://tietje.jura.uni-halle.de/	Law, policy & education	Law	*unspecified*	#law and governance	#climate policy	#structural change		
	JTC Structure	**Scientific Management**	**Dr. Susanne Hübner**	Spokesperson for Transfer, Unit D Susanne Hübner heads the MLU ISC project and has been active in technology transfer and start-up consulting for over 15 years. Source: https://internationalstartupcampus.com/about/team/	Applied research	Transfer & Entrepreneurial	*unspecified*	#knowledge transfer	#energy transition	#eco-innovation		
▾ **Team leader rounds**												
	JTC Structure	**Team leader rounds**	**Team leader rounds**									
▾ **Revierscouts**												
	JTC Structure	**Revierscouts**	**Dr. Cornelia Deimer**	Revierscout **Dr. Cornelia Deimer has been the Revierscout for the Halle–Saalekreis region since 2025. From 2022 to 2025 she served as Head of the Regional Planning Association Halle, following many years of work in rural development project management at the Landgesellschaft Sachsen-Anhalt. She earned her PhD at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in 2005 with a dissertation on remuneration approaches for environmental services in agriculture. Earlier positions include research roles in agricultural economics and agrarian geography, as well as professional work in nature conservation, landscape management, and market ecology. She studied agricultural sciences at Humboldt University Berlin and Martin Luther University Halle.**	Natural sciences	Agricultural Sciences	Halle-Saalekreis	#educan in rural areas	#law and governance	#post-industrial futures		
	JTC Structure	**Revierscouts**	**Christian Hennicke**	Revierscout **Christian Hennicke has been the Revierscout for the district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld since 2025. From 2017 to 2024 he coordinated the Partnership for Democracy Bitterfeld-Wolfen and served as its specialist unit at Jugendclub '83 e.V. Alongside this work, he was active in local politics, holding mandates in both the Anhalt-Bitterfeld district council and the Bitterfeld-Wolfen city council.** **Before that, he worked independently as a historian and IT specialist, contributing to projects for brain-SCC GmbH and the Foundation for Memorial Sites in Saxony-Anhalt. He studied history and computer science at the University of Leipzig.**	Social Sciences	History and Informatics	Anhalt-Bitterfeld	#community development	#heritage	#participation		
	JTC Structure	**Revierscouts**	**Katja Wendland**	Revierscout **Katja Wendland has been the Revierscout for the Burgenlandkreis since 2024. From 2022 to 2025 she worked in the county's Structural Change Unit, focusing on democracy education, participation, and public outreach. Previously, she served as a member of the Saxony-Anhalt state parliament (2017–2021) and worked for many years as a parliamentary office manager at both the state and federal levels. She holds an IHK Bachelor Professional in Business Administration and has long-standing experience in regional political and administrative work.**	Economics	Economics	Burgenlandkreis	#community development	#law and governance	#participation		
	JTC Structure	**Revierscouts**	**Thomas Ernst**	Revierscout **Thomas Ernst has been the Revierscout for the district of Mansfeld-Südharz since 2024. Before taking on this role, he worked at the State Institute for School Quality and Teacher Training Saxony-Anhalt (2022–2024) within the project *Praxislerntage*. Since 1997 he has held various positions in pedagogical and administrative fields, bringing long-standing experience in education and public service. He studied educational science at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where he completed his diploma in 1997.**	Social Sciences	Educational science	Mansfeld-Südharz	#education-policy	#community development	#participation		
▾ **A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities**												
▾ **A Pillar Description**												
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A Pillar Description**		# HALIS The MLU Institute for Structural Change and Sustainability (HALIS) aims to investigate, advise on and shape structural change in central Germany, Germany and comparable processes in other regions of the world. To this end, it brings together expertise from various scientific disciplines, facilitates cooperation and knowledge transfer between science and practice, and provides a forum for social exchange and innovation. {{https://jtc.uni-halle.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/jtc-strukturwandel-square.webp}} [[https://jtc.uni-halle.de/en/just-transition-society-halis/]]								
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A Pillar Description	**Pia Kahlfuß**	**Pia Kahlfuß** (M.Sc. LL.M.) has been working at the Institute for Structural Change and Sustainability since 2023 and at the European Centre for Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) since 2024. At HALIS, she researches socio-ecological and political transformation processes in Central Germany from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on her academic background in sociology, human geography and commercial law. **Source:** https://strukturwandel.uni-halle.de/personen/ **Representative publication:** Kahlfuss, Pia, Jonathan Everts, and Mareike Pampus. 2026. *Transformative Praxis: Wissenschaft, Transfer Und Strukturwandel Im Mitteldeutschen Revier.* With Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt and Martin-Luther Universität. Institut für Strukturwandel und Nachhaltigkeit. https://doi.org/10.25673/121727.2.	Social sciences	Sociology	Middle German Coal District	#postsocialism	#law and governance	#more-than-human geographies		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A Pillar Description	**Felix Schiedlowski**	**Felix Schiedlowski** is a research associate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS), and Centre for Just Transition and Sustainability (HALIS). His ethnological research focuses on political practices of structural change and the temporal dimensions of transformation in the Central German mining region. His publications address change, turning points, ruptures and gaps in politics and society. **Source**: https://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/en/felix-schiedlowski/ and https://strukturwandel.uni-halle.de/personen/	Social sciences	Anthropology	Central German Mining Region, Northern Ireland	#post-mining landscapes	#structural change	#decarbonisation		
▾ **A1: Structural Change & Participation**												
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A1: Structural Change & Participation**	**A1: Structural Change & Participation**	**We create a greater understanding of the lived and experienced relationships of different actors to questions of transformation, justice and participation in the region.** The A1 innovation team develops practice-theoretical perspectives on transformation as a lived experience. Using qualitative, creative and participatory research methods, we shed light on the everyday, situated and emotional dimensions of regional transformation processes. In this way, we create a greater understanding of the lived and experienced relationships of different actors to questions of transformation, justice and participation in the region. We understand transformation not as a fixed 'program', but as a contested, dynamic process that emerges out of spatially embedded relationships. Thus, we analyze the various practices through which different actors enter into a relation with matters of transformation, justice and participation in the region. We conceptualize this "relating" as multimodal: an everyday, socio-spatially differentiated, emotional experience of, and influence on, transformational dynamics. A praxeological transformation research will focus on the informal ways of dealing with transformation that take place 'under the radar' of dominant programs and discourses. In this way, it can (1) enlarge established understandings of transformation and participation, opening up alternative potentials for participation, (2) uncover tensions between different aspects of social change and (3) provide impetus for the social mediation of transformation.				**#sites of loss**	**#participation**	**#local activism**	#everyday, #affect, #practices, #embodiment, #materiality, #ethnography	
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A1: Structural Change & Participation	**Dr. Jan Winkler**	Research Group Leader at the European Centre of Just Transition Research and Impact Driven Transfer (JTC) at Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://jtc.uni-halle.de/en/dr-jan-winkler/	Social sciences	Cultural Geography	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban and regional studies	#participation		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A1: Structural Change & Participation	**Hermine Bähr**	Hermine Bähr is a researcher in the JTC's A1 team "Strukturwandel und Partizipation", where she examines how everyday political practices and forms of civic engagement take shape in rural regions undergoing socio-ecological transformation. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science from Lund University and a Bachelor's degree in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Erfurt. Since 2019, she has been pursuing her PhD in Sociology at the Max Weber Centre, supported by a doctoral scholarship from the Heinrich Böll Foundation's research cluster on socio-ecological transformation. Her work brings together practice theory, relational geographies of everyday life, and transformation research to explore how people navigate uncertainty and change in their daily environments.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Central German Mining Region	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban and regional studies	#sites of loss		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A1: Structural Change & Participation	**Cheyenne Wolf**	Cheyenne Wolf is a research associate in the JTC A1 team "Structural Change and Participation", focusing on how people experience and shape social transformation. She holds a Master's degree in International Area Studies, where she examined the role of fear in climate justice activism, and a Bachelor's degree in Culture and Society with a focus on sociology and anthropology. Her work is grounded in gender-sensitive and ethnographic perspectives and informed by experience in several research and teaching contexts. She currently works on projects exploring local civic engagement in structural change regions, participatory approaches to transformation experiences, and the social and emotional dynamics of vacant spaces.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Wolfen-Nord, Germany; Structural Change Regions	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban and regional studies	#participation		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A1: Structural Change & Participation	**Imke Hurlin**	As part of the innovation team A1 JTC Team, Imke Hurlin is working in a third-party funded research project (funded by Bundesverband Wohnen und Stadtentwicklung vhw), which deals with urban geographies of loss in the context of socio-ecological transformation. The aim is to analyze the significance of experiences, practices and spaces of loss (and of dealing with loss) for the shaping of transformation processes in the city. Although loss is a central experience of transformation, it is in conflict with dominant narratives of progress and development. Thus, there is often a lack of contexts and spaces for a social engagement with loss(es). The analysis of practices of loss appears highly relevant for questions of social participation in transformational contexts.	Social sciences	Migration	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban and regional studies	#sites of loss		
▾ **A2: Chemistry in transition**												
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A2: Chemistry in transition**		**'Chemistry provides bread, prosperity, beauty.'** **The ideological promises and actual achievements of fossil-fuel-based modern societies are manifested in people's expectations, desires, beliefs, and behavioural patterns. These factors could prove to be the 'hardest' and most difficult to change in the ongoing transformation processes.** Transformation processes require changes in people's minds, not just a change in technology. As specialists in 'soft' factors, we examine the historical, socio-economic and spatial conditions and impacts of the chemical industry in central Germany in order to understand and help shape the transition to a climate-friendly society in the course of a 'just transition.' We combine approaches and methods from geography, ethnology, cultural and media studies, philosophy, history of technology, science theory, art and design. In doing so, we analyse the cultural practices, emotions, beliefs, motivations and needs of people associated with the chemical industry: those who work in the chemical industry and those who consume – or fear – its products. Our collaborative transfer formats are aimed at economic, political and civil society actors. Chemistry in transition does not only embody industry or science; it must be thought of as a culturally anchored dispositif: as landscape, lifeworld, infrastructure, aesthetics, knowledge order, organisational and production principle. As part of a social metabolism.				**#chemistry in transition**	**#petromodernity**	**#sensory research**		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A2: Chemistry in transition	**Dr. Alexander Klose**	Alexander Klose is a cultural theorist, curator, and author whose work explores the entanglements between modern technologies, material infrastructures, and contemporary ways of living. He leads the A2 Chemistry in Transition innovation team at the Just Transition Center and has long worked at the intersection of research and artistic practice, including through the collective Beauty of Oil, which investigates the cultural logics of the petromodern age. His career spans freelance conceptual and curatorial work, program development at the German Federal Cultural Foundation, and teaching appointments at several German art and design schools. He earned his PhD with a seminal study on the standardized shipping container and has since published widely on logistics, petro-cultures, and the Anthropocene, including Erdöl. Ein Atlas der Petromoderne and The Container Principle. His current research focuses on the often-overlooked middle zones of petromodern productivity, between extraction and consumption, where chemical processes, materials, and infrastructures shape social and ecological futures.	Social sciences	Media Theory	Central Germany	#socio-ecological transformation	#natural resource management	#petromodernity		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A2: Chemistry in transition	**Jürgen Viet Anh Höpfel**	Jürgen Viet Anh Höpfel is a doctoral researcher at the Just Transition Center, where he is part of the research group "Chemistry in Transition." His work examines the affective everyday realities of post-socialist and post-industrial transitions in the Central German Chemical Triangle from a human-geographical perspective, focusing on how people experience and navigate profound socio-ecological change in their daily lives.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Central Germany	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban and regional studies	#postindustrial futures		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A2: Chemistry in transition	**Sophie Altmiks**	Sophie Altmiks is a PhD candidate and research assistant at the European Centre for Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) and in Digital Geography at Martin Luther University. After completing her bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences/Natural Resource Management in Halle (Saale) and Poznan, she studied for her master's degree in International Area Studies/Human Geography in Halle (Saale) and Milan. Her current projects address issues of Political Ecology, Labour Geography and Energy Humanities with a focus on Labour-environment relations in the context of the heat and energy transition and the transformation of the chemical industry.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Central Germany	#structural change	#labour environmentalism	#chemistry in transition		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A2: Chemistry in transition	**Daniel Wolter**	Daniel Wolter is a postdoctoral researcher at the Just Transition Center, where he studies chemical landscapes in the post-mining region of the Central German lignite district. His work investigates how communities deal with industrial legacies and chemical contamination as cultural practices shaped by processes of remediation and transformation. Through empirical case studies—especially on groundwater pollution in the Bitterfeld-Wolfen area—he analyses ecological damage as epistemic and aesthetic formations. His research combines ethnographic methods with theoretical approaches from media studies and Science and Technology Studies (STS) to understand how toxic pasts are perceived, represented, and negotiated in the present.	Social sciences	Artistic Research	Central Germany	#artistic research	#socio-ecological transformation	#contamination		
▾ **A3: Networking with regions undergoing structural change**												
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A3: Networking with regions undergoing structural change**		**By connecting research communities, we aim to foster academic exchange and collaboration, and to link the expertise within the JTC with international scholars.** We are building an extensive academic research network that deals with the topic of Just Transition both internationally and across the EU. By connecting research communities, we want to promote academic exchange and cooperation and network the expertise within the JTC with international scientists. As an interdisciplinary team, we bring together scientists working on Just Transition issues as well as resource use, post-mining landscapes, sustainability, energy transformation, deindustrialisation and ecological effects. Our teamwork fosters horizontal and interdisciplinary collaborations and engages local communities through innovative, artistic or multimodal forms of research dissemination. In this way, it should contribute significantly to the development of a specific body of knowledge for dealing with structural change issues in Just Transition regions. In order to promote the visibility and cooperation of knowledge carriers from structural change regions, we are developing an interactive map with network content and participation options. We are developing international academic exchange and conference formats to involve scientists from different disciplines in the network. By connecting academic communities from different fields, we aim to create the basis for long-term co-operation on the social, environmental, technological and economic dimensions of Just Transition regions.			Central Germany, EU, Global	**#soil remediation**	**#multimodal research**	**#urban landscapes**		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A3: Networking with regions undergoing structural change	**Dr. Steffi Formann**	Steffi Formann is a biologist and environmental researcher whose work focuses on bio-geo interactions, biomass conversion, and the role of microorganisms and plants in transforming contaminated or changing environments. She will lead a research team at the Just Transition Center (MLU Halle-Wittenberg) from 2025 and currently works as a postdoctoral researcher in biochemical conversion at IBKE Weimar. Her previous positions include postdoctoral research at the DBFZ Leipzig on biomass utilisation, scientific work at the SFZ Jena, and a PhD in microbiology at Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Her research spans trace-element-accumulating fungi, lichens, mosses, bacteria, algae, and vascular plants, soil–rhizosphere dynamics, and environmental chemical processes, with a strong interest in how organisms and substrates interact on contaminated sites and how valuable natural substances can be recovered from these systems.	Social sciences	Soil Science	*unspecified*	#natural resource management	#environmental justice	#soil remediation	#contamination	
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A3: Networking with regions undergoing structural change	**Dr. Gregory Gan**	{{https://www.sfb-affective-societies.de/assoziierte/assoziierte-projekte/Picturing-Postsocialism/gan/Gregory_Gan_profile.jpgl300}} Dr. Gregory Gan has made research contributions in the fields of visual anthropology, urban anthropology, and postsocialism, with a focus on Russia and Eastern Europe. Gregory obtained his PhD at The University of British Columbia (2019), awarded an Outstanding Graduating Anthropology Student Award by the Canadian Anthropology Society. During his PhD, he developed a multimodal ethnographic installation created using "smart" objects, which traveled internationally to anthropology conferences and film festivals. Current research titled "Affective architecture," applies visual anthropology methods to the study of panel-block housing in former East Germany, articulating the nuanced role postmigrant actors from the former Soviet Union play in shaping their apartments, their neighbourhood, and their city, thereby shaping a wider pluralistic society. <iframe src="https://player.vimeo.com/video/58867066?badge=0&amp;autopause=0&amp;player_id=0&amp;app_id=58479" width="320" height="180" frameborder="0" allow="autoplay; fullscreen; picture-in-picture; clipboard-write; encrypted-media" title="Arrived"></iframe> [[https://jtc.uni-halle.de/en/just-transition-society-halis/]]	Social sciences	Anthropology	Eastern Europe	#artistic research	#urban and regional studies	#multimodal research		
▾ **A4 Just Transitions, Educational and Participation Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults**												
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A4 Just Transitions, Educational and Participation Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults**		**Education enables empowerment and contributes to social transformations. We examine the needs in the region and trace possibilities for social and economic participation.** We aim to strengthen educational and participation opportunities for children, youth and adults in southern Saxony-Anhalt. We do research on educational opportunities, educational organizations and living environments in order to understand the specific conditions and needs in the region and develop recommendations for policymakers and educational organizations. The innovation team "Just transitions, educational and participation opportunities for children, youth and adults (A4)" strengthens educational and participation opportunities in southern Saxony-Anhalt. It researches regional educational and socialization conditions and develops recommendations to reduce social inequalities. The starting point is the structural disadvantage of the region since 1989/90 due to emigration, ageing and poverty (risk), which is intensifying in the current structural change. Education enables empowerment and contributes to social transformations. Our focus is therefore both on people's living environments and on enabling participation in and through vocational and general (further) education. We examine the needs in the region and trace possibilities for social and economic participation. We see regional stakeholders as experts in their practice and use their knowledge for cooperation, networks and new educational approaches.				**#community development**	**#continuing education**	**#education in rural areas**		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A4 Just Transitions, Educational and Participation Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults	**Dr. Martin Kriemann**	Dr. Martin Kriemann is a social scientist whose work focuses on youth, education, and spatial justice in regions undergoing structural transformation. Since May 2024, he has led a research team at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. He previously worked as a research associate at MLU and held a doctoral fellowship from the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in East Germany. His academic background includes a PhD from Freie Universität Berlin, teaching appointments at the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, and research positions at the Institute for Democratic Development and Social Integration. His current project examines how pedagogical and de-pedagogised spaces emerge in the context of regional structural change and how they shape young people's participation, everyday experiences, and visions for the future.	Social sciences	Educational science	Southern Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#community development	#structural change	#education in rural areas		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A4 Just Transitions, Educational and Participation Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults	**Stephanie Freide**	Stephanie Freide is a team leader at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) at Martin Luther University Halle, a position she has held since May 2024. She successfully defended her dissertation in 2025, titled "Providing educational programs in the Digital Sphere – An Ethnographic Discourse Analysis of Governmental Practices in Adult and Continuing Education." From 2020 to 2023, she was a doctoral fellow of the Hans Böckler Foundation in the research program "Mediation and Translation in Transition." Her academic background includes earlier research and teaching experience at various universities in Germany. Her work examines how state and educational actors design, communicate, and implement offerings in the field of continuing education, and how these practices shape participation and learning opportunities in changing societal contexts. In her current project, she is examining the role that educational initiatives in rural areas play—or can play—in shaping structural change.	Social sciences	Educational science	Southern Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#community development	#urban and regional studies	#education in rural areas		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A4 Just Transitions, Educational and Participation Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults	**Eleonore Freier**	Eleonore Freier is a researcher at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where she has been part of the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) since 2024. She studied Educational Research and Sociology (B.A.) and later completed her Master's degree in Educational Research at MLU, including an ERASMUS semester in the International Master's Programme in Educational Research at the University of Gothenburg. Before joining the JTC, she worked as a student assistant in a DFG-funded project on the educational and career trajectories of graduates from elite boarding schools in Germany. In addition, she was active in the field of science communication and knowledge transfer and contributed to the collaborative development and execution of an interdisciplinary teaching strategy on science communication for undergraduate students. Her current project examines how actors in adult and continuing education mobilise people for work-related further training in the context of structural change, focusing on the forms of knowledge, assumptions, and strategies that shape outreach, counselling, and public communication in this field.	Social sciences	Educational science	Southern Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#continuing education	#knowledge transfer	#structural change		
▾ **A5: Postindustrial Futures**												
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A5: Postindustrial Futures**		**Our research lays the foundations to promote social cohesion in the region and to accompany a just and sustainable transition to post-fossil economies.** Transformation is an ongoing, often disruptive process rather than something that somehow happens to begin today. We explore how past experiences of modernization and system collapse continue to affect a region heavily shaped by extractive industries, and how postindustrial futures are (or could be) made present. The research team "Postindustrial Futures" investigates the materialities, social practices and inscribed logics of past, present and future geography-making in former mining regions. Starting from a relational concept of territorialisation, we investigate how transformative dynamics produce new spaces and subjectivities in everyday landscapes of multiple ruination. Our research lays the foundations to promote social cohesion in the region and to accompany a just and sustainable transition to post-fossil economies.				**#postindustrial futures**	**#speculative research**	**#energy landscape**		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A5: Postindustrial Futures	**Dr. Anke Schwarz**	Dr. habil. Anke Schwarz is the leader of a junior research group at the European Center of Just Transition Research at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She is a trained and habilitated human geographer specializing in political geography and critical urban studies, and has held visiting scholar positions at UNAM in Mexico City, UNINA in Naples, and York University in Toronto. Her research focuses on space and regression, international urbanization, territorial subjectivation, and the geographies of speculative and science fiction. Her work has been published in leading journals, including Progress in Human Geography, ephemera, Geographica Helvetica, and Territory, Politics, Governance.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Middle German Coal District; Europe	#urban and regional studies	#socio-ecological transformation	#speculative research		
	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A5: Postindustrial Futures	**Paul Zschocke**	Paul Zschocke is a researcher at the Just Transition Center and a political scientist and sociologist specializing in the political sociology and political geography of the radical right. He has been a member of the DFG research network Territorialisierungen der radikalen Rechten (Terra-R), where he examined how far-right actors shape and claim space. His research focuses on the right-wing populist and far-right spectrum, regressive politics, political subjectivation, and energy geographies, exploring how political identities and spatial practices emerge in contexts of socio-ecological transformation.	Social sciences	Political science and Sociology	Middle German Coal District; Europe	#climate policy	#far-right populism	#speculative research		

A6: Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change, Environmental Conservation

A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A6: Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change, Environmental Conservation**		**We understand the socio-ecological transformation as a driving force behind key questions about the future—shaping how we live together in diversity and how we interact with the environment.** How to deal with a shortage of skilled labour, social isolation, environmental degradation? We regard the socio-ecological transformation as driver of key future questions regarding the living-together in diversity and in accordance with the environment. In close collaboration with civil society actors and practitioners, we develop answers for an inclusive transition society. Saxony-Anhalt is facing major demographic challenges: Declining birth rates jeopardize public services in rural areas. The increasing isolation and fragmentation intensify social tensions. A shortage of skilled workers is coupled with structural barriers in the recruitment and integration of newcomers. At the same time, civil society initiatives develop creative ways to reactivate unoccupied buildings and to create places of encounter that foster intergenerational learning. Some municipalities have begun to record a positive net migration rate, which offers potential for reversing the processes of outmigration and shrinkage. Together with and for people on the ground, we develop opportunities to positively address the current challenges posed by demographic change and migration. To this end, we develop innovative formats at the interface of research and practice. Our central concern is to improve participation and ensure equal opportunities for all people in Saxony-Anhalt – regardless of age, place of residence, or origin.				**#knowledge transfer**	**#postmigration**	**#more-than-human geographies**	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A6: Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change, Environmental Conservation	**Dr. Larissa Fleischmann**	Larissa Fleischmann is a Postdoctoral Researcher in Human Geography based in Halle (Saale), Germany. Her work focuses on more-than-human political geography, critical migration and border studies, humanitarianism, and migrant solidarity. She earned her PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Konstanz in 2019. Her research explores the politics and practices of support, care, and resistance in contexts of displacement and mobility. In 2020, she published the open-access monograph *Contested Solidarity: Practices of Refugee Support between Humanitarian Help and Political Activism*, which examines the tensions between humanitarian aid and political activism within refugee support networks.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#socio-ecological transformation	#law and governance	#knowledge transfer	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A6: Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change, Environmental Conservation	**Julia Ostertag**	Julia Ostertag is a doctoral researcher and research associate at the Just Transition Center's Innovation Team A6 "Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change & Environment." Her work builds on a background in Global Change Geography (M.Sc.) and Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science (B.A.) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She studies more-than-human geographies of transformation, focusing on how water, pollutants, and industrial legacies are negotiated in and around Bitterfeld-Wolfen and how these negotiations reshape hydropolitical spaces in times of socio-ecological change.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban and regional studies	#contamination	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A6: Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change, Environmental Conservation	**Marina Rottmann**	Marina Rottmann is a doctoral researcher and research associate in the JTC Innovation Team A6 "Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change & Environment." She holds an M.Sc. in International Area Studies from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, complemented by a certificate in Gender Studies, and a B.Sc. in Geography from Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Her previous work spans educational research, global learning, soil science, and geoinformatics. Her current projects explore participatory approaches to transformation experiences and future imaginaries in Wolfen-Nord, as well as postmigrant perspectives on care and health in socio-ecological transitions in southern Saxony-Anhalt, focusing on how diverse communities negotiate change and envision just futures.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban and regional studies	#knowledge transfer	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A6: Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change, Environmental Conservation	**Lukas Petersohn**	Lukas Petersohn is a doctoral researcher and research associate in the JTC Innovation Team A6 "Diversity in Socio-Ecological Transformations: Migration, Demographic Change & Environment." He holds an M.Sc. in International Area Studies – Global Change Geography from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, complemented by study periods in Vienna and Umeå, and a B.A. in Ethnology, Sociology, and Political Science. His research explores how belonging and "East German-ness" are interpreted, lived, and renegotiated in southern Saxony-Anhalt under conditions of socio-ecological transformation, focusing on tensions between marginalisation and emerging forms of local agency.	Social sciences	Human Geography	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#structural change	#urban and regional studies	#postindustrial futures	

A7: Transregional Just Transition Governance: Socio-legal and Politico-economic Perspectives

A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**A7: Transregional Just Transition Governance: Socio-legal and Politico-economic Perspectives**		**Our research explores how law and governance navigate transitions that seek to balance economic needs, climate goals, and social justice.** We examine legal, political and economic interdependencies shaping transregional governance in interconnected ecosocial transformations. Our research explores how law and governance navigate transitions that seek to balance economic needs, climate goals, and social justice. We analyse the potential and limits of law in fostering global cooperation and how transition regulations support equitable outcomes or risk deepening inequalities. A transregional view recognises multiple overlapping regulatory contexts focusing on relationality, complementarity and reciprocity. Through the lens of globalised legal pluralism, we analyse the interplay of legal principles, processes, practices, and conflict regulation, paying attention to normative tensions between economic needs and imperatives, climate goals, and social justice. We interlink socio-legal with politico-economic perspectives by (1) examining how law such as supply chain regulations, climate and migration policies, and investment facilitation agreements shape transitions and (2) exploring governance and the politics of law, for example, the role of transnational actors, public-private partnerships in de-carbonisation/fossilisation, labour markets and trade and investment relations. Key questions include: how do governance systems address or reinforce tensions between competing norms? To what extent do legal and economic structures enable or undermine equitable and sustainable transitions? How can inclusive and plural regulations be promoted?				**#international trade**	**#labour law**	**#energy justice**	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A7: Transregional Just Transition Governance: Socio-legal and Politico-economic Perspectives	**Dr. Katrin Seidel**	Dr. habil. Katrin Seidel is a senior researcher and research group leader at the Just Transition Center (JTC-MLU), specializing in climate and energy governance and the green financialisation of socio-ecological transitions. She is a Privatdozentin at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and an Associate Researcher in the Department of Law & Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Her academic career includes visiting professorships at the Central European University in Vienna and the University of Leipzig, as well as fellowships at the Excellence Clusters *Africa Multiple and Religion & Politics*. Earlier, she spent a decade at the Max Planck Institute researching state-building, peace processes, and constitutionalism in contexts of global legal pluralism, particularly in South Sudan and Somaliland. Her current work examines how instruments such as Just Transition Funds, Just Energy Transition Partnerships, and Germany's climate protection contracts shape emerging forms of just energy and climate governance.	Social sciences	Law	Germany, Global	#energy transition	#law and governance	#just finance	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A7: Transregional Just Transition Governance: Socio-legal and Politico-economic Perspectives	**Dr. Timm Sureau**	Timm Sureau is a senior researcher and research group leader at the Just Transition Center (JTC-MLU), where he focuses on just production systems, labour migration, and the social dimensions of the energy transition. He is also an Associate Researcher in the Department of Law & Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. His previous work includes a postdoctoral project on the affective dynamics of bureaucracies in the digital transformation of German immigration administration, as well as coordinating the International Max Planck Research School Retaliation, Mediation and Punishment (IMPRS-REMEP). He earned his PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg with a dissertation on emerging statehood in South Sudan and has been part of the long-standing research group on law, organisation, science, and technology led by Richard Rottenburg. His current research examines the governance challenges of fair and sustainable production systems in times of socio-ecological transformation.	Social sciences	Anthropology	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#law and governance	#green ethics	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A7: Transregional Just Transition Governance: Socio-legal and Politico-economic Perspectives	**Chiara Gemoll**	Chiara Gemoll is a research associate at the Just Transition Center and at Noerr PartGmbB, working at the intersection of law, structural change, and fair economic transformation. She previously completed her legal traineeship at the Higher Regional Court of Hamburg and worked as a research assistant at the Chair of Private International Law and Comparative Law at Bucerius Law School. Her current work includes examining how investment facilitation agreements can contribute to a more just European investment policy.	Social sciences	Law	Europe	#law and governance	#just finance	#international trade	
A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	A7: Transregional Just Transition Governance: Socio-legal and Politico-economic Perspectives	**Shuai Han**	Shuai Han is a researcher at the Just Transition Center, where she works on China–Europe trade corridors and strategies for resilient and just transitions. She is currently completing her PhD in International Trade at the University of International Business and Economics. Before moving into academia, she spent several years in the financial sector as a Business Director at ShenZhen Rongtong Capital Management, specialising in private-equity funds, fund-of-funds, asset-backed securities, and infrastructure funds, and holds professional certifications as CFA and FRM. She earned her Master of Finance from the University of Maryland–College Park. Her current project examines the China–Europe land corridor as a space of transregional governance, focusing on how international trade infrastructures can support resilience and equitable socio-ecological transitions.	Social sciences	Finance and Economics	China, Europe	#transport economics	#law and governance	#international trade	

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering

Sustainable Materials Technology (CSME)

B1: CO2-Sequestration and Soil Recultivation through Recycling of Mineral Residues

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	**B1: CO2-Sequestration and Soil Recultivation through Recycling of Mineral Residues**		**We research how iron hydroxide sludge from lignite open-cast mines can be used for the reclamation of mine dump soils.** Lignite mining destroys ecosystems and scars landscapes worldwide. Productive soils lose their functions and require costly reclamation. Many mining areas also suffer from acid mine drainage, leading to iron hydroxide sludge (IHS) deposits, which are expensive to manage. We aim to tackle both issues by using IHS as a soil amendment for mine soil restoration. But how is that supposed to work? Soils developing from mine spoil substrates in post-mining landscapes are often characterized by high sand content, poor structure, low water retention, and limited capacity to store nutrients and organic matter — extremely poor conditions for soil development and a productive use, e.g. for forestry or agriculture. In contrast, iron hydroxides offer reactive surfaces that can effectively bind soil organic matter, thereby improving soil structure, water retention, and nutrient storage. An application of IHS as soil amendment presents both opportunities and challenges: while IHS can enhance carbon storage and support key soil functions, there is also a risk that associated potentially toxic elements may be released, or nutrients become bound and thus plant unavailable. By means of laboratory and field lysimeter experiments we aim to determine the optimal IHS application rate under which carbon sequestration is maximized and soil functions are sustainably improved — without compromising plant nutrition or groundwater quality. The findings will ultimately feed into a comprehensive risk assessment.				**#post-mining landscapes**	**#soil remediation**	**#recycling**	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B1: CO2-Sequestration and Soil Recultivation through Recycling of Mineral Residues	**Dr. Mathias Stein**	Dr. Mathias Stein is a soil scientist whose fascination with soils in all their dimensions—from nano-scale interactions to large-scale landscape patterns—has shaped his academic and professional path since his student days. He sees soil as a deeply complex, interdisciplinary system and as a decisive foundation for human and ecological futures. In the context of accelerating global change, he emphasizes that soil will become more than a natural resource: it will be a critical basis for societal resilience, with every square meter gaining importance.	Natural sciences	Soil science	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#natural resource management	#soil remediation	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B1: CO2-Sequestration and Soil Recultivation through Recycling of Mineral Residues	**Emma Harlow**	Emma Harlow's work focuses on ecosystem restoration, soil processes, and circular-economy approaches, and the project "CO_2 storage and soil recultivation through the recycling of mineral residues" allows her to deepen these interests. She investigates how iron–carbon interactions in soils, recycled mineral materials, and post-mining landscapes can contribute to sustainable forms of soil recovery. Building on her previous experience, this research opens a new and challenging field in which she aims to develop innovative strategies for soil recultivation in former mining areas, ultimately contributing to broader questions of global environmental and climate protection.	Natural sciences	Soil science	*unspecified*	#natural resource management	#circular economy	#soil remediation	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B1: CO2-Sequestration and Soil Recultivation through Recycling of Mineral Residues	**Jakob Herrmann**	Jakob Herrmann is an agricultural scientist whose studies and professional experience have fostered a strong interest in the sustainable management of degraded soils and landscapes. After several years of working intensively on the problem of soil salinization in East Africa, he is now turning his attention to post-mining environments. At the Just Transition Center, he is excited to explore sustainable recultivation strategies for landscapes shaped by lignite mining, aiming to contribute to long-term ecological restoration and resilient land-use futures.	Natural sciences	Soil science	*unspecified*	#natural resource management	#socio-ecological transformation	#soil remediation	

B2: Petrology of Raw Materials

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	**B2: Petrology of Raw Materials**		**Our team investigates the sourcing, processing, and recycling of primary and secondary mineral and metallic resources to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials.** From the use of old tailings to the revival of the extraction of copper, cobalt and the like – this potential can be exploited in southern Saxony-Anhalt. To do this, knowledge of the available resources, their nature, processing and recycling is required. This is our contribution to the secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. The team investigates the procurement, processing and recycling of primary and secondary mineral and metallic raw material deposits to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials, achieve climate and digital targets and reduce dependence on imports from individual countries. In the context of structural change, raw materials/metals are needed that are necessary for modern technologies. However, critical raw materials are scarce or conflict-ridden and globally unevenly distributed. However, critical raw materials are also available here in Saxony-Anhalt. Our research aims to expand our knowledge of these existing raw materials in order to enable innovative approaches to their use.				**#raw materials**	**#geochemistry-minerology**	**#petrology**	#recycling #post-mining landscapes #natural resource management #lithium
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B2: Petrology of Raw Materials	**PD Dr. Ralf Halama**	Ralf Halama is a geologist and geochemist and co-leader of the Innovation Team B2 "*Raw Material Petrology*" at the Just Transition Center. He brings long-standing international experience in igneous and metamorphic petrology, including academic positions in the UK, Germany, France, and the US. His current work focuses on crystalline rocks in Saxony-Anhalt, hydrothermal alteration processes in the Harz, critical raw materials such as those in the Kupferschiefer, and the traceability of lithium resources, alongside contributing to the development of a teaching and research mine in Wettelrode.	Natural sciences	Geochemistry-minerology	Saxony-Anhalt (Harz, Wetttelrode), Germany	#natural resource management	#energy transition	#raw materials	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B2: Petrology of Raw Materials	**Nico Kropp**	Member of group B2 Petrology of Raw Materials, as part of the European Centre of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC)	Natural sciences	Geochemistry-minerology	Saxony-Anhalt (Harz, Wetttelrode), Germany	#natural resource management	#sustainability	#raw materials	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B2: Petrology of Raw Materials	**Christian Lohmann**	Christian Lohmann is a geoscientist and research associate in the Innovation Team B2 "Raw Material Petrology" at the Just Transition Center. He previously worked at the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology, where he contributed to updating the KOR50 map for near-surface raw materials. He holds an M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Applied Geosciences from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, with research experience ranging from epithermal systems in Central Iran to hyperspectral analysis of drill-core material from ore deposits in Saxony. His work focuses on the geological and geochemical characterization of raw-material systems and their relevance for sustainable resource management.	Natural sciences	Geochemistry-minerology	Saxony-Anhalt (Harz, Wetttelrode), Germany	#natural resource management	#sustainability	#raw materials	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B2: Petrology of Raw Materials	**Annemie Kusturica**	Annemie Kusturica is a geoscientist and research associate at the Just Transition Center, where she is part of Innovation Team B2 "Raw Material Petrology." She is pursuing her PhD at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and holds an M.Sc. in Geosciences and a B.Sc. in Biogeosciences from the same institution. Her research focuses on crystalline rocks, pore- and fracture systems, geochemistry, and reactive transport, with applications in radioactive-waste storage and critical raw-material assessment. Current projects include structural-geological analyses of crystalline rocks in Saxony-Anhalt and the study of hydrothermal alteration processes at the Ramberg Pluton in the Harz to evaluate both raw-material potential and implications for deep geological repositories.	Natural sciences	Geochemistry-minerology	Saxony-Anhalt (Harz, Wetttelrode), Germany	#natural resource management	#sustainability	#raw materials	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B2: Petrology of Raw Materials	**Dr. Harilaos Tsikos**	Dr. Harilaos Tsikos is a geologist with extensive international experience in economic geology, structural geology and geochemistry. Since 2025 he has led the Innovation Team B2 "Raw Material Petrology" at the Just Transition Center Halle of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. He also holds several international academic appointments, including Extraordinary Professor of Geochemistry at the University of Patras (since 2021), Guest Lecturer at Utrecht University (since 2021), and Honorary Research Fellow at Stellenbosch University (since 2023). Before moving to Germany, he spent more than fifteen years in South Africa, including as Associate Professor of Economic Geology at Rhodes University (2005–2021), following postdoctoral research in Johannesburg, Oxford and Aberdeen. He earned his PhD (1999) and MSc (1994) in Economic Geology from Rhodes University and a BSc in Geology from the National and Kapodistrias University of Athens. His current projects focus on structural and petrological analyses of crystalline rocks in Saxony-Anhalt, geochemical alteration processes relevant to nuclear-waste storage, critical raw materials in the Kupferschiefer, and the development of a teaching and research mine in Wettelrode.	Natural sciences	Geochemistry-minerology	Saxony-Anhalt (Harz, Wetttelrode), Germany	#natural resource management	#sustainability	#raw materials	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B2: Petrology of Raw Materials	**Prof. Dr. Michael Stipp**		Natural sciences	Geochemistry-minerology	Saxony-Anhalt (Harz, Wetttelrode), Germany	#natural resource management	#sustainability	#raw materials	

B3: Green Molecules Conversion (GMC)

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	**B3: Green Molecules Conversion (GMC)**		**We develop catalytic systems that use renewable energy to convert water and residual emissions into clean fuels.** We develop renewable energy-driven catalytic systems to convert water and waste gases (e.g., CO_2) into clean fuels, addressing global warming and energy sustainability. Our innovations achieve industry-leading green molecules conversion activity and selectivity with novel photo/electrocatalysts. By making green fuels cheaper than fossils, we empower a carbon-neutral future. Our research addresses climate change mitigation and reducing fossil fuel-related health risks through renewable energy-driven photo/electrocatalysis. These systems enable dual-purpose conversion: producing green hydrogen while transforming greenhouse gases into valuable chemicals. Although externally applied fields (magnetic, electric, strain) enhance catalytic efficiency via charge transfer optimization and adsorption energy tuning, the atomic-scale mechanisms governing field-coupled reactions remain unclear. We focus on designing field-responsive catalysts by engineering active sites via electron spin control and ferroelectric domain modulation. Combining operando techniques (XAS, Raman, TEM) with multiscale simulations, we decode how fields regulate reaction barriers and intermediate adsorption/desorption at electronic/atomic scales. A breakthrough innovation involves scaling electrolyzers from lab prototypes to industrial flow cells sustaining working current densities >1 A/cm^2 while maintaining selectivity. By establishing dynamic structure-activity relationships under operational conditions, we bridge fundamental mechanisms with reactor engineering challenges.				**#electrocatalysis**	**#eco-innovation**	**#green hydrogen**	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B3: Green Molecules Conversion (GMC)	**Dr. Haojie Zhang**	Haojie Zhang is the team leader of the Just Transition Center in Halle and a materials scientist with extensive experience in microstructure physics and applied materials research. Since 2020, he has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics, following earlier positions at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences and the Fraunhofer Institute for Microstructure of Materials and Systems. He completed his PhD at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and holds a Master's degree from the Shanghai Advanced Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as well as a Bachelor's degree from Zhengzhou University. His work focuses on materials characterization, microstructural analysis, and innovation in sustainable material systems, contributing to the JTC's mission of enabling just and resilient socio-ecological transitions.	Natural sciences	Microstructure-physics	*unspecified*	#sustainable energy	#raw materials	#electrocatalysis	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B3: Green Molecules Conversion (GMC)	**Dr. Maria Gaudig**	Maria Gaudig is a physicist and senior scientist at the German Lithium Institute (ITEL), where she has worked since 2021. She has been a researcher and postdoctoral fellow at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg since 2017 and completed her PhD there in 2018. Before that, she conducted her doctoral research at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences and earned both her M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Physics at MLU. Her work focuses on lithium, battery materials, and analytical methods within the broader field of sustainable raw-material research.	Natural sciences	Physics	*unspecified*	#sustainable energy	#eco-innovation	#electrocatalysis	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B3: Green Molecules Conversion (GMC)	**Shixian Huang**	Shixian Huang is a materials scientist and doctoral researcher at the Institute of Chemistry at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. He holds an M.Sc. in Materials Science from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and a B.Sc. in Materials Science from the Guangdong Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. His research focuses on electrocatalysis, particularly how spin-state modulation and external magnetic fields can enhance catalytic efficiency and selectivity. By examining how the spin state of metal centers affects thermodynamics and electron-transfer kinetics, he aims to design catalysts that enable more efficient and targeted electrocatalytic pathways, with magnetic fields serving as an additional lever for optimization.	Natural sciences	Materials science	*unspecified*	#sustainable energy	#eco-innovation	#electrocatalysis	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B3: Green Molecules Conversion (GMC)	**Qian Xu**	Qian Xu is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Chemistry at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She completed her PhD in Physical Chemistry at the University of Paris-Saclay, where she worked from 2019 to 2024, and was a visiting researcher at Donghua University in 2024. Her work focuses on advanced chemical analysis and materials research, with an emphasis on processes relevant to sustainable and innovative material systems.	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#sustainable energy	#sustainability	#electrocatalysis	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B3: Green Molecules Conversion (GMC)	**Dr. Leta Takele Menisa**	Leta Takele Menisa is a materials and nanoscience researcher with a strong background in nanotechnology, catalysis, and reactive interfaces. He completed his PhD at the National Center for Nanoscience and Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, following earlier degrees in science and engineering from Haramaya University and Ambo University in Ethiopia. His current work focuses on spin-regulated catalysis, including chiral-induced spin selectivity in key electrochemical reactions such as CO_2 reduction, oxygen evolution, and hydrogen evolution. Through this research, he explores how controlling electron spin can open new pathways for more efficient and selective electrocatalytic processes.	Natural sciences	Nanoscience and Technology	*unspecified*	#sustainable energy	#sustainability	#electrocatalysis	

B4: Designer proteins as bio-based binders

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	**B4: Designer proteins as bio-based binders**		**We develop sustainable, non-toxic, and high-performance protein-based adhesives.** Inspired by nature, we offer a 'construction kit' for an environmentally friendly and biocompatible alternative to synthetic adhesives. We see the application in industrial and pharmaceutical products. In the course of evolution, nature has developed highly functional proteins to adhere to a variety of surfaces. These proteins are a valuable inspiration for innovative functionalities. These protein building blocks can be combined using modern genetic engineering methods to create artificial, modular "designer proteins" (DPs) and produced using biotechnological processes. Our aim is to establish the application of DPs in the binder and medical product industry. Specifically, we are concentrating on the development of adhesives for binding materials such as sand and wood (I). These adhesives should not only meet the requirements for formaldehyde-free adhesives, but also enable the environmentally friendly degradation of used binders so that fillers such as wood chips can be fully recycled. Furthermore, the DPs are to be used for the development of new biomedical materials (II). Due to their excellent biocompatibility and wet adhesive properties, DPs are suitable as surface coatings for implants. By integrating special peptide motifs into the DP platform, cell adhesion can be improved.				**#bioadhesives**	**#designer proteins**	**#biotechnology**	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B4: Designer proteins as bio-based binders	**Dr. Constanze Zwies**	Constanze Zwies is a biochemist and group leader at the Just Transition Center, where she heads an early-career research group focused on designer proteins for regenerative and sustainable material applications. She earned her doctorate in Biochemistry at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg with highest honors and has held research positions at the university's Institute of Pharmacy and at AiP Piesteritz. Her work spans protein engineering, biomaterials, tissue regeneration, and sustainable bio-based adhesives, and she has been recognized with the MLU Transfer Award for her application-oriented dissertation. She is an active member of several scientific societies and teaches courses in pharmaceutical biotechnology, cell culture techniques, and production-organism design.	Natural sciences	Biochemistry	*unspecified*	#eco-innovation	#health care	#designer proteins	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B4: Designer proteins as bio-based binders	**Dr. Jaime Andres Garcia Diosa**	Jaime Andrés García Diosa is a chemical engineer and postdoctoral researcher at the Just Transition Center, building on more than a decade of experience in chemical engineering, materials processing, and applied biotechnology. Before joining the JTC, he worked as a postdoc at the University of Paderborn and spent several years as a researcher at Universidad del Valle in Colombia, where he also completed his PhD and M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering. His career includes industry experience as an analytical chemist at Coca-Cola FEMSA and multiple prestigious research fellowships, including a Georg Forster Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. At the JTC, he contributes to projects on designer proteins for implant coatings, bio-based adhesives, and computationally designed protein materials aimed at advancing sustainable and regenerative technologies.	Natural sciences	Ingeneerings Science	*unspecified*	#eco-innovation	#health care	#designer proteins	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B4: Designer proteins as bio-based binders	**Martin Schütze**	Martin Schütze is a biochemist and doctoral researcher at the Just Transition Center, where he works on designer-protein technologies for regenerative medicine and sustainable biomaterials. He holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Biochemistry from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and gained practical experience through internships in several biochemical and pharmaceutical research groups. His current projects focus on protein-based implant coatings to enhance tissue regeneration, as well as computationally designed bio-based adhesives for wood and sand, offering sustainable alternatives to conventional synthetic binders.	Natural sciences	Biochemistry	*unspecified*	#eco-innovation	#health care	#designer proteins	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B4: Designer proteins as bio-based binders	**Marco Bialas**	Marco Bialas is a biotechnology researcher and doctoral candidate at the Just Transition Center. He holds an M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical and Industrial Biotechnology from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and a B.Sc. in Molecular Biotechnology from the University of Applied Sciences Zittau/Görlitz. His work focuses on designer-protein technologies for regenerative medicine and sustainable biomaterials. Current projects include protein-based implant coatings to enhance bone regeneration and osseointegration, as well as computationally designed bio-based adhesives for wood and sand that offer renewable, recyclable alternatives to conventional synthetic binders.	Natural sciences	Biotechnology	*unspecified*	#eco-innovation	#health care	#designer proteins	

B5: New Photovoltaic Materials

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	**B5: New Photovoltaic Materials**		**We are researching next-generation photovoltaics – with the goal of strengthening southern Saxony-Anhalt as a hub of innovation.** The goal of the innovation team is to analyze innovative materials for high-efficiency multi-junction solar cells in future. Priority is to achieve an efficiency of over 50% while suitability for cost-effective mass production is ensured. Our research is based on theoretical material analyses with the focus on regional raw materials and scalable manufacturing processes in southern Saxony-Anhalt. Our team researches the photovoltaics of the day after tomorrow – with the goal of strengthening southern Saxony-Anhalt as a hub for innovation. While current silicon cells stagnate at 26.8% efficiency, the team is aiming for multi-junction solar cells with over 50% efficiency. This requires novel, cost-efficient materials that are regionally available, non-toxic, and resource-conserving. Using quantum-theoretical simulations, promising compounds such as $BaZrS_3$ and La_3CrCuS_7 have been identified. These can be specifically modified to utilize sunlight even more efficiently. Deposition takes place using a scalable co-evaporation process in vacuum – with a custom-designed setup. Supported by strong partners such as MLU Halle and international collaborations, a prototype with a triple-stacked cell structure is set to be developed. True to the vision: innovation from the region – for a sustainable energy solution worldwide.				**#photovoltaics**	**#eco-innovation**	**#sustainable energy**	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B5: New Photovoltaic Materials	**Torsten Hölscher**	Torsten Hölscher is a photovoltaics researcher and team leader of the JTC Innovation Team Photovoltaics. His work focuses on thin-film solar cells, CIGS absorber materials, tandem architectures, and light-induced material changes in semiconductor layers. He has extensive experience with $Cu(In,Ga)Se_2$ (CIGS) systems, having investigated epitaxial growth, air- and light-exposure effects, and bifacial device concepts across several EU and DFG projects. Before taking on his current leadership role, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher on CIGS/Si tandem solar cells within the EU project SITA and continued earlier research in the *Master PV* project. He holds a Master's degree on charge-carrier dynamics in thin-film solar cells and a Bachelor's degree on silicon nitride deposition, both rooted in semiconductor and photovoltaic materials science.	Natural sciences	Technology Studies	Southern Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#sustainable energy	#eco-innovation	#photovoltaics	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B5: New Photovoltaic Materials	**Oliver Wolf**		Natural sciences	Technology Studies	Southern Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#sustainable energy	#eco-innovation	#photovoltaics	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B5: New Photovoltaic Materials	**Sebastian Zimmermann**		Natural sciences	Technology Studies	Southern Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#sustainable energy	#eco-innovation	#photovoltaics	

B6: Batteries from Sustainable Materials

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	**B6: Batteries from Sustainable Materials**		We develop next-generation battery technologies based on sustainable, earth-abundant materials, targeting post-lithium energy storage systems that overcome the resource and environmental limitations of conventional lithium-ion batteries. Our research focuses on silicon-air and chloride-ion batteries, two chemistries whose theoretical energy densities significantly exceed those of current state-of-the-art systems, and on the solid-state electrolytes needed to realise their full potential. Silicon-air batteries use silicon — one of the most abundant elements in the Earth's crust — as the anode, paired with atmospheric oxygen at the cathode. This combination yields an exceptionally high theoretical specific energy. However, parasitic corrosion of the silicon anode in alkaline electrolytes and progressive electrolyte degradation through silicate accumulation limit practical discharge duration. We investigate the underlying electrochemical mechanisms and develop strategies to mitigate these effects, including electrolyte additives such as polyethylene glycol and targeted electrolyte formulation, to extend battery lifetime and improve performance. Chloride-ion batteries represent a fundamentally different approach to electrochemical energy storage, in which chloride anions shuttle between electrodes instead of metal cations. This eliminates the need for lithium or other critical raw materials entirely. We develop electrode and electrolyte materials for room-temperature chloride-ion operation, with a particular focus on perovskite-structured compounds (ABX_3) as electrode materials, whose tunable crystal chemistry and electrochemical properties make them promising candidates for high-capacity chloride storage. Complementing both battery chemistries, we engineer laser-structured LLZO ceramic solid electrolytes to enhance lithium-ion transport and improve electrode-electrolyte interface stability, advancing the broader field of solid-state battery architectures.				#energy storage	#eco-innovation	#sustainable energy	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B6: Batteries from Sustainable Materials	**Dr. Muhammad Zubair**	Muhammad Zubair is a materials scientist and team leader at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, bringing broad international experience in solid-state chemistry, battery materials, and advanced energy-storage technologies. Before joining the JTC, he worked as a research associate at Forschungszentrum Jülich and as a postdoctoral researcher at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and previously served as an assistant professor at Abbottabad University of Science and Technology in Pakistan. He earned his PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from Beijing University of Technology, following an M.S. and B.S. in Physics from the University of the Punjab in Lahore. His current research centres on chloride-ion batteries as a sustainable, post-lithium energy-storage technology, complemented by work on laser-structured LLZO solid electrolytes to enhance ion transport and interface stability in solid-state batteries.	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#sustainable energy	#eco-innovation	#energy storage	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B6: Batteries from Sustainable Materials	**Richard Schalinski**	Richard Schalinski is an engineer and electrochemist specialising in battery technologies, and a research associate at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer. He is pursuing his PhD at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, building on academic training in renewable energies (M.Sc., MLU) and environmental engineering (B.Sc., HTW Berlin). His work focuses on the development of silicon-air batteries with alkaline electrolytes, with broader expertise spanning lithium-ion battery technology and knowledge across a range of post-lithium battery systems. He combines deep competence in electrochemical analysis and silicon materials processing with applied experience in battery recycling and the sustainable sourcing of battery materials, reflecting a strong interest in the role of next-generation battery technologies within the context of the energy transition.	Natural sciences	Engineering	*unspecified*	#silicon	#energy storage	#sustainable energy	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B6: Batteries from Sustainable Materials	**Anjali Bhatt**	Anjali Bhatt is a chemist and PhD researcher at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She holds an M.Sc. in Chemistry from Ruhr University Bochum, with a specialisation in electroanalytical chemistry, and a B.Sc. in Chemistry from Saurashtra University, India. Her research at the JTC focuses on the degradation mechanisms of chloride-ion batteries, working to understand how these lithium-free, sustainable battery systems age and fail under operational conditions, with the aim of improving their long-term reliability and performance.	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#energy storage	#chloride-Ion	#sustainable energy	

B7: Design of 3D-Printable Polymers Based on Regional Resources

B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	**B7: Design of 3D-Printable Polymers Based on Regional Resources**		**We develop durable, recyclable plastics that combine high performance with sustainability. Through dynamic bonds, we enable self-healing properties, recycling, and advanced 3D printability for complex designs.** At Innovations Team B7, we create durable, recyclable plastics that balance high performance with sustainability. We develop materials using dynamic chemistry to enable self-healing properties, efficient recycling, and advanced 3D printability for complex designs. Our research also tackles environmental aspects, studying how polymers are degraded and how this impacts human health. Vitrimers combine the strength of thermosets with thermoplastic recyclability, so offering a solution to waste management. These materials can be reprocessed, reshaped and recycled due to their embedded dynamic bonds. At Innovations Team B7, we are focusing on: • Sustainable materials and manufacturing via 3D printing: we engineer bio-based polyester and polyester amide vitrimers activated by metal-free catalysts for various applications. Advanced 3D printing methods enable the design complex thermoset geometries. • Recyclable energy solutions: we are developing reprocessable vitrimeric electrolytes, to enhancing battery safety and recyclability/reprocessability. • Beyond vitrimers, microplastic pollution: We will integrate considerations on the impact of our developed materials on organisms, how microplastic particles are generated and their impact on human health.				**#sustainable polymers**	**#recycling**	**#waste management**	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B7: Design of 3D-Printable Polymers Based on Regional Resources	**Dr. Zviadi Katcharava**	Zviadi Katcharava is a polymer materials scientist and team leader at the Just Transition Center, specializing in self-healing polymer systems, battery materials, and advanced functional materials. He completed his PhD at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg with distinction in 2024, following an M.Sc. in Polymer Materials Science. From 2020 to 2024, he worked as a researcher in the EU Horizon 2020 project *BAT4EVER*, where he investigated autonomous self-healing polymer components for high-performance lithium-ion batteries, focusing on material degradation, polymer chemistry, and device-level performance. His work integrates polymer design, materials characterization, and energy-storage innovation to develop more durable, sustainable, and resilient battery technologies.	Natural sciences	Polymer Materials Science	*unspecified*	#sustainability	#eco-innovation	#sustainable polymers	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B7: Design of 3D-Printable Polymers Based on Regional Resources	**Philipp Sebastian Hilgeroth**	Philipp Hilgeroth is a chemist and research associate at the Just Transition Center, where he contributes to projects at the intersection of inorganic chemistry, materials development, and sustainability-driven transformation. Since 2021, he has been part of the Binder research group at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, building on both his M.Sc. and B.Sc. studies in Chemistry at the same institution. Earlier, he completed a voluntary ecological year, which helped shape his long-standing interest in environmental and sustainability topics. His work combines solid chemical expertise with an applied perspective on materials and processes relevant to regional and industrial transition.	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#sustainability	#eco-innovation	#sustainable polymers	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B7: Design of 3D-printable polymers based on regional resources	**Mrunal Karle**	Mrunal Karle is a chemist and doctoral researcher at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg with a background in analytical chemistry, materials science, and applied chemistry. Before beginning her PhD, she worked as a research associate at the University of Freiburg and at the CSIR National Chemical Laboratory in India, and gained additional teaching experience as a teaching assistant at Savitribai Phule Pune University. She holds an M.Sc. in Analytical Chemistry and a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the same university and brings extensive experience in experimental analytics, materials characterization, and chemical research processes to her current work.	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#sustainability	#eco-innovation	#sustainable polymers	
B Pillar: Natural sciences & engineering	B7: Design of 3D-Printable Polymers Based on Regional Resources	**Tshepiso Tema**	Tshepiso Tema is a materials scientist with a multidisciplinary background spanning polymer materials, structural chemistry, spectroscopy, and molecular life sciences. He is a research associate at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where he also began his PhD in 2024 after completing an M.Sc. in Polymer Materials Science. Before joining the university full-time, he worked at NorcSi GmbH in Halle (Saale) as a research assistant, contributing to silicon-based materials development, and gained additional experience in macromolecular chemistry as a student assistant. His academic path includes an M.Sc. in Structural Chemistry and Spectroscopy from the University of Leipzig and a B.Sc. with honors in Molecular Life Sciences from the University of Limpopo in South Africa. His work brings together polymer science, analytical chemistry, and materials engineering, supporting research on advanced and sustainable material systems.	Natural sciences	Materials science	*unspecified*	#sustainability	#eco-innovation	#sustainable polymers	

C Pillar: Law, governance & education

C1: Sustainability standardisation

C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C1: Sustainability standardisation		**Scaling technology transfer with open source and standards** Open-source hardware and software have the potential to support critical infrastructure. We explore how open source can be used as a standard to make the business world more inclusive and democratic. Open-Source Software (OSS) has long become the backbone of the digital world (96% of all codebases use OSS) and Open-Source Hardware (OSH), while still evolving, shows very similar dynamics. We work on the intersection between open-source and de jure standards and how to shape sustainable business, governance and property models for commons public partnerships. De jure standardization has proven to provide a solid foundation for societal consensus on complex technical issues – involving actors that wouldn't cooperate otherwise. It also features a powerful bridge between public regulation and market needs, while deploying progressive democratic principles. However, the implementation of those standards sometimes falls short in interoperability, inclusivity and sustainability. Many committees practically reassemble "old boy's clubs", dominated by powerful players. Meanwhile, open-source technologies are reshaping the landscape, challenging the models of standards bodies that rely on selling documents and enforcing FRAND-based IP regimes. Open-source bears the potential to carry critical infrastructures. No single vendor could control supply chains, maintenance, service or replacement parts. Yet, making this the standard is difficult. Regulators often don't know how to handle open-source, traditional (vertical) governance models are not applicable and conventional business models often fail, since it's about ecosystems, not unicorns.				**#standardization**	**#open source**	**#circular economy**	#open knowledge, #circular society, #commons-public partnership

			We research these challenges and offer free consulting via our Open Source Project Office (JTC-OSPO).							
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C1: Sustainability standardisation	**Martin Häuer**	Martin Häuer is an engineer and team leader at the Just Transition Center whose work bridges open-source hardware, standardization, and sustainable industrial transformation. He leads research on how openly accessible, interoperable technologies can strengthen critical infrastructure and support fair, resilient innovation ecosystems. Before joining the JTC, he worked at the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt and the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design Technology, focusing on metrology, manufacturing systems, and technology transfer. His ongoing doctoral research at TU Berlin explores methodologies for open-source standard hardware, aiming to create freely usable, representative reference technologies. Earlier roles include project management at Open Source Ecology Germany and several years as an international welding engineer. His academic background is in mechanical engineering with a specialization in processing machinery and production technologies.	Legal scholars	Engineering	*unspecified*	#standardization	#open source	#open knowledge	#open knowledge #circular society #commons-public partnership
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C1: Sustainability standardisation	**Benjamin Kashlan**	Benjamin Kashlan is a geographer and sustainability researcher at the Just Transition Center, drawing on experience in regional transformation, open-source innovation, and spatial data analysis. Before joining the JTC, he worked at the Research Center for Sustainability – Transformation – Transfer in Eberswalde and contributed to the OpenEcoLab-Mapping project at Open Source Ecology Germany, focusing on community-driven innovation and regional sustainability infrastructures. Earlier roles include research assistance at the Leibniz Institute for Spatial Social Research and several years of applied geodata work in aerial image analysis for the Hamburg Fire Department. He holds a Diplom in Geography from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and is completing his M.Sc. in Sustainable Regional Development at the University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde, combining spatial expertise with a strong orientation toward socio-ecological transformation.	Natural sciences	Geography	*unspecified*	#standardization	#open source	#open knowledge	#circular society #commons-public partnership
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C1: Sustainability standardisation	**Lucas Lasota**	Lucas Lasota is a legal scholar and postdoctoral researcher at the Just Transition Center, where he works in the innovation team on sustainability and standardization, with a particular focus on the legal dimensions of open-source hardware. He is also an associate researcher at the Weizenbaum Institute in Berlin and has been a senior project lead at the Free Software Foundation Europe since 2019, contributing to European debates on digital rights, interoperability, and open technologies. From 2019 to 2024, he served as a researcher and lecturer at Humboldt University of Berlin. His earlier career includes work as a legal content manager and localization specialist in the private sector. Lucas holds a PhD in contract law from RUDN University in Moscow, completed with highest honors, as well as a master's and bachelor's degree in law. His current work aims to close regulatory gaps around open technologies and to develop legal frameworks that enable transparent, accessible, and sustainable innovation.	Legal scholars	**Law**	*unspecified*	#standardization	#open source	#open knowledge	#circular society #commons-public partnership
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C1: Sustainability standardisation	**Johann Steudle**	Johann Steudle is a lawyer and researcher focused on cooperative and solidarity-based economic models, combining legal expertise with practical experience in socio-ecological transformation. Since 2026 he has been a research associate at the Just Transition Center of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Alongside his academic work, he has run his own law practice since 2021, advising cooperatives and other transformative economic actors, and he teaches at the University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde. His earlier career includes several years as an attorney in collaborative and commercial law firms, long-term involvement in the nationwide advisory network of Solidarische Landwirtschaft, and project work at Freie Universität Berlin for the German-language program at MGIMO University in Moscow. He completed both German state examinations in law after studies in Bayreuth, Moscow, and Jena.	Legal scholars	**Law**	*unspecified*	#standardization	#open source	#open knowledge	#circular society #commons-public partnership

▾ C2: LegalTech Lab

C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C2: LegalTech Lab		**The LegalTech Lab brings fresh momentum to justice and public administration: we digitize processes, streamline workflows, and create space for innovation – for a modern region and a strong future!** The LegalTech Lab JTC is turning the digital transformation of justice and public administration into a lived reality. Operating at the intersection of law, technology, and innovation, we tackle the most pressing challenges facing the public sector. In public administration, we are cutting through bureaucracy with our AI-powered funding guidelines generator, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance—eliminating paperwork and unnecessary administrative burdens. At the same time, we are driving the urgently needed modernization of the justice system. Our flagship project: modeling a fully digital debt enforcement process in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. We are embedding digital expertise in the region through our "Future Legal Education" certificate program and fostering innovation with our Lab Launch Space on campus—a creative hub for new ideas. By doing so, we retain talent in the region and counteract the brain drain of young legal professionals. Our global impact is demonstrated by our interactive Explorer Tool for UNCITRAL documents, positioning our region as a leader in cutting-edge LegalTech solutions.				**#law and governance**	**#public administration**	**#digitalization**
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C2: LegalTech Lab	**Dr. habil. Konstantin Branovitskiy**	Konstantin Branovitskiy researches the digital transformation of law, with a focus on LegalTech, legal design, and civil procedure. His work examines how emerging technologies interact with constitutional guarantees such as the right to be heard, how digital inequality shapes access to justice, and how international civil procedure evolves in response to technological change. He has been a member of the German Association for International Procedural Law since 2022. As the team lead of the JTC LegalTech Lab at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, he heads an innovation team developing practical solutions for courts, public administration, and academia in Saxony-Anhalt. Current projects include tools for family law, the digital transformation of enforcement procedures, and initiatives in data governance and standardization.	Legal scholars	Law	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#law and governance	#public administration	#digitalization
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C2: LegalTech Lab	**Georgia Könemann**	Georgia Könemann is a legal researcher focusing on labor law, digital administration, and applied legal innovation. She is a research associate in Team C2 at the Just Transition Center, where she also leads the project Guideline Generator, developing AI-supported tools that make administrative rule-making more efficient and future-proof. After completing her First State Examination in 2023, she began her PhD in labor law in 2024 at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Alongside her academic work, she contributes to the Lab-Launch-Space, a 200 m² innovation environment in Halle that provides flexible workspaces for experimentation, collaboration, and prototyping within public-sector transformation.	Legal scholars	Law	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#law and governance	#public administration	#digitalization
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C2: LegalTech Lab	**Luzia Ferenschild**	Luizia Ferenschild is a legal researcher and doctoral candidate at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, working on regulatory and data-economy law, with particular interest in the Data Act, private law, law-and-economics approaches, and questions of complexity in legal systems during structural transformation. Before starting her PhD in 2025, she practiced as an attorney in public law, regulation, and competition. She previously completed her legal traineeship in the Higher Regional Court district of Munich, with placements in major law firms in Munich and London as well as at the Munich Regional Court, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Administrative Court. She studied law at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, where she also passed her First State Examination.	Legal scholars	Law	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#law and governance	#public administration	#digitalization

▾ C3: Transformative Learning (TraiL)

C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C3: Transformative Learning (TraiL)		**We design transformative education for structural change — empowering people and organizations in rural regions to learn for a just and sustainable future in a post-digital world.** What can transformative education in structural change look like? Our innovation team improves learning in a post-digital world and supports people and organisations in – rural areas of structural change – in learning for socio-ecological change." How can transformative education be successfully organised in times of structural change? In a rapidly changing world, education needs new approaches. Our team researches and develops learning environments for structural change. We are particularly focussed on rural regions that are affected by change processes. We support people and organisations in acquiring the knowledge and skills needed for socio-ecological change. We combine post-digital educational approaches with local learning spaces in order to promote sustainable development. Our goal: education that not only imparts knowledge, but also empowers people to act and develops attitudes – for a sustainable society.				**#educan in rural areas**	**#community education**	**#community development**
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C3: Transformative Learning (TraiL)	**Dr. Stefan Knauß**	Stefan Knauß is a scholar of environmental governance and just-transition processes and leads a research group at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. His work connects biodiversity governance, participatory democracy, indigenous and local knowledge, and the societal dimensions of ecological transformation. Before taking on his current role, he worked at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and in sustainable landscape development at MLU, following earlier research positions in philosophy and political science. He earned his PhD in the interdisciplinary graduate school Society and Culture in Motion in Halle. Stefan has served as Principal Investigator in several international projects—including Landscapes of Just Transition, BioGoValues, and The Roots of Rights—and contributes to major EU initiatives such as RESPIN and BioAgora, focusing on strengthening science-policy interfaces for biodiversity and climate. His work brings together conceptual analysis, empirical research, and policy engagement to support fair and knowledge-rich pathways through ecological and societal change.	Legal scholars	Environmental policy and governance	Mansfeld-Südharz, Germany	#socio-ecological transformation	#law and governance	#continuing education
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C3: Transformative Learning (TraiL)	**Korbinian Biller**	Korbinian Müller is a researcher at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, working at the intersection of education, mediation, and socio-ecological transformation. He brings experience from the BMBF-funded BNE-Kompetenzzentrum at the German Youth Institute, where he focused on youth transitions and sustainability education, as well as earlier academic roles in international and intercultural education research at Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg and at the European University Viadrina. Trained as a certified transformative mediator, he integrates conflict-sensitive approaches into research on organizational and regional change. His academic background spans cultural studies and interdisciplinary Latin American studies, complemented by international study periods in São Paulo and Mexico City. At the JTC, he contributes to projects such as Future Skills Chemie, examining how workforce development can support socially and ecologically sustainable transformation in the chemical industry.	Social Sciences	Cultural studies	Mansfeld-Südharz, Germany	#continuing education	#socio-ecological transformation	#chemistry in transition
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C3: Transformative Learning (TraiL)	**Jenny Steinhorst**	Jenny Steinhorst works on participatory transformation, social innovation in education, and co-creation in rural regions. With fourteen years of experience in the digital industry in user experience, strategy, and innovation, she now focuses on designing and facilitating processes that help people and institutions actively shape change. Since 2024 she has been a research associate at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, contributing to the team on transformative education. Alongside this role, she works as an independent coach and facilitator, developing methods, moderating workshops, and translating research into practical formats. Her current projects explore how civic engagement can support structural change and how lifelong learning can be strengthened in rural areas.	Legal scholars	Management	Mansfeld-Südharz, Germany	#structural change	#community development	#education in rural areas
C Pillar: Law, governance & education	C3: Transformative Learning (TraiL)	**Eva Fabian**	Eva Fabian is a sociologist and doctoral researcher working on educational sociology, family decision-making, and social and spatial inequality. She is part of Team C3 (*Transformative Learning – New paths into future*) at the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, and since 2022 has also been a researcher in the BMBF-funded project *NeOBi*, studying how parents make educational decisions in different regional contexts. Her previous roles span coaching, integration work, and research positions at the Research Institute for Social Cohesion, the Harz University of Applied Sciences, and the Burgenland district administration. She studied sociology and philosophy at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where she completed both her B.A. and M.A. Her current work focuses on parental educational strategies, transitions to secondary school, and the interplay of emotion, interaction, and inequality in family decision-making.	Social Sciences	Sociology	Mansfeld-Südharz, Germany	#community development	#inequality	#continuing education

▾ D Pillar: Applied research

▾ Transfer Incubator

D Pillar: Applied research	Transfer Incubator		We combine scientific expertise with the challenges of structural change. Together with partners from the region, our research teams develop solutions that strengthen economic power, promote sustainability and open up new opportunities. To this end, we have two supporting forces in the project: the transfer pillar, which deals with the transfer of knowledge from the university to the region, and the so-called district scouts, who are responsible for dialogue and anchoring in the sub-regions of southern Saxony-Anhalt.						
D Pillar: Applied research	Transfer Incubator	**Dr. Susanne Hübner**	Executive director	Applied sciences	Entrepreneurial studies	Central German Mining Region	#structural change	#community development	#knowledge transfer
D Pillar: Applied research	Transfer Incubator	**Dr. Stephanie Jahn**	Impact & Innovation Scout	Applied sciences	Sustainability Science	Central German Mining Region	#structural change	#community development	#knowledge transfer
D Pillar: Applied research	Transfer Incubator	**Gabriel Kolar**	Coach for transfer and founding	Applied sciences	Entrepreneurial studies	Central German Mining Region	#structural change	#community development	#knowledge transfer
D Pillar: Applied research	Transfer Incubator	**Dr. Claudia Langosch**	Training of early-career researchers in technology transfer and entrepreneurship within the Just Transition Center's Graduate School	Applied sciences	Rhetoric & Adult Education	Central German Mining Region	#structural change	#community development	#knowledge transfer

▾ ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies

▾ ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies

ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies		The Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS) is an umbrella organisation for those institutions and individuals at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg who are doing research in the field of regional studies. The ZIRS initiates and promotes regional and transregional related research activities under overarching thematic, theoretical and methodological questions. The networking of different regional and disciplinary competencies creates dynamic interest groups and collaborations that enable innovative research on pressing issues in their current and historical references. In cooperation with university and non-university partners from Germany and abroad, the ZIRS organizes events such as guest lectures, workshops and summer schools. **Regional and transregional research under one roof** Currently, the ZIRS is in a phase of reorientation: In the past months, new members have joined the centre and a new managing board has been elected. Currently, scientists from more than fifteen different disciplines, such as ethnology, geography, history or law, are involved in the ZIRS. They conduct research in various regions, starting from Saxony-Anhalt, Poland and Eastern Europe to the MENA region and the Silk Road. A new research focus of the centre is on **resources, structural change, energy** and **post-extractive futures**. On the one hand, with this focus we contribute to the study of current economic and social transformation processes taking place in Saxony-Anhalt and Central Germany. We work with and towards local actors and investigate what moves local communities. On the other hand, we analyse such transformation processes in comparison with other regions within and outside Europe. These trans-regional references enable us to investigate overarching globally relevant issues of **climate change, de-growth** and **sustainability**. We are currently conducting research in Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, India, Australia, Indonesia and other countries. Finally, the cooperation of **contemporary** and **historical** disciplines at ZIRS enables us to compare not only spatially but also temporally and thus to deepen our knowledge of the above-mentioned topics. With this research focus, ZIRS is also located in the international research landscape at the interface between **Environmental and Energy Humanities** and **Area Studies**. Beyond this focus, ZIRS also represents a dynamic research platform, within the framework of which further topics of regional studies are currently and in the future researched, in individual and collaborative work. Through its international orientation, ZIRS also supports the internationalization strategy of MLU. [[http://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/]]						

▾ ZIRS Directorate

ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Directorate	**Prof. Dr. Jonathan Everts**	ZIRS Executive Board **Prof. Dr. Jonathan Everts** has been Professor of Human Geography at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) since 2018. He previously held academic positions in Sheffield, Bayreuth, Bonn, and Dresden. His research focuses on theories of social practices, socio-spatial transformation, and human-environment relations. Prof Everts is the founding director of the Centre for Just Transition and Sustainability (HALIS) at MLU and director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS). He currently leads two inter- and transdisciplinary research projects on Strukturwandel (just transition) in Central Germany: Agentur für Aufbruch (funded by the STARK programme, in cooperation with Werkleitz Society) and the Just Transition Center (funded by the JTF). Both projects support the mutual transfer of knowledge between the university and the region. Source: https://jtc.uni-halle.de/en/jonathan-everts/	Social sciences	Human Geography	Central German Mining Region	#structural change	#socio-ecological transformation	#knowledge transfer
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Directorate	**Prof. Dr. Astrid Meier**	**Prof. Dr. Astrid Meier** research focuses on the social and cultural history of the Near and Middle East in the early modern period, with particular emphasis on the Ottoman Empire, Islamic law—especially *waqf*—and the history of rural and urban societies in Syria and the Arabian Peninsula. She also works on Arabic literary history, ego-documents, historiography, and the history of the Sahel, including food systems and famine. Source:https://arabistik.uni-halle.de/mitarbeitende/3216799_3216805/	Humanities	Cultural history	Near East, Middle East	#law and governance	#urban and regional studies	#food security
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Directorate	**Prof. Dr. Dirk Hanschel**	**Prof. Dr. Dirk Hanschel** research focuses on human rights protection, environmental and energy law, the law of international organizations, and comparative constitutional law. He has held academic positions in Germany, the UK, and the United States, and currently serves as Professor of German, European, and International Public Law at the University of Halle-Wittenberg, where he also directs the Environmental Justice Research Center. His work is shaped by long-standing experience in international research collaborations and interdisciplinary projects.	Law, policy & education	Law	German, Europe, Global	#human rights	#energy policy	#environmental justice
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Directorate	**Prof. Dr. Ilkhom Soliev**	**Prof. Dr. Ilkhom Soliev's** work centers on environmental social sciences, with a focus on resource governance, institutional economics, and the values, norms, and behaviors that shape human relationships with nature, biodiversity, climate, forests, and transboundary waters. He studies commons, property rights, and collective action, using approaches such as institutional-discourse analysis, survey experiments, and experiential behavioral games. He is actively engaged in international research networks, including leadership roles at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) and the International Association for the Study of the Commons, and contributes to global initiatives on the governance and rights of nature.	Interdisciplinary studies	Environmental sociology	*unspecified*	#law and governance	#sustainability	#natural resource management
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Directorate	**Prof. Dr. Klaus Näumann**	**Prof. Dr. Klaus Näumann** is an ethnomusicologist whose work focuses on Caribbean music cultures (especially Trinidad and Jamaica), the music of the German minority in Poland, and popular and hybrid musical forms ranging from Belarus to Jazz Manouche and Progressive Rock. His research also examines festival cultures, musical competition, and the history of ethnomusicology and folk-music research. Since 2017 he has been Professor of Ethnomusicology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, following extensive fieldwork in the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Germany and long-standing leadership roles in national and international scholarly associations. Source: https://komitasmuseum.am/en/klaus-naumann/	Applied research	Ethnomusicolog y	Trinidad, Jamaica, Poland, Belarus	#artistic research	#community education	#ethnography
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Directorate	**Prof. Dr. Yvonne Kleinmann**	**Yvonne Kleinmann** is a historian of Eastern Europe whose work focuses on Poland-Lithuania in the early modern period, the history of the Russian Empire, and Jewish life worlds in Eastern Europe. Her research also examines urban history, religion and political authority, legal history and legal anthropology, as well as migration. After studies in Cologne, Mainz, and Paris and academic positions in Mainz, Berlin, Leipzig, and Jerusalem, she has been Professor of Eastern European History at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg since 2013, building on long-term research on religious diversity, law, and urban societies in early modern Poland. Source: https://www.geschichte.uni-halle.de/mitarbeiter/kleinmann/	Humanities	History	Eastern Europe	#heritage	#art history	#law and governance
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Directorate	**Prof. Dr. Asta Vonderau**	**Asta Vonderau** is Professor of Ethnology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Her research focuses on the social and environmental consequences and effects of political and economic transformation processes in Europe. This research includes projects that examine the connection between (de)industrialisation, digitalisation and regional change, as well as post-socialist transformation processes in (Eastern) Europe and the implementation of EU policies in various local contexts. Vonderau examines how the energy transition and coal phase-out are changing social coexistence and political structures in today's 'carbon democracies' and what (post-fossil fuel) futures these processes make possible.	Social Sciences	Ethnology	Lithuania, Germany, Sweden	#structural change	#postsocialism	#extractivism

▾ ZIRS Members

ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Felix Schiedlowski**	Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS), and Centre for Just Transition and Sustainability (HALIS) **Research Interests:** Politics of Transformation – Change, Continuity, Gaps Post-fossil Society – Phasing-out Coal in an Eastern German Mining District Energy Transition: The Unwinding of Coal Urban Change: Peace in Belfast, Northern Ireland Source: https://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/en/felix-schiedlowski/	Interdisciplinary studies	Anthropology	Central German Mining Region, Northern Ireland	#post-mining landscapes	#structural change	#decarbonisation
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Amy Walker**	Dr. Amy Walker is a human geographer and research associate whose work focuses on post-industrial communities, social memory, and the emotional geographies of deindustrialisation. She holds a Master's degree in Social Science Research Methods from Cardiff University, where she is also completing her PhD on the lived legacies of industrial life in South Wales. Her research uses ethnographic methods to explore how memories of industrial pasts persist in everyday practices, landscapes, and community identities, paying particular attention to affect, materiality, and informal forms of heritage. Her current project examines affective and emotive heritage in coalfield communities in Central Germany, analysing how transitions away from coal shape collective memory, belonging, and future imaginaries.	Interdisciplinary studies	Human Geography	United Kingdom, Central German	#post-mining landscapes	#structural change	#law and governance
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Kim Dittmann**	Research Associate at the Researcher Centre for Interdisziplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS) at Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg **Research Focus** • Future visions – Practices of individual and social shaping of the future • Knowledge and imagination: The formation and application of expertise as a means of planning the future in everyday life and science. • Participation and public: Conception and implementation of public participation in wind power projects. • Human-technology-relations: Challenges of integrating user perspectives in the development of care robotics. Source: https://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/en/kim-dittmann/	Interdisciplinary studies	Ethnology	Saxony, Baden-Württemberg	#participation	#postindustrial futures	#post-industrial landscapes
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Pablo Abend**	Professor for design theory, Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle "In the summer semester of 2022, I was appointed professor of design theory. From 2023 to 2024, I was Ander Visiting Professor in Geomedia Studies at Karlstad University in Sweden. My research focuses on the history, aesthetics and pragmatics of designed artefacts, media practices and the everyday and societal impact of design. In my teaching at BURG, I encourage students to continually question their own actions and the role of design. I also aim to supplement existing design theory education with the testing of design-research methods." Source: https://www.burg-halle.de/person/p/pablo-abend/	Applied research	Design	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#multimodal research	#ethnography
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Azar Aliyev**	Prof. Dr. Azar Aliyev, LL.M. (University of Heidelberg) has held the Chair of International Economic Law, Comparative Law and Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer since April 2025. From October 2024 to March 2025, he held the Chair of Civil Law, Commercial Law and Corporate Law. From October 2023 to September 2024, he held the chair of Prof. Dr. Reimund Schmidt-De Caluwe for Public Law and Social Law. From July 2017 to October 2023, he held the junior professorship for International Economic Law and Comparative Law and, since July 2021, has been co-director of the Institute for Structural Change and Sustainability (HALIS). Source: https://www.jura.uni-halle.de/lehrstuehle_dozierende/aliyev/	Law, policy & education	Law	*unspecified*	#law and governance	#climate law	#structural change
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. François Bertemes**	Institute for Art History and Archaeology of Europe Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg **Source:** https://www.ikakla.uni-halle.de/webseite_fachbereich_archaeologie/personen/prof._dr._fran_ois_bertemes/	Natural sciences	Archaeology	Central Europe, Southeastern Europe, Aegean	#heritage	#urban and regional studies	#multimodal research
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Christoph Brumann**	Christoph Brumann's research has focused on urban anthropology, the political economy of cultural heritage, international organisations, economic aspects of contemporary Buddhism, the culture concept and its public life, utopian communes and their survival conditions, and Japanese society and culture. After studying Social Anthropology, Japanese Studies, and Chinese Studies at the University of Cologne and Sophia University, Tokyo, he obtained his doctorate (1997) and habilitation degrees (2005) from the University of Cologne. Since then, he has published monographs on the townscape conflicts of Kyoto and on the UNESCO World Heritage arena and a number of edited volumes. After visiting professorships at the universities of Düsseldorf, Cologne and Tübingen, he joined the MPI as a Heisenberg Fellow, fully coming on board as a Head of Research Group in 2010. He also is an Honorary Professor of Anthropology at the University of Halle-Wittenberg and a member of the Academia Europaea. **Source**: https://www.eth.mpg.de/brumann	Social sciences	Anthropology	Japan and East Asia	#urban and regional studies	#heritage	#ethnography
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Jakob Busse von Colbe, M.Sc.**	Researcher, University of Kassel, Department of Urban Regeneration and Planning Theory Source: https://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/jakob-busse-von-colbe/	Applied research	Architecture	*unspecified*	#urban planning	#law and governance	#structural change
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Christopher Conrad**	Head of the Department of Geoecology, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://geo.uni-halle.de/geoecology/home/	Natural sciences	Geoecology	Central Europe, Central Asia	#natural resource management	#water rights	#knowledge transfer
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Jörg Dinkelaker**	Prof. Dr. Jörg Dinkelaker researches the dynamics and formats of learning outside educational institutions, with a particular focus on situations and practices of translation between different social worlds. Another key area of his work is learning in and through the climate crisis. Source: https://soziologie.uni-halle.de/fgz/team/joerg_dinkelaker/?lang=en	Social sciences		*unspecified*	#structural change	#continuing education	#community development
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Dr. Markus Bös**	Research Associate, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Dr. Markus Bös is a human geographer whose work focuses on economic geography, urban geography, and social geography, with regional expertise in Germany, Turkey, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. From 2013 to 2026 he served as a research associate and programme manager in Anthropogeography at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, following earlier academic roles at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. He earned his doctorate in geography in 2010 with a dissertation on the marginalisation of Turkish nationals deported from Germany. His recent work includes contributions to the MLU Human Geography Working Paper Series and participation in the NEB Reallabor ZEKIWA Zeitz project.	Natural sciences	Human Geography				
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Jenny Haase**	Prof. Dr. Jenny Haase is a scholar of Spanish and Latin American literature whose work focuses on ecocriticism, mysticism, and decolonial poetics. She moved to the University of Potsdam for the 2024/25 academic year after holding a professorship at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Her monograph *Vitale Mystik* earned her the prestigious Hugo Friedrich and Erich Köhler Prize in 2024. She is widely published and active in international research collaborations exploring materiality, postsecular thought, and contemporary poetic practices. Institut für Romanistik, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.romanistik.uni-halle.de/studienbereiche/professurhaase/haase/	Social Sciences	Literature Studies	Chile, Argentina, Spain	#political ecology	#multispecies justice	#more-than-human geographies
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Dirk Hanschel**	Prof. Dr. Dirk Hanschel is a public law scholar specializing in human rights protection, environmental and energy law, and comparative constitutional law. He has held academic positions in Germany, the UK, Australia, the US, and Italy, and currently leads the Research Center for Environmental Justice (EnJC). His work focuses on the legal governance of environmental conflicts, international organizations, and federal conflict resolution. He combines doctrinal analysis with interdisciplinary approaches to global and environmental justice. Juristische und Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.jura.uni-halle.de/lehrstuehle_dozierende/hanschel/hanschel/	Law, policy & education	Law	Germany, Global,	#environmental justice	#law and governance	#climate law
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Dr. Janine Hauer**	Dr. Janine Hauer is an anthropologist whose work focuses on human–environment relations, socio-ecological transformations, and contested futures. She conducted extensive ethnographic research in Burkina Faso on urbanization, land-use change, and their social and ecological consequences, culminating in her 2024 PhD at Humboldt University. Since 2023 she has been a researcher in ethnology at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where she now studies how communities in the Central German Chemical Triangle deal with toxic legacies and long-term environmental burdens. Her work combines ethnographic depth with interdisciplinary collaboration on environmental knowledge, waste, temporality, and everyday life in more-than-human worlds. Seminar für Ethnologie, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.ethnologie.uni-halle.de/personal/hauer/	Social Sciences	Ethnology	Burkina Faso (Westafrica), Germany (Europe)	#environmental justice	#anthropocene	#post-industrial landscapes
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Gundula Hübner**	Prof. Dr. Gundula Hübner is a social and environmental psychologist whose work focuses on public acceptance of renewable energy, environmental risk perception, and human–technology interaction. She has led numerous interdisciplinary research projects on wind energy acceptance, noise and vibration impacts, environmental justice, and technology-assisted aging. Her research bridges psychology, environmental policy, and design, collaborating with engineering, medicine, and planning institutions across Germany and Europe. She is widely recognized for shaping the social science foundations of the energy transition Institut für Psychologie, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.psych.uni-halle.de/abteilungen/sozial/mitarbeitende/huebner/	Social Sciences	Psychology	Germany, Europe	#energy justice	#environmental education	#energy landscape
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Yvonne Kleinmann**	Prof. Dr. Yvonne Kleinmann is a historian specializing in the history of Poland, Eastern Europe, and the Russian Empire, with a strong focus on religious diversity, legal cultures, and urban societies. She studied in Cologne, Mainz, and Paris and has held research positions in Mainz, Leipzig, Jerusalem, and at the Simon Dubnow Institute. Since 2013 she has been Professor of Eastern European History at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and serves as Director of the Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies. Her work explores how multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities negotiated law, coexistence, and political authority from the early modern period to the 19th century. Institut für Geschichte Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.geschichte.uni-halle.de/mitarbeiter/kleinmann/	Social Sciences	Philosophy	Poland, Russia, Eastern Europe	#migration	#heritage	#law and governance
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Julia Kühl, M.A.**	Julia Kühl is a doctoral researcher in anthropology whose work focuses on political ecology, green transitions, and the social dimensions of mobility and regional development. She is completing her PhD at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where she investigates how regional policy in Central Germany shapes sustainable futures and whose mobility needs are prioritized. Her earlier research includes ethnographic work in South Africa and Germany, examining migration, belonging, and post-socialist transformations. She combines political-economic analysis with grounded ethnographic methods to understand how large-scale transitions are lived in everyday life. Seminar für Ethnologie/ZIRS, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/julia-kuehl/	Social Sciences	Ethnology	Central Germany, Sub-Saharan Africa, Somalia	#political ecology	#postsocialism	#post-industrial landscapes
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Harald Schwillus**	Prof. Dr. Harald Schwillus is a scholar of Catholic religious education whose work focuses on religious learning, communication about religion in secular societies, and the didactics of church history. After studies in theology, philology, pedagogy, and philosophy in Würzburg, Rome, Berlin, and Munich, he completed his doctorate in 1991 and habilitation in 2003. Since 2005 he has been Professor of Religious Education at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where he also serves in numerous leadership roles in faculty governance and teacher education. His research explores how religious identity, heritage, and public communication about religion are shaped in contemporary cultural contexts. Institut für Katholische Theologie und ihre Didaktik, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.kaththeol.uni-halle.de/arbeitsbereiche/religionspaedagogik/schwillus/	Social Sciences	Education/ Philosophy	Germany, Europe	#heritage	#educational policy	#law and governance
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Dr. Nora Küttel**	Nora Küttel is a human geographer and urban researcher at the University of Bremen whose work focuses on critical urban studies, cultural and social geography, and post-industrial transformations. Her current project Threatened Identitiesexamines how work, memory, gender, and space intersect in the shipbuilding industries of East and West Germany from the 1980s to the present. She previously researched the multiple transformations of the former MV shipyards in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, centering the experiences of workers exposed to ongoing uncertainty and structural rupture. Her broader work draws on ethnographic, visual, and creative methods as well as feminist methodology to understand how deindustrialization, loss, and spatial change shape everyday life. Source: https://digital.geo.uni-halle.de/mitarbeiterinnen/kuettel/	Social Sciences	Human Geography	Germany, Detroit (U.S.), South Africa	#post-industrial landscapes	#urban landscapes	#multimodal research

ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Stefanie Leiding, M.A.**	DFG-Graduiertenkolleg 2477 – Ästhetische Praxis, Universität Hildesheim Source: https://www.uni-hildesheim.de/grk-2477/ **Stefanie Leiding (M.Sc., LL.M.) studied educational science at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and German studies at the University of Jena. She has professional experience in child and youth welfare and worked as a research associate at the MLU's Center for School and Educational Research, where she contributed to an ethnographic project on children's school and social participation. She is currently pursuing her doctorate at the Center for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS). Her work has been supported by several awards and fellowships, and she regularly presents at academic conferences and teaches in the fields of social pedagogy, cultural education, and social philosophy.**	Social Sciences	Educational science	*unspecified*	#education-policy	#community development	#participation		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Anne-Kathrin Lindau**	Prof. Dr. Anne-Kathrin Lindau is a specialist in geography education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), currently holding the W2 Professorship for Geography Didactics at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Her work focuses on teacher professionalization, sustainability competencies, wilderness education, excursion didactics, and digital media in geography teaching. She previously served as Professor of Geography Didactics and Sustainability Officer at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and has long-standing experience in teacher training, curriculum development, and higher-education sustainability strategies. Her extensive publication record and leadership roles in national networks position her as a key figure in advancing transformative sustainability education in schools and universities. Institut für Geowissenschaften und Geographie, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://blogs.urz.uni-halle.de/geographiedidaktik/arbeitsgruppe/ak_lindau/	Social Sciences	Education/ Geography	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany; Bavaria, Germany	#environmental justice	#educational policy	#multimodal research		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Boris Michel**	Prof. Dr. Boris Michel is Professor of Digital Geography at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where he leads the unit for Digital Geography and serves as deputy managing director of the Institute of Geosciences. His work focuses on critical cartography, urban geography, digital urbanism, and the geographies of infrastructure, combining historical, political, and digital perspectives. His research spans collaborative mapping, platform urbanism, counter-cartographies, and the politics of geodata, and he has held visiting positions in Vancouver and Manila as well as a Visiting Fellowship at the University of the Philippines. His extensive publication record and leadership in projects such as sub\urban, Cryocultures, and OpenStreetMap governance position him as a central figure in contemporary critical digital geography. Head of the Department of Digital Geography & Deputy Executive Director of the Institute Institut für Geowissenschaften und Geographie, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Prof. Dr. Boris Michel is Professor of Digital Geography. His work focuses on critical cartography and geographical urban research. **Focus Areas:** urban studies, digital urbanism, geographies of infrastructure, critical cartography Source: https://blogs.urz.uni-halle.de/digigeo/mitarbeiterinnen/michel/	Social Sciences	Digital Geography	Central Europe, Philippines, Global South	#extractivism	#smart city	#digitalization		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**PD Dr. Katja Müller**	Prof. Dr. habil. Katja Müller is a visual anthropologist whose work focuses on photography, museum ethnology, postcolonial digital heritage, and the socio-ecological politics of energy transitions. She is a Visiting Professor at the University of Technology Sydney and Privatdozentin at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, with extensive research experience in South Asia, Germany, and international energy contexts. Her projects explore how digitization reshapes cultural heritage, how communities experience coal mining and renewable energy transitions, and how visual and digital media mediate memory, protest, and environmental change. Her publications span digital archives, postcolonial collections, coal and renewable energy politics, and the materiality of visual culture. ZIRS, Hochschule Merseburg/Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/katja-mueller/	Social Sciences	Anthropology	South Asia, Germany, Australia	#extractivism	#renewables	#post-industrial landscapes		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Anita von Poser**	Prof. Dr. Anita von Poser is a social and psychological anthropologist whose work explores kinship, care, emotion, embodiment, and the lived experience of mobility and migration. Her research combines phenomenological, sensory, and psychological anthropology to understand how people relate to one another across life stages, crises, and transnational contexts. She has conducted long-term ethnographic research in Papua New Guinea as well as in Vietnamese–German transnational lifeworlds. Her current DFG-funded project examines how transnational care networks respond to multiple crises in psychosocial healthcare between Vietnam and Germany. Seminar für Ethnologie, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg **Research Focus** Social Relationships (Kinship, Relatedness, Care); Aging and Life-course; Im-/Mobility and Migration; Psychological Anthropology (Emotion, Affect, Belonging); Empathy and Intersubjectivity; Cognition and Theory of Mind); Phenomenological Anthropology (Body/ Embodiment, Place/Movement, Sensory Ethnography); Anthropology of Foodways; Personhood; Gender and Diversity; Ethics and Data Management; Interdisciplinarity as Engaged Anthropology / Psychiatry / Psychology Source: https://www.ethnologie.uni-halle.de/personal/vonposer/	Social Sciences	Anthropology	Oceania, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Germany	#mirgation	#memory	#sensory research		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Jun.-Prof. Dr. Željana Tunić**	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Željana Tunić is a scholar of South Slavic cultural history whose work focuses on memory politics, post-conflict societies, and the cultural and political life of the former Yugoslav region. She examines how war, violence, and transformation are narrated, mediated, and contested through literature, theatre, forensic practices, and public remembrance. Since 2022 she has been Junior Professor for Slavic Cultural Studies/South Slavic Studies at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and is currently on fellowship at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg. Her research spans memory cultures, multilingual border regions, post-Yugoslav theatre, and the political potential of grief and forensic knowledge. Seminar für Slavisitik, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.slavistik.uni-halle.de/mitarbeiterinnen/52700_3422126/	Social Sciences	Slavic Studies	Former Yugoslavia/ Western Balkans, Germany, Eastern Europe	#memory	#migration	#sites of loss		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Ingo Uhlig**	Germanistisches Institut, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Representative publications: "Energiewende beyond tech." Energiekulturen. Atlas regionaler Energiewenden Ein Blick auf die kulturelle Seite der Energiewende – der Plantiefen-Atlas. IKEM, Berlin 2026 Source: https://www.germanistik.uni-halle.de/neuere_literaturwissenschaft/decultot/assoziierte_mitarbeiter_/uhlig/ **Prof. Dr. Ingo Uhlig is a scholar of Environmental Humanities with a focus on energy cultures, renewable energies, and the cultural dimensions of climate transformation. He works at the intersection of literature, art, and energy transition, contributing to projects for the IKEM and previously for WindNODE. His publications include *Energiewende erzählen* (2023), the Plantiefen-Atlas (2026), and the sufficiency-focused magazine SuzAnNa (2024).** **He studied philosophy, sociology, English studies and ethnology, earned his PhD in media culture at the Bauhaus-University Weimar, and has held research and teaching positions in Halle, Münster, Berlin and at the Burg Giebichenstein. Since 2019 he has been an extraordinary professor at MLU Halle-Wittenberg, and since 2022 a Research Associate at IKEM and Department Affiliate at TU Berlin. His work explores aesthetics of sustainability, theories of contingency, dream and poiesis, and the cultural narratives of the energy transition.**	Social Sciences	Cultural studies	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#energy transition	#energy landscape		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Patrick Vonderau**	Prof. Dr. Patrick Vonderau is a leading scholar in media and communication studies whose work focuses on the transformation of media industries, digital distribution, and the infrastructures that underpin contemporary screen cultures. He has held positions in Berlin, Bochum, Stockholm, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara, and since 2018 he has been W3-Professor at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. His research spans streaming economies, platform governance, advertising film, and the political economy of digital media, often conducted through large international, interdisciplinary projects. He is also a co-founder and long-standing editor of major journals and networks in media industry studies, including Media Industries Journal and NECS. Institut für Musik, Medien- und Sprechwissenschaften, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.medienkomm.uni-halle.de/abteilung/mitarbeiter/vonderau/	Social Sciences	Media & Communication Studies	United States, Sweden, Germany,	#digitalization	#smart city	#digitalization		X
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Michael Wollrath, M.Sc.**	Michael Wollrath is a human geographer and doctoral researcher at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg whose work focuses on human–nature relationships, evolutionary economic geography, and practice theory. His current dissertation project, *Arowana Geographies*, examines how luxury ornamental fish in Indonesia move between commodification and conservation, reshaping regional economies and ecological relations. His earlier research explored environmental volunteerism, invasive species management, and shifting understandings of nature in the Anthropocene. He combines qualitative and regional expertise with a strong interest in more-than-human geographies and Southeast Asian development dynamics. Doctoral candidate in human geography at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://www.zirs.uni-halle.de/en/michael-wollrath/	Social Sciences	Geography	Indonesia, Germany	#political ecology	#extractivism	#more-than-human geographies		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Daniel Wrana**	Prof. Dr. Daniel Wrana is a scholar of systematic educational science whose work examines how subjects are formed through educational practices, discourses, and institutional arrangements. His research focuses on processes of subjectivation, the politics of knowledge in education, and governmentality, with a strong methodological emphasis on the analysis of discursive practices. Since 2017 he has been Professor of Systematic Educational Science at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, following a professorship in learning research and self-directed learning in Switzerland. His academic trajectory combines qualitative inquiry, theory development, and critical perspectives on how educational knowledge shapes social relations and forms of selfhood. Institut für Pädagogik, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Source: https://paedagogik.uni-halle.de/arbeitsbereich/sys_erzw/mitarbeiterinnen/wrana/	Social Sciences	Educational science	Europe (German Speaking),	#education-policy	#memory	#law and governance		
ZIRS: Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies	ZIRS Members	**Prof. Dr. Olaf Zenker**	Seminar für Ethnologie, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg Prof. Dr. Olaf Zenker is a social anthropologist whose work examines political and legal transformations, statehood, bureaucracy, and identity formation in contexts marked by conflict, inequality, and normative plurality. After completing Master's degrees in Social Anthropology (LSE) and Linguistics & Literature (Hamburg), he earned his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, followed by a postdoctoral position in the Max Planck Fellow Group Law, Organisation, Science and Technology. He later held academic posts in Bern, Cologne, Berlin, and Fribourg, alongside fellowships at Cambridge, Harvard, and institutions in South Africa. Since 2019 he has been Professor of Social Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, focusing on Southern Africa, Northern Ireland, and Germany. Source: https://www.ethnologie.uni-halle.de/personal/zenker/	Social Sciences	Anthropology	Southern Africa, Northern Ireland, Germany	#law and governance	#migration	#sites of loss		

Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)

Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates

Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**		Agentur für Aufbruch (Agency for Change) sees structural change in the central German mining region not only as a logical and necessary path to the future, but also as one that requires leaving much behind. We ask the following: What are the perspectives of the people in the affected regions concerning this change? What are their wishes and hopes, and what opportunities do they have to participate in shaping the future? What are we losing along the way, and what memories are important to preserve for the future?								
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Prof. Dr. Jonathan Everts**	AfA Research Associate: **Jonathan Everts is Professor of Human Geography at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. His work focuses on the social and spatial transformations that accompany regional structural change and broader socio-material transitions. A current emphasis of his research lies on transformative practices—the everyday ways in which people negotiate, enact, and shape societal change.**	Social sciences	Human Geography	Central German Mining Region	#structural change	#socio-ecological transformation	#knowledge transfer		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Daniel Herrmann**	AfA Research Associate	Applied research	Curator	Halle (Saale, Germany)	#artistic research	#multimodal research	#participation		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Dr. Mareike Pampus**	Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Institute of Geosciences and Geography, Human Geography **Research Focus**: Human geography of socio-ecological transformation, with a focus on post-mining landscapes, just transition, and more-than-human relations. My work examines how structural change is negotiated in former coal and industrial regions, particularly in Central Germany, combining ethnographic fieldwork with critical political ecology, environmental humanities, and transformation studies. **Key Themes**: Post-mining landscape re-use, habitability and sustainability, just transition, local governance and resistance to transformation, more-than-human geography, political geology, and ethnography. **Current Projects:** Research on socio-ecological negotiations and habitability in Central German post-mining landscapes. Analysis of local resistance to socio-ecological transformation in municipal politics. Collaborative projects on landscape restoration, temporary nature, and more-than-human agency in structural change. **Mareike Pampus is a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer in human geography at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and serves as scientific coordinator at the Institute for Structural Change and Sustainability. Her current postdoctoral project examines concepts of nature in the redevelopment of former open-cast lignite mines in the Central German mining district, using ethnographic methods to explore human–environment relations and the mutual shaping of landscape restoration and more-than-human life in post-industrial ruins.**	Social Sciences	Ethnology	Middle German Coal District	#socio-ecological transformation	#post-mining landscapes	#more-than-human geographies		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Felix Kolb**	Felix Kolb is a research assistant at the Institute for Structural Change and Sustainability and a doctoral candidate in human geography at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. As part of his doctoral thesis, he is researching planned lithium mining in Extremadura, Spain. At AfA, he is involved in designing and conducting interactive creative workshops for the Structure & Change seminar series.	Social Sciences	Human Geography	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany; Extramadura, Spain	#structural change	#lithium	#participation		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Laura Linsig**	AfA Research Associate **Laura Linsig is a textile designer and research associate at the Agentur für Aufbruch. With professional experience in international development cooperation, she has worked extensively in multi-stakeholder partnerships focused on the sustainable transformation of industrial and artisanal production processes. For Werkleitz, she supports artist residencies in Halle and the Mansfeld-Südharz region and accompanies the production of new artistic works.**	Applied sciences	Design	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#eco-innovation	#artistic research	#community development		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Andreas Schulze**	AfA Research Associate **Andreas Schulze studied fine arts at the Academy of Visual Arts (HGB) Leipzig and has worked as a freelance artist since 2003. His practice explores the dynamics of a digitally mediated present, engaging with image- and text-based information flows, data performance, body protocols, and data as a raw material of technological progress. With a focus on the shifting relations between individuals, society, and technology, his work examines how text production and world-making, computational power and human self-understanding, subjective narration and collective direction converge or diverge.** **Since October 2025, he has been working project-based with Werkleitz and the Agentur für Aufbruch.**	Artistic Research	Digital Art	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#artistic research	#multimodal research	#digitalization		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Sebastian Schöne**	Sebastian Schöne is a transformation designer and research associate at the Institute for Structural Change and Sustainability. As a light-hearted pragmatist and creative generalist, he is working on setting up the Strukturwandel digital documentation centre (DiZeS), as well as developing its participation and exhibition formats.	Applied research	Designer	Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	#structural change	#multimodal research	#digitalization	#participation	
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Dr. Muriel Wipfler**	Muriel Wipfler holds a doctorate in art history and cultural studies and has many years of experience in archives and exhibitions. After working for three years on structural change projects at the district level, specialising in education and heritage conservation, she is now contributing her expertise as a research assistant to the development of the Digital Documentation Centre for Structural Change (DIZES) and its participatory formats.	Applied research	Art Hstory	Halle (Saale, Germany)	#artistic research	#participation	#digitalization		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Tara Guariguata**	AfA Research Associate: Tara Guariguata supports the Agentur für Aufbruch as a research project associate.	Applied research	Curator	Halle (Saale, Germany)	#artistic research	#multimodal research	#participation		
Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA)	**Agentur für Aufbruch (AfA) Associates**	**Lena Würsching**	AfA Research Associate Lena Würsching studied communication design at Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design in Halle and works in the space between graphic design and research. At the Agentur für Aufbruch she supports public outreach and event organization.	Applied research	Communication design	Halle (Saale, Germany)	#artistic research	#multimodal research	#participation		

JTC_Oak members

A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities

JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Julia Grosinger**	{{https://portalrecerca.uab.cat/files-asset/270622721/Foto_Julia_Grosinger_min.jpg?w=320&f=webp}} **Personal bio:** Julia Grosinger is a human geographer striving to understand the connections between people, places, and human flourishing. With a background in social ecology and political science, she focuses on European heterogenous rural areas, such as post-industrial zones in Catalonia/Spain and Alpine agricultural landscapes in France and Italy. Her work emphasizes the importance of non-material aspects beyond monetary means—like place attachment, local identities, and belonging—in fostering a good quality of life for all. Inspired by Manfred Max-Neef's fundamental needs approach, she explores alternatives to growth-driven development models, by focusing on post-growth practices that prioritize environmental and social justice.	Social sciences	Human geography	France	#degrowth	#environmental justice	#community development		
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Galina Oustinova-Stjepanovic**	Galina holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from University College London (UCL). She has taught social anthropology at UCL, University of Edinburgh and St.Andrews, and sociology at Oxford International in Dundee. She specialises in politics of history and memory, archival and human rights activism, anthropology religion, especially Islam and atheism; political anthropology; ethnic marginality. Galina has carried out ethnographic and archival research in Russia, North Macedonia, Greece and Serbia https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/staff/galinaoustinovastjepanovic/#biography	Social sciences	Anthropology	Russia; North Macedonia; Greece; Serbia	#memory	#postsocialism	#green ethics	#political atrocity #anthropology of energy	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Britta Acksel**	**Britta Acksel** (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy, Germany; britta.acksel@wupperinst.org) is a cultural anthropologist interested in sustainability. She holds a doctorate from Goethe University Frankfurt and ethnographically explored sustainability governance in/of cities. As a research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen, her work focused on Anthropology of Policy, Human-Environment Relations, Energy Transition and Participation. Following an interlude as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Media Studies (RUB), she now works as scientific advisor for methods of transformation research at the Wuppertal Institute.	Social sciences	Anthropology	Germany	#sustainability	#ethnography	#participation		
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Prof. Ralph Horne**	Ralph Horne is Professor of Geography and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation for the College of Design and Social Context at RMIT University. He is interested in social and policy change to support sustainable urban development, and has a specific research interest in low carbon urban transitions, housing and households. He combines research leadership and participation in research projects concerning the environmental, social and policy context of production and consumption in the urban environment. Ralph Horne has research expertise in urban social and policy change for sustainable design and development. He has extensive experience in environmental techniques and sustainability appraisal and has a specific research interest in low carbon urban transitions. He combines research leadership and participation in projects concerning the environmental, social and policy context of production and consumption in the urban environment.	Social sciences	Human geography	Australia	#sustainable development	#decarbonisation	#urban landscapes		
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Asel Doranova**	Asel Doranova joined Tilburg Sustainability Center (TSC) from September 2020 as the researcher and project developer. She supports the team of TSC in engaging in European and international projects, as well as will pursue her own research in just and sustainability transition. Untill 2021 she had ten years in the policy consultancy supporting EU, international, national (including non-EU) and regional agencies in areas of circular economy, eco-innovation, resource efficiency, sustainable energy, bioeconomy policies with assignments such as analysis innovation trends, policy evaluation and impact assessment, roadmap building, development of indicators, design of policy guides (e.g. for smart specialisation, regional or city strategy development), cross-country cooperation agenda development. Between 2005 and 2009 she worked on her PhD at Maastricht University. The topic was technology transfer and technological capabilty building under Clean Development Mechanism project of Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC. Asel's earlier professional experience (1998-2004) is related to development projects in Central Asia implemented through the support programmes of the EU, USAID, WB, UNDP and JICA	Social sciences	Economics	Bosnia-Hercegovina, Kazakhstan	#energy economy	#sustainability	#knowledge transfer	#circular-economy, #eco-innovation, #resource-efficiency, #sustainable-energy, #bioeconomy-policies	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Imke Horstmannshoff**	Imke Horstmannshoff is researching socio-ecological transformations with a background in Cultural and Global Studies. Her PhD at Roehampton University, London, explores understandings of Rights of Rivers (RoR) in Western Europe. Considering wider debates on human-nature relations and Multispecies Justice, she accompanies local communities mobilising around river ecosystems to generate indepth understandings of how RoR contribute new participatory approaches and understandings to socio-ecological resilience. Beyond that, she coordinates and facilitates participatory learning journeys, workshops, and online dossiers around related topics. Source: https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/connected-waters/ongoing-projects/ https://www.boell.de/en/rights-of-nature	Social sciences	Cultural studies	Western Europe	#water rights	#multispecies justice	#participation	#governance #environmental justice #territory # place	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Andrei Vinogradov**	Andrei Vinogradov is an environmental historian focusing on Russia, the USSR and the post-Soviet space. Source: https://leibniz-gwzo.de/en/node/1407	Social sciences	Environmental history	Russia, post-Soviet Space	#postsocialism	#territory	#postmigration	#post-Soviet space #vertical frontier #anthropocene	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Kevin Le Merle**	PhD Fellow (Nature, Climate, and Health Cluster): United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies: Bruges, BE https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8946-5418 Kevin Le Merle is a researcher and policy analyst on questions of climate, environmental, and energy justice. As a PhD Fellow, Kevin Le Merle is attached to the Department of Political and Social Sciences of Ghent University and UNU-CRIS, where he is carrying out his research on global distributive justice principles and applying these to the external impacts of the European Green Deal. Before joining Ghent University, Kevin worked as policy analyst for the Foundation for European Progressive Studies where he spearheaded research on Climate, Environment, and Energy Policy. His past experiences also include collaborations with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, and United Nations University, where he authored research on the EU's climate legislation with the aim to bridge the gap between global climate justice and pragmatic policy practice. His Master's research focused on normative evaluations of the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle, and the ability to pay principle from the disciplinary standpoint of moral philosophy. Recently, his research endeavours have focused on the intersection between environmental and social justice.	Social sciences	Environmental policy and governance	Belgium, France, United Kingdom	#climate justice	#energy justice	#just finance	Applied Ethics, Climate Justice, Environmental Justice, Energy Justice, Just Transition, European Green Deal	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Nazli Azergun**	Nazli Azergun is an anthropologist whose research focuses on sustainable finance and its structural limitations. She conducted long-term participant observation at an asset manager based in Oslo, Norway. Her findings draw attention to the structural challenges that limit sustainable finance's potential in addressing humanity's environmental and social problems, including ensuring a just transition, and call for a renegotiation of finance's societal purpose.	Social sciences	Anthropology	*unspecified*	#just finance	#sustainability	#structural change		
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Adolfo Mejia-Montero**	Research Fellow (Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology): University of Birmingham, GB Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1996-3547	Social sciences	Sociology	Mexico	#energy justice	#climate policy	#just finance	Energy justice Sustainable energy systems and low-carbon transitions Renewable energy development in Latin America and indigenous territories	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Prof. Dr. Kosyo Stoychev**	Prof. Dr. Kosyo Stoychev is Assoc. Prof. (Regional and Political Geography): Sofia University, Bulgaria, and holds a PhD in Social and Economic geography (Regional Development and Location analysis) at Sofia University. In the period 2016-2024 he is the Head of Regional and Political Geography Department and Chairperson of Bulgarian Regional Science Association (BRSA) - ERSA section. His professional expertise is also associated with Regional social and economic analysis, Dynamic Shift-Share Analysis, Cost-Benefit analysis of Investment projects, Energy Transition and Just Transition in Bulgaria. He is author of about 30 publications and one monography in Location analysis. Born on 15.07.1978 in Sliven, Bulgaria. Source: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kosyo-Stoychev	Social sciences	Geography	Bulgaria	#urban and regional studies	#structural change	#energy justice	Economic Geography, Regional Science, Just Transition, Climate Neutral Economy	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Beth Cloughton**	Grassroots and Community Research Fellow for the Wellcome Collection-funded project 'Living Good Food Nation Lab' (Business School): University of Edinburgh: Edinburgh, GB https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1475-8301 **Representative Publications:** The environmental sustainability of traditional food markets: A case study of Leeds Kirkgate Market. University of Leeds. 2025-01-23 I Data curation, Methodology, Writing. Contributors: Beth Cloughton; Professor Sara González; Dr Gemma Bridge; Dr Emily Ennis Introducing a Feminist Just Transition for Scotland. Scottish Women's Budget Group. 2023-08-13 I Working paper.	Social sciences	Human geography	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#food security	#participation	ethics, consumption, food, ethnography, deprivation, food systems transformation, community methods, food methods, just transition	
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Galina Oustinova Stjepanovic**	Galina holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from University College London (UCL). She has taught social anthropology at UCL, University of Edinburgh and St.Andrews, and sociology at Oxford International in Dundee. She specialises in politics of history and memory, archival and human rights activism, anthropology religion, especially Islam and atheism; political anthropology; ethnic marginality. Galina has carried out ethnographic and archival research in Russia, North Macedonia, Greece and Serbia. Source: https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/staff/galinaoustinovastjepanovic/#biography"	Social Sciences	Anthropology	Russia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Greece	#human rights	#postsocialism	#green ethics		
JTC_Oak members	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Peter Newell**	{{https://jtc.uni-halle.de/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Better-Sussex-solo.jpg|300}} Peter Newell is a Professor of International Relations at the University of Sussex. Besides working for academic institutions including the universities of Sussex, Oxford, Warwick and East Anglia, and FLACSO Argentina, he has undertaken commissioned research and policy work for the governments of the UK, India, Ireland, Sweden and Finland and for international organisations such as UNDP, GEF and UNCTAD. His recent research focuses on the political economy of low carbon energy transitions, but he has researched different aspects of climate change for over 30 years. His single and co-authored books include *Climate for Change; Governing Climate Change; Globalization and the Environment; Climate Capitalism; Transnational Climate Change Governance; Global Green Politics; Power Shift; Changing Our Ways and States of Transition.* **Select publication:** "The political economy of the 'just transition'." In *The Geographical Journal.* Themed section: *Global environmental in/justice, in practice,* guest edited by Adrian Martin. This paper explores the political economy of the 'just transition' to a low carbon economy. The idea of a 'just transition' increasingly features in policy and political discourse and appeals to the need to ensure that efforts to steer society towards a lower carbon future are underpinned by attention to issues of equity and justice: to those currently without access to reliable energy supplies and living in energy poverty and to those whose livelihoods are affected by and dependent on a fossil fuel economy. To complicate things further this transition has to be made compatible with the pursuit of 'climate justice' to current and future generations exposed to the social and ecological disruptions produced by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. Here we seek to identify and analyse the immensely difficult political trade-offs that will characterise collective attempts to enact and realise a just transition. We explore procedural and distributional aspects of energy politics and practice in particular as they relate to the just transition: energy access for those who do not have it; justice for those who work within and are affected by the fossil fuel economy; and attempts to manage the potential contradictions that might flow from pursuing energy and climate justice simultaneously. Source: [[https://rgs-ibg.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/geoj.12008]]	Social sciences	International relations	Argentina, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya	#just finance	#decarbonisation	#political economy		

B Pillar: Natural sciences

JTC_Oak members	B Pillar: Natural sciences										

C Pillar: Law, governance & education

JTC_Oak members	C Pillar: Law, governance & education	**Dr. Sabina Hodžić**	Dr. Sabina Hodžić is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Public Finance at the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Rijeka (Croatia). Her main fields of research are public finance, current taxation issues, as well as local and regional development. She lectures on public finance and international taxation, green finance and is the author of several papers published in scientific journals. She participated in several academic research projects at home and abroad. As a part of professional training, she stayed at Vienna University of Economics and Business (2021), University of New South Wales, Australia (2018), and University of Economics, Slovakia (2016). In addition, she is also a member of editorial board of the Croatian Review of Economic, Business and Social Statistics journal. Šeho, M., Hodžić, S. (2024). The Role of the Financial Sector in Energy Justice. In: Trakic, A., Karim, R., Ahmed, P.K. (eds) Energy Justice. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-6059-6_8	Legal scholars	International taxation and finance	Istria, Croatia	#transition policies	#political economy	#just finance		
JTC_Oak members	C Pillar: Law, governance & education	**Prof. dr. J. (Joyeeta) Gupta**	**Joyeeta Gupta** is the 2023 winner of the Spinoza Prize, the highest prize in the Netherlands for academic work (Euro 1.5 Million). She is Co-chair or the UN Secretary General Appointed Group of Ten High-level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Scientific Community to Promote Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (10-Member-Group) - a component of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism, https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/ten-member-group. She is also Commissioner of the Roadmap for Transformative Action	Legal scholars	Law, politics, policy, governance, climate justice, earth system boundaries,	Africa, Sweden, Netherlands, Latin America,	#decarbonisation	#sustainable development	#green ethics	#climate justice	
JTC_Oak members	C Pillar: Law, governance & education	**Raphael J. Heffron**	Professor Raphael J. Heffron is Professor in Commercial and Corporate Law and an international expert on climate change, sustainability and just transition public policy issues. His current position is as Professor and Dean at the College of Law at Abu Dhabi University (United Arab Emirates) which is in the world's Top-200 universities according to Times Higher Education Global University Rankings. Professor Heffron is a qualified Barrister-at- Law, and a graduate of both Oxford (MSc-Christ Church) and Cambridge (MPhil-Darwin & PhD-Trinity Hall) Universities (UK). He also holds degrees from the University of St. Andrews (MLitt) (UK), and Trinity College Dublin (BA, MA) (Ireland). His work all has a principal focus on achieving a sustainable and just transition to a low-carbon economy, and combines a mix of governance, management, policy and economics. His work has featured in the Top-2% Stanford-Elsevier Scientist List since 2020. He has published over 200 publications of different types and is the most cited scholar in his field worldwide for energy and just transition law and public policy worldwide (6200+ Scopus/ 11500+ Googlescholar) with translated work in multiple languages including Chinese, Italian, French, Spanish, Arabic and Persian. Professor Heffron has given just over 220 keynotes or guest lectures in 70 countries worldwide. Hussein, Halima I, **Heffron, Raphael J,** Phillips, Alicia, Jarin, Jean-Baptiste, Basil, Chioma V. 2024. Future-proofing for green hydrogen in the Global South: a procedural justice perspective. *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law* 42(3). https://doi.org/10.1080/1031461X.2024.2345007 Heffron, Raphael J. 2024. "Energy justice – the triumvirate of tenets revisited and revised." *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law* 42(2). https://doi.org/10.1080/02646811.2023.2256593 Heffron, Raphael J., De Fontenelle, Louis. 2023. Implementing energy justice through a new social contract. *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*. 41(2). https://doi.org/10.1080/02646811.2023.2186626	Legal scholars	Energy Justice, Energy Law, Just Transition, Energy Risk	*unspecified*	#energy justice	#decarbonisation	#law and governance		**Representative Publication:** Raphael J. Heffron, Darren McCauley, The 'just transition' threat to our Energy and Climate 2030 targets, Energy Policy, Volume 165, 2022, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2022.112949. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421522001744 Abstract: The term 'just transition' has increased in popularity in academic and policymaking literature over the last few years. This policy perspective tracks its development in policy over the period 2015 to 2020. An assessment of just transition policies to-date reveals staggered plans to phase out the fossil fuel industry and beginning with a coal phase-out. This type of just transition policy will derail the development of low-carbon economies worldwide. These policies through establishing just transition funds in 2019 and 2020 will result in subsidising the fossil fuel industry indefinitely given that coal, oil and gas will have to be phased out in turn. Proactive policy needs to be developed and finance re-allocated to deliver the just transition to a low-carbon economy. In essence a just transition policy overhaul is needed to complete revision if society is to achieve our Energy & Climate 2030 goals and targets. In 2019, he was appointed Jean Monnet Professor in the Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy, awarded by the European Commission. In 2020, he was appointed as Senior Counsel at Janson law firm in Brussels, Belgium. Professor Heffron is a qualified Barrister-at-Law, and a graduate of both Oxford (MSc) and Cambridge (MPhil & PhD) Source: https://search.worldcat.org/title/1293442541
JTC_Oak members	C Pillar: Law, governance & education	**Vilja Johansson**	Doctoral Researcher (UEF Law School): University of Eastern Finland: Joensuu, FI ORCiD: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3407-0272 Vilja Johansson is a doctoral researcher at the Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law at the University of Eastern Finland. She holds a MSc in Public International Law from Åbo Akademi University. Her research explores the legal evolution of just transition in international, EU and national climate law and the mechanisms that are applied for the implementation of a just transition in different jurisdictions. She received the Richard Macrory Prize for the best article published in the Journal of Environmental law in 2023 for her article 'Just Transition as an Evolving Concept in International Climate Law' (2023) 35(2). **Selected publications** Vilja Johansson, 'Just transition in framework climate laws: Between meaningful governance and performative law' (2025) 34(1) Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law, https://doi.org/10.1111/reel.12595. Vilja Johansson, 'Just Transition as an Evolving Concept in International Climate Law' (2023) 35(2) Journal of Environmental Law, https://doi.org/10.1093/jel/eqad017	Legal scholars	Environmental Law	Europe, EU,	#climate law	#law and governance	#law and governance	#environmental law #environmental law #governance	

D Pillar: Applied research

JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Elly Vadseth**	Elly Vadseth is a norwegian- american interdisciplinary artist based beetween Oslo and Trondheim. In embodied dialogue with discourses in artistic research, art history and environmental humanities her place-sensitive work and research circulate around sense-making and interspecies way-finding in shifting land and water ecologies. Vadseths interdiciplanry practice is grounded within time based media, nonlinear multi channel video, virtual installations and art in public space. Vadseth holds an interdiciplanary MFA with a concentration in Media Arts and Performance from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University (2018), USA, where she held the position as a Tufts Institute of the	Artistic research	Artist	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#multispecies justice	#multimodal research	#interspecies performance
JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Max Sher**	{{https://fkmagazine.lv/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Max-Sher-1000x1272.jpg|300}} Max Sher is a photographer and visual artist based in Berlin since 2021. He was born in St. Petersburg , raised in Siberia, and educated as a linguist in France. He took up photography in 2006, first as a photojournalist, and then as an artist. He is primarily interested in representations of the built environment. He is keen on exploring architectural landscapes, infrastructure, and local/problematic histories. His work has been exhibited as part of solo and group shows in Germany, UK, Netherlands, and elsewhere. As a photojournalist, Sher has worked on assignments for The Guardian, Der Spiegel, The New York Times Magazine, Bloomberg Businessweek, Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazin, Die Welt, Le Monde, Libération, and other printed and online media. Sher has published a	Artistic research	Photographer	*unspecified*	#infrastructure	#post-industrial landscapes	#urban landscapes	
JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Igor Tereshkov**	Igor Tereshkov (b. 1989, Enerhodar, Ukraine) is a Russian-Ukrainian multidisciplinary artist, visual researcher, and conceptual documentary photographer based in Berlin. He studied documentary photography and photojournalism at the DocDocDoc School of Contemporary Photography in St. Petersburg (2017) and completed the "Experiments in Contemporary Photography" program there in 2019. Tereshkov works across various media, including installations, street art, graphics, and contemporary photography, exploring themes of totalitarianism, forced migration, and expatriation. In 2019, he received the Project Launch Grant from the CENTER Awards (USA) for his project "Oil and Moss," dedicated to environmental issues and indigenous rights in Siberia. His series "Red Heat," started in 2020, reflects socio-political transformations in Russia and beyond. Tereshkov's works have been exhibited and published internationally, including in France,	Artistic research	Photographer	*unspecified*	#petromodernity	#chemistry-in-transition	#multimodal research	
JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Lydia Unsworth**	Lydia Unsworth is a poet whose recent collections include Mortar (Osmosis), Gag (above / ground) and These Steady Bulbs (above / ground). Her work has appeared in many journals and anthologies including Oxford Poetry and Shearsman Magazine. She is currently undertaking a PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Salford, exploring kinship with disappearing post-industrial architecture. Her latest book, Arthropod, is published by Death of Workers Whilst Building Skyscrapers. Source: https://lydiaunsworth.wordpress.com/	Applied research	Poetry	*unspecified*	#post-industrial landscapes	#architecture	#multimodal research	
JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Sonali Phadke**	https://thebetterindia.com/279849/sustainable-pune-startup-studio-alternatives-upcycles-old-shipping-container-houses/	Applied research	Architecture	India	#built environment	#sustainable development	#urban planning	#upcycling
JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Prof. Dr. Milica Topalovic**	Associate Professor of Architecture and Territorial Planning at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zürich Milica Topalović is an architect and Associate Professor of Architecture and Territorial Planning at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zürich. Her research focuses on contemporary territories and urbanization processes, addressing social and environmental challenges both within the city-territory and across wider landscapes. She graduated with distinction from the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade and earned a master's degree from the Berlage Institute in the Netherlands. In 2006, she joined ETH Zürich as Head of Research at the ETH Studio Basel Contemporary City Institute. From 2011 to 2015, she held a research professorship at the Singapore–ETH Centre and subsequently received several research grants from the Future Cities Laboratory. Since 2021, she has co-directed the ETH Zürich / EPFL Master of Advanced Studies in Urban and Territorial Design. She edited Belgrade: Formal Informal. A Research on Urban Transformation (2012), The Inevitable Specificity of Cities (2015) with ETH Studio Basel, and Extended Urbanisation (2023) with Christian Schmid. She curated The Great Repair exhibition and publication project with ARCH+ and Florian Hertweck in 2024, presented at the Akademie der Künste, Berlin and supported by the German Federal Cultural Foundation. Her work spans innovative architectural pedagogy, urban research, design and planning practice, curatorial practice, and engagement and participation in concrete territories Research interests: • Territorial design for socio-ecological change • Extended urbanization • Critical resource geographies • Critical cartography • Agrarian questions and agroecological change • Renewable energy transition in concrete territories • Energy communities and energy solidarity Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0003-9989-9502	Applied research	Architecture	Switzerland, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Serbia, Colombia, Spain, Germany	#urban and regional studies	#socio-ecological transformation	#urban landscapes	#territory, #urbanisation, #extended urbanisation, #territorial design, #territorial planning, #urban studies, #urban design, #architecture, #spatial planning, #energy landscape, #agrarian questions, #resource geographies, #critical #cartography, #hinterlands, #countrysides, #socio-ecological transition, Just Transition
JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Dr. Keyvan Hosseini**	Dr Keyvan Hosseini is a mixed-methods researcher specialising in sustainable development, just transition, and the climate impacts of transport. He holds a PhD in Management Science (Public Administration) and has contributed to major projects, including the Interreg North-West Europe eHUBS project. His work combines optimisation and operational research–based evaluation with geo-spatial and statistical analysis to inform equitable decarbonisation, reduce car dependence, and guide evidence-informed policymaking. Applied interests include shared micromobility, active travel, demand management, and network design, with a focus on measurable carbon and health co-benefits.	Applied research	Management	Ireland, Sweden, China	#transport economics	#energy policy	#energy justice	#transport economics, #energy planning
JTC_Oak members	D Pillar: Applied research	**Arthur Bondar**	Arthur Bondar (1983), born in Ukraine. Arthur is a photographer, visual artist, collector and publisher. He works on his personal documentary and art projects that are centered around the themes of historical events, traces, collective and private memories. Arthur has graduated the Photography and Human Rights course of New York University (New York, USA). He was awarded and granted with National Geographic Grant (2011), Magnum Emergency Fund (2012), The Documentary Project Fund (2013), the Best Photographer in Ukraine (2013) and Allard Prize (2016). He was nominated for the Foam Paul Huf Award and the Prix Pictet Award (2016). His projects were exhibited as installations, exhibitions and screenings in different museums and art institutions worldwide. Arthur cooperates with many international magazines, newspapers and online media. He is the author of 7 photobooks. **Donbass Miners** Coal mining has historically been an important industry in Ukraine. The Donbass (short for Donetsk Basin) region of eastern Ukraine has been known for its large deposits of anthracite and lignite coal since the late 19th century. Coal mining in Ukraine began in 1870. In 1913, Donetsk produced 87% of the Russian Empire's coal and 50% of the USSR's metallurgical coal. Coal was a vital part of the Soviet Union's industrial machine, providing the energy to power the heavy industries that dominated the Donbass region. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, many of the industries associated with mining were hit hard, causing widespread unemployment. {{https://jtc.uni-halle.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Bondar_Donbass_miners.jpg}} The "Hlyboka" coal mine is the deepest mine in Ukraine and the 5th deepest in the world. It has a depth of about 1,546 metres and is located in the town of Shakhtersk (Donetsk region). It was commissioned in 1986 and produces "A" grade coal (anthracite), the main consumers of which are thermal power stations. The coal is mined at a depth of almost 1400 metres. "Hlyboka is one of the largest coal deposits in Ukraine, with estimated reserves of 23.3 million tonnes. Annual coal production is around 647,000 tonnes, while many miners complain of old, outdated equipment and inadequate safety systems. At the same time, illegal coal mining is a multi-million dollar shadow industry in Ukraine. Before the war, there were tens of thousands of workers in 2,500 illegal mines, known as "kopankas" or illegal pits, across Ukraine, mostly in the Donbass region. Illegal miners work hard, but for little pay and in very dangerous conditions. Such mines can be as deep as 300 metres. Miners say a team of three to four workers can extract an average of three to five tonnes of coal a day, depending on the mine and the equipment available. Kopanka, like many others, has no health and safety standards, and this is one of the reasons why Ukraine has the second highest mining fatality rate in the world, after China. {{https://jtc.uni-halle.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Bondar_Donbass_miners2.jpg}} Read more about the project [[https://arthurbondar.com/5-donbass-miners|here]], or contact Arthur via e-mail: [[artsbondar@gmail.com]]	Artistic Research	Photographer/ Archivist	Global	#journalism	#archive	#cultural heritage	

C Pillar: Law, policy & education

JTC_Oak members	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Vilja Johansson**	Vilja Johansson is a doctoral researcher at the Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental law at the University of Eastern Finland. Her research focuses on the the legal evolution of the concept of a just transition, including in international, European and comparative climate law. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3407-0272	Law, policy & education	Environmental law	Europe	#climate law	#environmental law	#law and governance	#environmental law, #law and governance
JTC_Oak members	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Sabina Hodžić, PhD**	Dr. Sabina Hodžić is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Public Finance at the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Rijeka (Croatia). Her main fields of research are public finance, current taxation issues, as well as local and regional development. She lectures on public finance and international taxation, green finance and is the author of several papers published in scientific journals. She participated in several academic research projects at home and abroad. As a part of professional training, she stayed at Vienna University of Economics and Business (2021), University of New South Wales, Australia (2018), and University of Economics, Slovakia (2016). In addition, she is also a member of editorial board of the Croatian Review of Economic, Business and Social Statistics journal. **Recent publications**: Šeho, M., Hodžić, S. (2024). The Role of the Financial Sector in Energy Justice. In: Trakic, A., Karim, R., Ahmed, P.K. (eds) Energy Justice. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-6059-6_8	Law, policy & education	International taxation and finance	Istria, Croatia	#just finance	#sustainability	#energy economy	#transition policies, #political economy

Open knowledge index

A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities

Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Kilian Jörg**	"Hi, I am Kilian Jörg, an artist and philosopher working mainly on the ecological catastrophe and how we can culturally work with it." Source: https://www.kilianj.org/	Social sciences	Philosophy	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#political ecology	#green ethics	#performative, #ecological crisis #political ecology
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Kerstin Brandt**	Chair, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures Associate Professor of German Studies. Source: https://lsa.umich.edu/german/people/faculty/barndt.html	Social sciences	German studies	*unspecified*	#post-industrial landscapes	#art history	#knowledge transfer	#post-coal-mining landscapes, #art history, #poetry.
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr Maurice Stierl**	Dr Maurice Stierl leads the German Research Foundation funded research project The Production of Spaces of Migrant Disappearance (SFB 1604) at the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies, Osnabrück University. From 2022 to 2025, he was also leading the research group The Production of Knowledge on Migration. University of Osnabrück, Germany Source: https://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/en/research/4_production_of_knowledge/research_group_the_production_of_knowledge_on_migration.html ~~~ https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jul/30/europe-refugees-border-control-militarise-human-northern-ireland	Social sciences	Political sociology, political geography	EU, Mittelmeerraum	#migration	#climate justice	#law and governance	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Klaus Peters**	Founding member of the COGITO Institute for Autonomy Research together with Wilfried Glißmann and Jörg Stadlinger. The Institute has now permanently closed. Source: https://cogito-institut.de/?page_id=69	Social sciences	Philosophy	*unspecified*	#structural change	#law and governance	#knowledge transfer	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Mgr. Slavomíra Ferenčuhová**	Researcher at the Department of Local and regional studies, Institute of Sociology at the Czech Academy of Sciences. Source: https://www.soc.cas.cz/en/staff/slavomira-ferencuhova	Social sciences	Urban sociology	Czech Republic, Central Europe, Eastern Europe	#socio-ecological transformation	#public administration	#urban landscapes	#consumption, #transformation, #public administration, #environment
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Tatjana Söding**	Tatjana is a freelance journalist based in Berlin and a researcher with the Zetkin Collective. Source: https://thenew.institute/en/people/tatjana-soding	Applied sciences	Journalism	Germany	#climate policy	#far-right populism	#green ethics	#capitalism #climat obstruction #far-right
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Nikola Nölle**	Nikola Nölle is a cultural anthropologist and has been a program manager at the TD-Lab since December 2023. She completed her PhD in 2022 at the University of Freiburg within the DFG-funded project "Doing Popular Culture" with an ethnographic study on festivals as performative spaces. Most recently, she designed the cooperative teaching project "Conveying Cultural Knowledge" at the Chair of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Würzburg. The result is the YouTube channel featuring the explaining video series "überalltag. kultur erklärt". In addition to her academic work, she has several years of project experience in feminist education and cultural initiatives. Source: https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/knowledge-exchange/td-lab/about/kontakt-Dr-Nikola-Noelle/index.html	Social sciences	Anthropology	Berlin	#water rights	#community development	#knowledge transfer	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Persis Taraporevala**	Dr. Persis Taraporevala is a Lecturer (Geography) at the School of Social Sciences and the Programme Director for the University of London MSc Global Environment and Sustainability that runs through Birkbeck. Source: https://www.bbk.ac.uk/our-staff/profile/9431559/persis-taraporevala	Social sciences	Geography	India	#urban planning	#smart city	#education in rural areas	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Benjamin Steininger**	Benjamin Steininger's main research fields are the history and theory of industrial catalysis, history and theory of fossil resources, the project of a "chemical cultural theory", and a "critique of fossil reason." These interests follow a long-standing agenda on the cultural history of acceleration and energy use, on the industrial history and theory of the materials in modernity and in the Anthropocene. Concrete materials interpreted in his work are apart from catalysts the products of chemical industries: fuels, fertilizers, ammunition, refined fossil raw materials, building materials. Crucial are furthermore the respective process landscapes and the transformation of chemical science and industry itsel - into and out of the fossil system. Source: https://www.gea.mpg.de/person/134749/	Social sciences	Cultural theory	***unspecified***	#anthropocene	#natural resource management	#petromodernity	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Marcin Baron**	Dr Marcin Baron is a faculty of the University of Economics in Katowice, Poland (Department of Strategic and Regional Studies). Source: https://internanopoland.com/speaker/dr-marcin-baron/	Social sciences	Economics	Poland	#eco-innovation	#green transition	#knowledge transfer	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dan Dobre**	Dan joined Bankwatch in 2019. He is involved in the Just Transition campaign in Romania. Dan studied Political Science – Political Theory, but has interests in most social sciences. Source: https://bankwatch.org/team/dan-dobre	Social sciences	Political science	Romania	#energy transition	#energy policy	#just finance	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Tanja Fatur Sikic**	Tanja Fatur šikić, PhD., is a Senior Assistant at the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Rijeka (Croatia). Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2456-150X	Social sciences	Economics	EU	#energy planning	#energy policy	#just finance	#environmental regulation
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Nevelina Pachova**	Nevelina Pachova is a Research Fellow at RMIT Europe, the Barcelona-based hub of Australian University RMIT Source: https://www.rmit.edu.au/profiles/p/nevelina-pachova	Social sciences	Political economy	*unspecified*	#sustainable development	#political economy	#participation	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**McCauley, Darren**	Darren McCauley is a Professor in Environmental & Social Justice, Newcastle Law School, Newcastle University. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3951-1129 ****Representative publications:**** McCauley, Darren (2023). Just Transitions. In J. O. A. S. P. (Ed.), *Theorising Justice: A Primer for Social Scientists* (pp. 240-256). Bristol University Press. https://doi.org/10.51952/9781529232233.ch015 This chapter details how the just transition scholarship has yet to substantively engage with normative justice scholarship, particularly in identifying what the notion of a transition or transitions should be. Instead, issues central to the tradition have centred on workers' rights, in addition to issues related to energy production and distribution at local scales. Despite this, McCauley notes the potential presented by the lack of engagement with justice theorising. The under-theorisation of distributive and procedural forms of justice would usefully frame discourse, he notes. For instance, distributive and procedural forms of justice could help frame how workers are affected by shifting geographies of carbon and decarbonised development projects. Here, McCauley argues that the notion of vulnerability should become more central to transitions research, particularly as it relates to recognition and responsibility through the transition away from fossil fuel-intensive developments, thus placing workers and families as subjects of injustice. McCauley thus points us to the ways in which the just transition scholarship remains open for engagement with justice theorising. McCauley, Darren, Kerry A. Pettigrew, Raphael J. Heffron, Sufyan Droubi. Identifying, improving, and investing in national commitments to just transition: Reflections from Latin America and the Caribbean, Environmental and Sustainability Indicators, Volume 17, 2023, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indic.2023.100225. Source: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2665972723000028 ~~~ https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=35820993300 Darren maintains a visiting professor role at Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). His mixed methods research agenda focuses on investigating what a just transition to a low carbon future looks like from a global perspective. This has involved funded empircal research in the Arctic, Sub Saharan Africa, South East Asia, Europe and the US. He works closely with international organisations to co-develop research and ensure maximum impact from his work. This has been made possible by a wide range of external sponsors including (among others) British Academy, ESRC, EPSRC (now RCUK), GCRF, H2020 and Horizon Europe funding programmes, Leverhulme, Dutch Council NWO, UK Energy Research Centre, the Carnegie Trust and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He holds a number of external expert positions, including on the Arctic project EU Polarnet. He is retains an active role on Horizon projects JUSTNORTH (6.2 million euros) 2020-2024 and PROBONO (26.4 million euros) 2022-2026.	Social sciences	Environmental and Social Justice	*unspecified*	#climate justice	#decarbonisation	#just finance	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Johanna Leino**	Project Researcher, Department of Geographical and Historical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies Source: https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/johanna.leino/ ~~~ I'm doing research on environmental justice, social acceptance and tensions related to Finnish natural resource governance. My aim is to recognize ways for more sustainable and just natural resource decision making. In addition, I've done research on the possibilities of co-management arrangements in Finland.	Social sciences	Geography	Finland	#climate justice	#climate policy	#participation	#environmental justice, #Just transition, #sustainable transition, #environmental policy, #social acceptance, #natural resource governance, #natural resource conflicts, #collaborative governance, #co-management, #qualitative analysis
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Alessandra Manzini**	Post doctoral researcher at EUTOPIA SIF (Geography and Territorial planning) Source: https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/sif-4th-cohort-fellows-alessandra-manzini-cy-cergy-paris-university	Social sciences	Geography	France	#socio-ecological transformation	#raw materials	#circular economy	socio-ecological systems, mineral economics, just transition, critical research methodologies, socio technical innovation, knowledge systems, policy evaluation
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Theodore Tallent**	PhD candidate in political science, specialising in environmental policy, at Sciences Po (Paris, France) and under a co-supervision with the University of Cambridge. Visiting research at the Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG), Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9685-1349 ~~~ As a young expert in environmental policy, I am focusing on exploring environmental policies and potential ways to improve them, especially as regards their effectiveness, the consideration for people's perceptions and opinions, and the enforcement of efficient and acceptable policies. Alumni of Cambridge (MPhil) and Sciences Po (BA, MA)	Social sciences	Political science	Europe	#climate policy	#climate policy	#law and governance	Climate policy, Geography, Public opinion, Just transition, Spatial inequalities
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Katharina Richter**	Lecturer (School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies): The University of Bristol: Bristol, GB Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3098-5130	Social sciences	Political science	United Kingdom	#degrowth	#environmental justice	#green ethics	Degrowth, Buen Vivir, Alternatives to Development, Just Transition, Environmental Justice
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Pancho Lewis**	Assistant Professor (Research) in the Department of Geography: Durham University: Durham, England, GB ~~~ "My research examines the politics of net zero transitions, focusing on people's affective experiences in the midst of a climate emergency." In addition to my academic research, I am a public engagement specialist with a focus on environmental politics. I have worked as a Parliamentary Research in the UK Parliament; a Research Consultant for a community engagement organisation; and was a central London city councillor with responsibilities for climate action. My interest in environmental issues extends to working with social enterprises, including the work I carried out with the food waste platform Too Good To Go as their UK Head of Partnerships.	Social sciences	Geography	UK	#energy justice	#climate policy	#participation	affect, energy transition, just transition, culture, climate politics, deliberative democracy
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Prof. Dr. Martin Pelucha**	Martin Pelucha (*1980) is a professor of economic policy at the Prague University of Economics and Business and an expert in the field of regional and rural development policy evaluation. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2024-5964 ~~~ Professor in economic policy, part-time engagement - lecturer (Faculty of Economics, Department of Regional Management and Law): University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice Lecturer, researcher (Department of Regional Studies): Prague University of Economics and Business, CZ Martin Pelucha (*1980) is a professor of economic policy at the Prague University of Economics and Business and an expert in the field of regional and rural development policy evaluation. During his career he has been the coordinator or member of a number of research projects in the field of programme evaluation and evaluation methodology design (for Czech Science Foundation, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, European Commission, Czech Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Ministry of Environment, Regional Authorities of Czech Coal Regions, etc.). Prof. Martin Pelucha is a national ambassador of the RSA – Regional Studies Association in the Czech Republic and a member of the Czech Evaluation Society. His experience and professional knowledge are richly complemented by several internships abroad (Great Britain, Germany, Norway, Kazakhstan).	Social sciences	Economics	Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Germany, United Kingdom	#urban and regional studies	#law and governance	#knowledge transfer	Regional and Rural Development, EU Rural Policy, Evaluation, Urban-Rural, Territorial Cohesion, Just Transition process
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Brian Rosa** EU Horizon Project	Brian Rosa joined the BCNUEJ [Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability] in 2024 as a core member, where he was previously an Affiliated Researcher. He leads the work package for the ReHousIn project. Source: [[https://www.bcnuej.org/brian-rosa/]] ~~~ Brian Rosa joined the lab in 2024 as a core member, where he was previously an Affiliated Researcher. He leads the work package for the ReHousIn project. Rosa holds an MRP in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University and a PhD in Human Geography from The University of Manchester. Before relocating to Barcelona in 2018, he was Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Geography, as well as founding director of the Queens College City Lab, at the City University of New York (CUNY). In Barcelona, Rosa has been a Visiting Professor and Marie Curie Fellow at the Department of Humanities, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, as well as a Fundació 'La Caixa' Research Fellow at the Department of Geography and Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. His research has focused on deindustrialization and urban redevelopment, landscapes of urban infrastructure, political debates about urban heritage and working-class memory, gentrification and migration, visual and creative methods, urban political ecology, and the spatial and cultural politics of urban transformation in Great Britain, the United States, and Spain. Rosa served as Ad Hoc Expert for the URBACT action planning network RiConnect, led by the Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona, where he consulted city and regional planning authorities on the social displacement risks associated with the creation of new public spaces and active mobility infrastructures. He is also Research Associate with Deindustrialization and the Politics of our Time (DePOT) and a member of the COST Action Slow Memory: Transformative Practices for Times of Uneven and Accelerating Change. Source: https://www.bcnuej.org/brian-rosa/	Social sciences	Human geography	UK, USA, Spain	#deindustrialization	#post-industrial landscapes	#urban landscapes	Gentrification, Urban political ecology, Critical heritage studies, Deindustrialization, Urban infrastructure, Photography
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Pablo Aboleda**	Interdisciplinary researcher with an educational history spanning architecture, heritage, and urban studies. Source: https://www.pabloarboleda.com/about/	Social sciences	Interdisciplinary research	Berlin, Spain, Sicily, Glasgow, Cabo de Gata	#deindustrialization	#post-industrial landscapes	#multimodal research	#modern ruins #post-industrial #urban studies
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Thora Petursdottir**	Prof. Of Archaeology in Oslo. Source: https://www.hf.uio.no/iakh/english/people/aca/archaeology/tenured/porap/index.html	Social sciences	Archaeology	Iceland, Northern Norway, Russia	#anthropocene	#heritage	#more-than-human geographies	#contemporary archaeology
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Megan Jeanne Gette**	The abandoned energy landscape of Oil, Gas, and Nuclear Power in the Chihuahuan desert. Megan Jeanne Gette is an anthropology PhD student and fellow at UT Austin. She has an MFA in poetry from the University of Minnesota. Her research explores the role of the mineral in renewable energy transitions, sensory ethnography, and subterranean/energy imaginaries. She is a section editor for the Visual and New Media Review and co-creator of con-text-ure at Society for Cultural Anthropology's Fieldsights.	Social sciences	Anthropology	*unspecified*	#climate justice	#extractivism	#petromodernity	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Francisco Martinez**	Francisco Martínez is an anthropologist who focuses on contemporary issues of material culture through experimental research. A Ramón y Cajal Senior Research Fellow at the University of Murcia, he has 15+ years of fieldwork across Estonia, Georgia, and Portugal, and was awarded the Early Career Prize of the European Association of Social Anthropologists. **Source:** https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2113-9987 **Representative Publications:** Martínez, F. "Remains of the Soviet Past in Estonia: An Anthropology of Forgetting, Repair and Urban Traces." https://doi.org/10.14324/111.9781787353534 Martínez, F. (2021). Memory, Don't Speak! Monumental neglect and memorial sacrifice in contemporary Estonia. Cultural Geographies, 29(1), 63-81. https://doi.org/10.1177/14744740211005517 (Original work published 2022) What happens to legacies that do not find any continuation? In Estonia, a new generation that does not remember the socialist era and is open to global influences has grown up. As a result, the impact of the Soviet memory in people's conventional values is losing its effective power, opening new opportunities for repair and revaluation of the past. Francisco Martinez brings together a number of sites of interest to explore the vanquishing of the Soviet legacy in Estonia: the railway bazaar in Tallinn where concepts such as 'market' and 'employment' take on distinctly different meanings from their Western use; Linnahall, a grandiose venue, whose Soviet heritage now poses diffi cult questions of how to present the building's history; Tallinn's cityscape, where the social, spatial and temporal co-evolution of the city can be viewed and debated; Narva, a city that marks the border between the Russian Federation, NATO and the European Union, and represents a place of continual negotiation of belonging; and the new Estonian National Museum in Raadi, an area on the outskirts of Tartu, that has been turned into a memory field. The anthropological study of all these places shows that national identity and historical representations can be constructed in relation to waste and disrepair too, also demonstrating how we can understand generational change in a material sense. Source: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/14744740211005517	Social sciences	Anthropology	Estonia, Soviet Union	#postsocialism	#memory	#postindustrial futures	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Anastasiya Ansteeg**	Tilburg University: Tilburg, NL My interests broadly concern governance of climate transitions and their implications on social structures and urban spaces. Source: https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/staff/a-ansteeg "How Three European Regions Governed Economic Transitions, "Tilburg Law School, Tilburg University. Report. Contributors: Anastasiya Ansteeg; E.W. (Michiel) Stapper. https://zenodo.org/records/15471541	Social sciences	Urban planning	Latvia, Germany, Romania, Netherlands	#urban planning	#climate policy	#participation	shrinking cities, cultural strategies, just transition, climate justice, strategic planning, cultural policies, frontline communities
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Nicholas Bainton**	Associate Professor at RegNet, School of Regulation & Global Governance, Australian National University. Source: https://researchportalplus.anu.edu.au/en/persons/nicholas-bainton Bainton N, Kemp D, Lèbre E, Owen JR, Marston G. The energy-extractives nexus and the just transition. *Sustainable Development.* 2021; 29: 624–634. https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2163. The concept of a 'just transition' to a low-carbon economy is firmly embedded in mainstream global discourses about mitigating climate change. Drawing on Karl Polanyi's political economy elaborated in The Great Transformation, we interrogate the idea of a just transition and place it within its historical context. We address a major contradiction at the core of global energy transition debates: the rapid shift to low-carbon energy-systems will require increased extraction of minerals and metals. In doing so, we argue that extractive industries are energy and carbon-intensive, and will enlarge and intensify social and ecological injustice. Our findings reveal the importance of understanding how the idea of a just transition is used, and by who, and the type of justice that underpins this concept. We demonstrate the need to ground just transition policies and programmes in a notion of justice as fairness.	Social sciences	Anthropology	Papua New Guinea	#extractivism	#energy transition	#green ethics	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Duncan Liefferink**	Duncan Liefferink (1964) is Associate Professor Environmental Policy in the Department Geography, Planning and Environment. Radboud University. Source: https://www.ru.nl/en/people/liefferink-j Leppänen, T., & Liefferink, D. (2022). Agenda-setting, policy formulation, and the EU institutional context: The case of the Just Transition Fund. *European Policy Analysis,* 8, 51–67. https://doi.org/10.1002/epa2.1136. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/epa2.1136. Utilizing Kingdon's Multiple Streams Framework (MSF) as a basis, this article aims to further the understanding of the influence institutional factors have on agenda-setting and policy formulation in the European Union (EU). It does so by analyzing the policy process of the Just Transition Fund (JTF) from agenda-setting to policy formulation by the Commission. The research finds that policy entrepreneurship is strongly determined by the characteristics and overlap of institutional policy windows. In the JTF case, the institutional context enhanced the influence of policy entrepreneurs within the European Parliament, especially the S&D party, on the combined process of agenda-setting and policy formulation. Therefore, this paper illustrates that EU MSF scholarship would benefit from taking institutional factors more into account. The conclusions also indicate that supranational institutions can play a larger role in EU climate policy formulation than some of the current research suggests.	Social sciences	Environmental politics	EU	#climate policy	#environmental justice	#law and governance	#policy implementation #environmental policies
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Gordon Walker**	Professor Emeritus. *Energy and Rhythm: Rhythmanalysis for a Low Carbon Future* (Rowman and Littlefield, April 2021). See dedicated website for support to book and related work on thinking with rhythm about energy, climate and carbon. Source: https://wp.lancs.ac.uk/energyandrhythm/	Social sciences	Geography	*unspecified*	#environmental justice	#sustainable development	#petromodernity	#energy security
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Harriet Bulkeley**	Professor in the Department of Geography whose work is concerned with the politics and governance of environmental issues. Source: https://www.durham.ac.uk/staff/h-a-bulkeley/ **Representative Publication:** Gordon Walker, Harriet Bulkeley, "Geographies of environmental justice," *Geoforum,* Volume 37, Issue 5, 2006, Pages 655-659, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2005.12.002. (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718505001399) **Environmental justice and inequality.** Despite the long history of theoretical discussion over the term justice and all that it implies, the notion of environmental justice, in part reflecting its roots in a social movement, has been subject to less intensive interrogation and definitional precision. The way in which the notion of environmental justice has been deployed has been more as an instinctive gut reaction than as a closely argued concept.	Social sciences	Geography	*unspecified*	#climate policy	#urban planning	#law and governance	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Julian Agyeman**	Julian Agyeman Ph.D. FRSA FRGS is a Professor in the Department Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, a Secondary Professor at The Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and is the Fletcher Professor of Rhetoric and Debate, an endowed professorship at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, USA. In the early 2000s, with colleagues, he developed the increasingly influential concept of just sustainabilities, the intentional integration of social justice and environmental sustainability, defined as 'the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems.' Source: https://julianagyeman.com/ ~~~ Julian Agyeman, "Global environmental justice or Le droit au monde?," Geoforum, Volume 54, 2014, Pages 236-238, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2012.12.021. (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718513000031) Keywords: Environmental justice; Policy; Poverty; Spatial injustice; Social movement. Understanding what environmental justice is and what it is becoming is changing. 'Environmental justice' is now a transnational, a global brand. Environmental justice is increasingly about human – not only civil rights.	Social sciences	Geography	*unspecified*	#urban planning	#public policy	#green ethics	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Suvi Huttunen**	Full professor (tenured), Social Sciences LUT School of Engineering Sciences Lappeenranta. Source: https://www.lut.fi/en/profiles/suvi-huttunen Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8484-9014 **Representative Publication:** "Framing just transition: The case of sustainable food system transition in Finland." Environmental Policy and Governance: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eet.2096 (with: Riina Tykkyläinen, Minna Kaljonen, Teea Kortetmäki, Ari Paloviita. Justice in sustainability transitions requires states to design transition policies that 'leave no-one behind'. Emphasising fairness, however, may entail slowing or scaling down the impetus of sustainability transition. To examine this risk empirically, we analysed how stakeholders frame justice in deliberating policy measures needed to support just transition in agricultural land use and dietary changes, the cornerstones of building healthier and climate friendlier food systems in Finland. The results show that justice frames focus on the potential impacts of transition, largely ignore global scale, and prioritise social justice claims at the cost of environmental ambition. To create just and environmentally effective policies, policymakers need to consider justice at the level of policy-mixes combining environmental and social policies. Furthermore, they need to acknowledge systemic injustices present in existing systems while striving towards just transition.	Social sciences	Environmental policy and governance	*unspecified*	#food security	#sustainable development	#law and governance	

Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Amanda Slevin**	Dr. Amanda Slevin works as Policy Fellow with the Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN), School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics in Queen's University Belfast. Source: https://pure.qub.ac.uk/en/persons/amanda-slevin Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8043-9803 ~~~ Dr Amanda Slevin is a social scientist, educator and qualitative researcher who researches, teaches and writes about some of the most pressing challenges facing our socio-ecological world. Her policy-engaged research interests span multiple levels of analysis and include: anthropogenic climate change; climate praxis; policy frameworks, decision-making and practices surrounding climate action and hydrocarbon extraction; energy conflicts and just transition; ideology and resource management; transformative pedagogy; community activism; community participation in decision-making and multi-level climate action.	Social sciences	Climate policy	UK, Ireland	#climate justice	#energy policy	#participation	climate action, State hydrocarbon management, Irish gas and oil policy and practice, Corrib gas conflict, stakeholder engagement, community participation in decision-making, community development, transformative education, community education, social activism, community climate action, multi-level climate action, energy policies and politics, climate policy, just transition, climate praxis
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Mikkel Vindegg**	Senior Researcher: CICERO Center for International Climate Research: Oslo, NO Senior Lecturer (Department of Social Anthropology): University of Oslo, NO Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0094-221X	Social sciences	Social anthropology	Nepal, Norway, Tanzania	#socio-ecological transformation	#infrastructure	#knowledge transfer	Energy, Infrastructure, Just transition, Climate adaptation, Climate services, Consumer behaviour, State, Development
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Prof. Dr. Peter Mulder**	Associate Professor (Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development): Utrecht University: Utrecht, NL Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9578-9299, https://www.petermulder.net/ ~~~ I am an economist, researching the distribution of costs and benefits of the energy transition. My research asks: how can we accelerate the energy transition, while at the same time ensuring that the transition is fair and increases welfare beyond emission reduction? • Measurement, mapping and monitoring of energy poverty (with CBS) • The link between energy poverty and health care costs • Distribution of income effects of home insulation (with CPB) • Size and nature of employment effects of (local) investments in the energy transition (with TNO Healthy Living & Work and Maastricht University/ROA) • Spatial distribution of future house value losses due to planned onshore wind turbines • Transport poverty and the energy transition	Social sciences	Economics	Netherlands	#energy justice	#transport economics	#just finance	Energy transition, Just transition, Energy equity, Energy poverty, Spatial economics, Transport poverty
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Athina Copteros**	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3460-2416 PhD (Institute for Water Research, Dance Movement Psychotherapy and Geography Department): Rhodes University: Grahamstown, ZA ~~~ I am a dance movement psychotherapist, transdisciplinary environmental researcher, practitioner and realife learning network collaborator. I work at the art-science-embodiment interface, focusing on human and more-than-human environmental relations, learning and affect effects. My approach is trauma informed and draws on transpersonal psychotherapy, embodiment, enactment and the phenomenological standpoint of interconnectedness. I run a psychotherapy practice, workshops, seminars and lectures on embodied practice, the discipline of authentic movement, trauma, displacement, ecopsychology, systems thinking and relationality. I work in the areas of: water resources management; arts therapies; environmental geography; psychology; environmental science; transformational learning; complex social-ecological systems; cognitively just monitoring, evaluation and learning. My work supports communities, activists and researchers by offering tools for reflection, healing and agency. I engage with a range of projects as well as research based processes, offering the skills of embodied cognition and mindfulness practice. I have a particular interest in ecopsychology and the interface between people and ecology as part of shifting to a more attuned response to our own nature.	Social sciences	Psychotherapy	South Africa	#socio-ecological transformation	#water rights	#more-than-human geographies	dance movement therapy, dance movement psychotherapy, ecopsychology, complex systems, embodiment, embodied cognition, just transition, water resources management
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Anatolijs Venovcevs**	I am a contemporary archaeologist with experience in Arctic and sub-Arctic Canada, Norway, and Russia. Source: https://www.svalbardsocialscience.com/members/anatolijs-venovcevs/	Social sciences	Archaeology	Arctic, sub-Arctic Canada, Norway, Russia.	#heritage	#post-industrial landscapes	#knowledge transfer	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Mark Goodale**	**Representative publication:** Goodale, Mark. (2023). An Anthropology of Impossible Futures. Anthropology Today. 39. 10.1111/1467-8322.12834. This guest editorial explores the intricate relationship between anthropology and the concept of impossible futures, focusing on the global push towards electric vehicles (EVs) and the lithium energy assemblage. Drawing inspiration from a lecture by palaeobiologist Mark Williams, a member of the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG), the author reflects on the Anthropocene epoch and the human-caused transformations of the earth. It examines the European Green Deal's impact on the automotive industry, the global struggle for lithium and the paradoxes of green technology investments. It questions the feasibility of the envisioned future, emphasizing the contradictions within global capitalism and the potential futility of climate change mitigation efforts. The author calls for a reorientation in anthropological research, focusing on novel forms of unity, solidarity, justice and interspecies bonds in the face of seemingly impossible conditions. It concludes with a contemplation of anthropology's role in translating and understanding social life in the context of unattainable futures without losing sight of the discipline's contested past and inherent hope.	Social sciences	Anthropology	*unspecified*	#raw materials	#energy justice	#petromodernity	#energy transition #lithium extraction
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Anna Ott**	Master of Science in Global Development, University of Copenhagen Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, University of Zurich Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5221-5992	social science	Political Social Science	Finland	#environmental justice	#multispecies justice	#green ethics	#political ontology, #environmental conflict, #Sámi people, #Just transition, #sustainability transformation, #environmental conflict, #forests and ecological compensation
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Luke Stange**	Tallinn University: Tallinn, EE Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0006-3660-7607	Social sciences	Urban sociology	-	#urban and regional studies	#environmental justice	/	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Neha Mungekar**	My work lies at the intersection of urban water governance and transition studies. My interests revolve around understanding power dynamics around the distribution and allocation of water resources. I am currently involved in the Water4Change project in India, developing a framework to assess and strengthen governance capacities to transition to water-sensitive cities. Works as researcher on Hydroinformatics and Socio- Technical Innovation at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education: Delft, South Holland, NL Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4663-0716	Social sciences	Transition Studies	netherlands	#urban and regional studies	#water rights	#law and governance	#water rights, #governance #urban planning
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Tobias Kalt**	Tobias Kalt, PhD, is a political scientist who studies transformation processes in the global energy and industrial system from a political-ecological perspective. A key focus of his work is the emergence of a global hydrogen economy as a response to energy and climate crises. His research centres on the resulting conflicts, power structures and questions of justice. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7002-1945	Social sciences	Political science	Germany	#energy justice	#political ecology	#petromodernity	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Williams Chibueze Munonye**	I am a radical thinker. I believe in the transformation of systems and society in driving sustainable development. I contribute to research generation that add sophisticated knowledge to ongoing development. Master's student at Linköping University Circular Economy, Energy, Environmental Policy, Just Transition Towards Sustainability Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0008-2395-4313	Social sciences	Sustainable Development	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#sustainable development	#circular economy	Circular Economy, Energy, Environmental Policy, Just Transition Towards Sustainability
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Sanda Nicola**	Assistant (UR SPHERES), Université de Liège: Liège Sanda Nicola is a social science researcher focusing on transitoons towards a green economy in mining regions. Holder of a PhD in Sciences obtained at ULiège, Belgium, after the public defense of the thesis "Territorial resilience of post-minig regions within the just transition framework". MSc in Tourism and Regional Development at USV, Romania, and BSc in Social Sciences with Politics at OU, United Kingdom. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8347-4743	Social sciences	Social Geography	Belgium	#raw materials	#mining	#postindustrial futures	#mining
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Zahar Koretsky**	Eindhoven University of Technology: NL Zahar Koretsky (Coretchii) is a assistant professors at Nyenrode Business University. Zahar works on technological trajectories of phase-out or erosion as a way to explain how technology is abandoned. Examples are aerosols, the inefficient light bulb, DDT, and more recently coal and nuclear power. What happens to technologies such as these? What happens to the knowledge base, the proprietary regimes, the professional communities, the users, the governmental stakes? How does all of this unfold? Understanding the dynamics of trajectories of phase-out will likely be increasingly important in the coming decades as environmental, social and economic pressures align. "Unravelling: The dynamics of technological decline" Source: https://research.tue.nl/en/publications/unravelling-the-dynamics-of-technological-decline	Social sciences	Technology Studies	Netherlands	#structural change	#deindustrialization	#postindustrial futures	#technological decline #phase-out
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Gina Moran**	Gina Moran is a PhD candidate in the Sustainability Research Institute in the School of Earth and Environment in Leeds. She works on challenging climate crisis and associated environmental degradation through capitalism and its social construction.	Social sciences	Environmental sciences	UK	#degrowth	#sustainability	#climate justice	Not sure about Keyword3
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Annika M. Weber**	Annika Weber works at IKEM (Institut für Klimaschutz, Energie und Mobilität) on climate and innovation regarding socio-ecological change. Her main focus lies on mobility concepts.	Social sciences	Energy Systems	Germany	#structural change	#transport economics	#energy policy	#green transition #social change
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Jenny Patient**	Jenny Patient is a PhD student working on Trade Unions and a Just Energy Transition to Low Carbon at the University of Sheffield Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0218-198X	Social sciences	Labour policy	UK	#energy justice	#labour environmentalism	#decarbonisation	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Anne Schiffer**	Dr Anne Schiffer is a Reader in the School of Arts at Leeds Beckett University. She uses people-centred design research for equitable and just access to energy and water, collaborating with communities, local and international organisations. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3880-3998	Social sciences	Energy Studies	UK	#energy justice	#water rights	#local activism	#Energy access
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Abdedaim Battioui**	Abdedaim Battioui is a PhD researcher at UNC Chapel Hill specializing in energy security, lithium-ion battery supply chains, and equitable transitions. His work examines geopolitical competition, critical mineral sourcing (especially lithium iron phosphate), and conflict mitigation across the battery lifecycle. He is a Rotary Peace Fellow and holds a Master of International Development Policy from Duke University. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5018-407X	Social sciences	Energy Systems	United States, Morocco, Canada, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Australia	#energy policy	#critical minerals	#lithium	#energy policy #energy transition
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Vincent Obisie-Orlu**	Natural Resource Governance and ESG Researcher (Natural Resource Governance Program): Good Governance Africa: Johannesburg, Gauteng, ZA Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3867-8602	Social sciences	Political science	South Africa	#just finance	#critical minerals	#natural resource management	Natural Resource Governance, Energy, Energy Transition, Environmental Social Governance, ESG, Just Transition, Climate Finance, Just Energy Transition, Mining Industry, Critical Minerals, Africa
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Aloke Majumdar**	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur: Kharagpur, West Bengal, IN https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7168-2366	Social sciences	Human Geography	India, Germany, Spain, Indonesia	#socio-ecological transformation	#energy justice	#law and governance	Climate change adaptation, Resilience, Nature-based solutions, Just transition, Political ecology, Hydrosocial transformation, Environment and society, Disaster risk reduction
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**José Vega-Araújo**	José is a Research Fellow with the Sustainable Transitions team at SEI Latin America centre in Bogotá, Colombia. His work focuses on fostering just energy transitions, with an emphasis on examining how community concerns, institutional arrangements, and policy frameworks influence the equitable deployment of renewable energy. He is particularly interested in ensuring that energy transitions are socially inclusive, strengthening community participation, governance, and benefit-sharing mechanisms. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5600-388X Source: https://www.sei.org/people/jose-vega-araujo/ Associate (Dundee Just Transition Hub University of Dundee, https://www.dundee.ac.uk/issr/dundee-just-transition-hub	Social sciences	energy transition	Colombia	#low-carbon technologies	#renewables	#energy justice	#Renewable energy #sustainability #environmental justice #energy policy
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Riiika Aro**	Riika Aro is a post-doctoral researcher investigating food-system studies and just transition. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3028-844X	Social sciences	Food system studies	Finland	#socio-ecological transformation	#sustainability	#participation	#sustainable food #environmental social sciences
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Charissa Leiwakabessy**	PhD Candidate (Political Science): University of Amsterdam: Amsterdam, North Holland, NL Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4808-754X	Social sciences	Political science		#energy justice	#housing	#energy justice	energy justice, recognition justice, just transition, interpretivism
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Chafai Maissa**	Engineer in Economic Studies (Department of Economic Studies): Sonatrach (Algeria): Algiers, DZ Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8911-479X Doctor and researcher in applied statistics. Specialization in energy, focusing on the energy transition and its impact on developing countries dependent on hydrocarbons. Analysis of job loss risks caused by this transition through global and regional studies.	Social sciences	Engineering	*unspecified*	#energy policy	#statistical analysis	#energy policy	Energy Transition, Just Transition, Exploratory Data Analysis, Econometrics
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Rita Mergner**	Senior Project Manager (Projects Department) in WIP - Renewable Energies: Munich, DE Rita Mergner is a Senior Project Manager at WIP Renewable Energies and an Energy Policy Expert in energy transitions, renewable energies and sustainable energy solutions. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9386-2835 **Representative Publication:** "Smart Strategies for the Transition in Coal Intensive Regions": Proceedings of the 29th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition. 2021, Journal article: http://www.etaflorence.it/proceedings/?detail=18301 ~~~ She has degrees in Law and Public Management and is experienced in policy analysis, formation and implementation as well as policy research in the field of energy transition and renewable energies. She also has experience in just energy transitions, through coordinating activities in nine coal regions in transition. Prior to joining WIP she gained experience in Brussels as a policy advisor in the European Biogas Association. In addition, Ms. Mergner gained professional experience in policy issues at the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council.	Social sciences	Environmental policy and governance	Germany, Europe	#socio-ecological transformation	#post-mining landscapes	#energy policy	coal regions, just transition, community energy, cooperatives, collective actions #law and governance
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Andrii Semeniuk**	Junior research officer (Department of Energy Sector Development and Projection): Institute for Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine: Kyiv, UA Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2308-4713	Social sciences	Economics	Ukraine	#energy policy	#low-carbon technologies	#energy policy	#climate policy #research methods
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Prof. Dr. Darryn Snell**	Associate Professor (School of Management): RMIT University: Melbourne, VIC, AU Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0888-0992	Social sciences	Sociology	*unspecified*	#structural change	#deindustrialization	#energy justice	structural adjustment, industrial transition, regional regeneration industrial restructuring, skills and training, just transition, industrial relations
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Njabulo Kambule**	Njabulo Kambule is a professional in the discipline of Energy. In the past decade he has worked in a variety of energy and climate change related projects, both in private and academic sector. He possesses a Doctoral qualification in the energy discipline; with specific research interests on societal absorption and effects (i.e. socio-economic, regulatory, political, and environmental) induced by modern energy technologies. He is a research supervisor and lecturer for Energy Policy Formulation (EPF) and International, Geographical, and Political aspects of Energy ((IGPE) at the University of Johannesburg (2016 to present). He has published several peer reviewed articled and is an author of a book entitled: The deployment of Prepaid Electricity Meters in sub-Saharan Africa: Riding the Fourth Industrial Wave. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4509-2116	Social sciences	Energy Studies	South Africa	#energy policy	#energy justice	#energy policy	Energy Policy; Energy Poverty; Energy Politics; Just Transition; Energy Efficiency
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Gustė Gurčinaitė**	Jesus College; School of Geography and the Environment: University of Oxford: Oxford, Oxfordshire, GB Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0001-2299-1349	Social sciences	Geography	EU	#energy justice	#law and governance	#energy policy	Just Transition, Energy Transition, Energy Justice, Transition Governance, Policy Evaluation
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Prof. Dr. Garret Zastoupil**	Assistant Professor (Sustainable Community Development): Northland College: Ashland, Wisconsin, US "As a passionate community development educator, I work closely with nonprofits, local governments, and mission-driven businesses to build capacity and foster sustainable, inclusive communities. Through collaborative workshops, facilitated group processes, and participatory research, I empower organizations to unlock their full potential and drive positive change." Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7947-2008	Social sciences	Community development	United States	#community development	#community development	#participation	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Prof. Dr. Adam Drobniak**	Current research interests include: (1) urban and regional resilience in the context of economic-technological and socio-cultural perspectives; (2) hybridization of development as a new concept for urban and regional studies explaining implementation of novelties in different local context; (3) polycentric urban regions; (4) regional productivity and lagging behind regions; (5) transition studies of the Central European cities and regions along with comparative analysis of development paths Source: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Adam-Drobniak **Relevant Publication:** "Fostering Local Urban Centers in relation to district train stations as part of the transition from a post-industrial to a sustainable city: a case study of Katowice" Bulletin of Geography. Socio-economic Series. 2024 I Journal article: https://apcz.umk.pl/BGSS/article/view/46991	Social sciences	Economic geography	Poland	#urban and regional studies	#law and governance	#natural resource management	#strategic planning
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Dr. Bibhu Prasad Nayak**	Bibhu P. Nayak is an Associate Professor at the School of Public Policy and Governance, Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Hyderabad Campus. He is an economist by training and has been working on environmental and resource governance issues. Prior to TISS, he worked for The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, and Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru in India. https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3829-6778 ~~~ He teaches courses like Ecological Economics, Development Economics, Economic Policy, and other courses linking institutions, environment, and development. He has worked on several research and consultancy projects funded by various national and international agencies. His research interest includes the economics of conservation, community-based institutions, social capital, and collective action, participatory natural resource management, and rural livelihood systems. He has worked on research projects with an interdisciplinary focus and traveled extensively across different states in India for field research. He published some of his research in different national and international journals and participated in several international summer schools, national and international conferences, and workshops. He is the recipient of the First Prize in the Global Development Network (GDN) Medal for Research on Development in 2013. He has been associated with professional associations like the Indian Society of Ecological Economics (INSEE), Odisha Economics Association (OEA), and several academic networks like South Asia Network for Environment and Development (SANDEE); Laboratory for Comparative Social Research (LCSR); Research Committee on Behavioral Insights, Green Growth Knowledge Platform; Ronald Coase Institute Alumni Network, among others.	Social sciences	Economics	India	#law and governance	#sustainability	#natural resource management	Economics of Conservation, Community Based Institutions, Social Capital, Socio-Ecological Systems, Just Transition
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Ruth Levitas**	Emeritus Professor School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies. Source: [[https://www.bristol.ac.uk/people/person/Ruth-Levitas-54310446-fa35-45bc-b40b-73e3634f71cb/]] **Select publication:** Utopia as Method: The Imaginary Reconstitution of Society Utopia should be understood as a method rather than a goal. This book rehabilitates utopia as a repressed dimension of the sociological and in the process produces the Imaginary Reconstitution of Society, a provisional, reflexive and dialogic method for exploring alternative possible futures. Source: [[https://link.springer.com/book/10.1057/9781137314253]]	Social Sciences	Sociology, Politics, International Studies	*unspecified*	#postindustrial futures	#structural change	#transition policies	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Julia Poliscanova**	Transport & environment NGO	Social sciences	Political science	EU	#critical minerals	#green transition	#sustainable energy	
Open knowledge index	A Pillar: Social sciences & humanities	**Jelena Vaciljevic**	Anthropologist, University Of Belgrade	Social sciences	Anthropology	*unspecified*	#memory	#law and governance	#participation	
▾ B Pillar: Natural sciences										
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Francesco Caddeo**	Post-doc at Hybrid Nanostructures, University of Hamburg, Institute for Nanostructure and Solid State Physics Source: https://www.physik.uni-hamburg.de/en/inf/ag-koziej/team/caddeo-francesco.html	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#electrocatalysis	#eco-innovation	#sustainable energy	#nanostructured materials
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Leonard Messing**	Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology, UMSICHT, 46047 Oberhausen, Germany "Carbon Bipolar Plates in PEM Water Electrolysis: Bust or Must?" https://advanced.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/aenm.202402308	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#low-carbon	#electrocatalysis	#green hydrogen	#energy-related applications
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Kevinjeorjios Pellumbi**	The Doctoral Prize of the Chemistry & Energy Division of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) goes to Kevinjeorjios Pellumbi. Press release / April 10, 2025. Source: https://www.umsicht.fraunhofer.de/en/press-media/press-releases/2025/doctoralprize-electrocatalysis-pellumbi.html	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#chemistry-in-transition	#eco-innovation	#electrocatalysis	#upscaling novel electrolytictechnologies
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Michael Bron**	Technische Chemie erneuerbarer Energien / Industrial Chemistry of renewable energies. Prof. Dr. Michael Bron https://www.chemie.uni-halle.de/bereiche_der_chemie/technische_chemie/ak_bron/	Natural sciences	Chemistry	Martin-Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale)	#eco-innovation	#chemistry-in-transition	#electrocatalysis	#industrial chemistry #renewable energies
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Hanxuan Zeng**	Zhejiang Key Laboratory of Civil Engineering Structures & Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Technology, Hangzhou, China Source: https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=57200115882 Employed at Zhejiang University of Technology (College of Civil Engineering): Hangzhou, Zhejiang, CN Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6479-5429	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#electrocatalysis	#eco-innovation	#chemistry in transition	#environmental conservation
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Kerry A. Pettigrew**	Lecturer in Biomedical Science, SHLS Life Sciences (School of Health & Life Sciences). Source: https://research.tees.ac.uk/en/persons/kerry-pettigrew Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6027-0462 **Select project:** Salinity, Climate Change and Health networking event: building an interdisciplinary network to study the holistic impacts of salinity intrusion into freshwater sources in coastal Bangladesh **Layman's description** Climate change and human activities are causing increasing levels of salt in drinking water, as well as water for washing and farming. This has effects on a range of aspects of human life, including health, livelihoods and migration, all of which are interlinked. This networking grant seeks to bring together researchers from all areas and disciplines, from science to arts, to create a research group that is well-equipped to design effective projects to respond to and reduce these negative effects. Source: https://research.tees.ac.uk/en/projects/commonwealth-climate-resilience-challenge-grant	Natural sciences	Biomedicine	Bangladesh,	#environmental justice	#health care	#energy justice	#open knowledge #health care #inequality
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Janeth Carolina Godoy**	Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis: Karlsruhe, Baden-Württemberg, DE Formerly, Research Associate (Chair of Renewable and Sustainable Energy Systems), Technische Universität München: Munchen, Bayern, DE Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2401-5218	Natural sciences	Energy Studies	Germany	#energy policy	#law and governance	#sustainable energy	#energy planning #energy transition
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Anulisa Claire Okinyi**	Anulisa Claire is a Research Associate at CIFOR-ICRAF. She holds a Master's degree in Climate Change Adaptation and a Bachelor of Science degree in management of agro-ecosystems and environment. Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0004-7412-8389	Natural sciences	Environmental Resource Management	Kenya, Gambia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Ghana	#food security	#biodiversity	#natural resource management	#Nature-based Solutions (NbS) #Agro-ecosystems
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Yvette Baninla**	Adjunct Assistant Professor (Department of Mining Engineering), Queens University: Kingston, Ontario, CA Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2970-8876 ~~~ Experienced academic teacher and researcher in Environmental Science and Studies. My work addresses supply chain disruptions of critical metals and promotes justice for underrepresented populations, aligning with my goal of fostering inclusive approaches to sustainability transitions and policy analysis. I have over 20 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, including both first author and co-author contributions. From 2024 to 2029 my research will focus on critical metals, where I hope to examine both the communities involved in mining these resources and those where renewable energy infrastructures will be installed. I will analyze the ESG aspects of these activities, exploring ways to enhance sustainability in mining practices while ensuring equitable benefits for affected communities and solving climate crisis.	Natural sciences	Environmental sciences	Central Africa, Africa sub-regions, China	#socio-ecological transformation	#critical minerals	#raw materials	#critical metals, #Just transition, #climate change, #sustainability, #communities
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Dr. Stefan Moellerherm**	Dr. Stefan Moellerherm is a research manager at the research Center of Post-Mining fom the technische Hochschule Georg Agricola in Bochum Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0610-659X	Natural sciences	Geology	Germany	#energy transition	#natural resource management	#post-mining landscapes	#post-mining #georesources
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Dr Megan J. Cole**	Dr Megan Cole has a DPhil in Geography and Environmental Sciences from the University of Oxford (2017). She joined the Minerals to Metals initiative at UCT in 2017 as a Post Doctoral Research Fellow looking at operationalising the Sustainable Development Goals in the mining industry. Source: https://uct.academia.edu/MeganCole ~~~ She worked previously for the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford on climate change policy in developing countries (2010 – 2012), and for Anglo American Platinum as a geotechnical engineer at the Mogalakwena mine (2003 – 2006) and a project and research manager at the Johannesburg head office (2006-2010). Her research interests include Sustainable Development Goals and indicators; data for development; water-energy-land nexus; mining and sustainable development; mine water management; and measuring inequality.	Natural sciences	Geography	South Africa	#raw materials	#sustainability	#natural resource management	#natural resource management
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Jingwen Liu**	Jingwen Liu's research focuses on recycling construction waste into sustainable cementitious materials and low-carbon construction solutions. This work contributes to the transformation of industrial chemistry toward circular economy practices and sustainable infrastructure.	Natural sciences	Sustainable energy	*unspecified*	#low-carbon	#chemistry-in-transition	#recycling	#Renewable energy
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Leen Govarts**	Leen Govaerts coordinates national and European research collaborations on sustainable energy technologies. Through her leadership in BERA and EERA, she contributes to shaping Belgium's technological and policy transformation in energy and chemical-related sectors.	Natural sciences	Energy Systems	*unspecified*	#sustainability	#energy planning	#sustainable energy	#technology
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Yves Verschueren**	„Verschueren represents Belgium's chemical and life sciences sector, one of the most important industrial sectors in Europe. His work provides insight into the economic, technological, and structural transformation of chemical industries in Belgium."	Natural sciences	Chemistry	Belgium	#structural change	#chemistry-in-transition	#renewables	#industrial chemistry #renewable energies
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Peter Tom Jones**	Director Ku Leuven (Sustainable Metals & Minerals)	Natural sciences	Chemistry	*unspecified*	#raw materials	#sustainable development	#eco-innovation	
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Prof. Alexandre Lima**	Geology, U. Of Porto	Natural sciences	Environmental sciences	Galicia	#post-mining landscapes	#raw materials	#lithium	
Open knowledge index	B Pillar: Natural sciences	**Toni Eorola**	Social Geologist	Natural sciences	Geology	EU	#raw materials	#geochemistry-minerology	#law and governance	

C Pillar: Law, policy & education

	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Julius Veenstra**	PhD-student, Tilburg Law School, Public Law & Governance Tilburg Law School, Global Law & Governance Source: https://research.tilburguniversity.edu/en/persons/julius-veenstra	Law, policy & education	Law	Europe	#climate justice	#inequality	#law and governance	#law and governance #inequality	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Dr Sufyan El Droubi**	Reader in Public International Law. Dundee Law School, School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law. Abstract: A 1.5 °C world relies on the development of modern renewable energy sources in Latin America and the Caribbean. Whilst existing research offers insights into national case studies, our study responds to a lack of region-wide analysis. To identify the relative level of national commitment to a just transition in the region, this study collects, analyses, and visualizes global data from eight different sources. It uses a ranking method to analyse relative performance. To find where policy improvement is most urgently needed, trends are extrapolated on fossil fuel dependency, subsidies, and carbon dioxide emissions, as well as renewable energy production and international finance, through the lens of distributional, procedural, and restorative justice. We call for a new approach to international clean energy finance which promotes greater procedural justice whilst ensuring that green energy deployment leads to higher levels of meaningful employment.	Law, policy & education	Law	Latin America; Caribbean.	#energy policy	#sustainability	#energy justice	just transition; climate transition; energy transition; energy economics; renewable energy; sustainability	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Peter D. Cameron**	Peter holds the Chair in Energy and Climate Law at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies on the Lincoln's Inn Fields campus at Queen Mary University of London. He teaches Renewable Energy Law and Contracts as well as Mining Law and Natural Resources. Source: https://www.qmul.ac.uk/ccls/people/profiles/cameron-peter.html **Representative Publication:** *Legal aspects of EU energy regulation : the consolidation of energy law across Europe*. 2016. Second edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford. Source: https://search.worldcat.org/title/966293258 https://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/people/academic-staff/items/cameron-peter.html ~~~ As a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, he is one of the world's leading authorities on energy investment law. He is a barrister (England & Wales), and acts as an arbitrator in international cases. Peter is author of a dozen books, including 'International Energy Investment Law: the Pursuit of Stability' (2nd edition, 2021, Oxford University Press), more than 100 articles, and is currently working on 'International Arbitration and the Energy Transition' for Hart. He has held research grants from DfID/FCDO and the European Commission. Peter has been a Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and Professor and Director at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (Dundee, UK). Peter has held visiting or part-time posts at the Universities of Oxford, Stanford, Singapore and Madrid (Autónoma). He is an honorary professorial fellow at Edinburgh University and a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Peter has worked extensively with the World Bank and was seconded to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, travelling extensively in the region. As an arbitrator, Peter has sat at various international dispute settlement bodies, including ICSID and ICC. He has also testified as an expert witness before SIAC, ICC, LCIA and SCC and in several national courts. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.	Law, policy & education	Law	EU	#climate law	#energy policy	#law and governance	#law and governance #energy policy	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Prof. Dr. Geoffrey Wood**	Lecturer in Energy and Environmental Law (School of Law) Employment, University of Stirling Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6690-338X	Law, policy & education	Law	UK, Poland, Scottland	#energy policy	#climate policy	#law and governance	energy and environmental law, policy and regulation, just energy transitions	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**A.P. Bueno Patin**	PhD Candidate in the Horizon Europe project BOLSTER looking at the politics of the Just Transition (with a focus on the steel industry) in two European Regions in France and in The Netherlands. Source: https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/staff/a-p-buenopatin	Law, policy & education	Law	France, Netherlands	#climate justice	#labour environmentalism	#energy justice	Policy, labour environmentalism, climate justice and marginalisation.	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Professor Tracy-Lynn Field**	Professor Tracy-Lynn Field (formerly Humby) is an enrolled advocate and Professor in the Wits School of Law. Her research areas and expertise include environmental law, human rights, mining law, climate change law, water law, extractives industry transparency, mineral property regimes, mineral taxation regimes, and open government. She served as the Chair of the Board of the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) from 2017 – 2021 and undertakes work for the Open Government Partnership. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2925-9449 https://wits100.wits.ac.za/our-campaign/clf-water-stewardship-programme/professor-tracy-lynn-field/	Law, policy & education	Law	South Africa	#climate law	#law and governance	#energy justice	#environmental law #law and governance	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Prof. Dr. Martin Curley**	Research & Policy Lead: Katalyst Initiative, Amsterdam, NL https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0600-1464 **Representative Publication:** Garment Industry Structure: Observations, Challenges and Recommendations for Human Rights Governance Designers. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4398762 We outline five human rights and environmental governance challenges created by the garment industry's complex structure. If new laws, regulations, collective bargaining systems and other governance tools can overcome these challenges, they will be far more effective in the years to come. We offer some recommendations to support these new governance initiatives.	Law, policy & education	Innovation	*unspecified*	#inequality	#law and governance	#fair investment	Just Transition, Supply Chain, Governance, Human Rights	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Dr. Giada Giacomini**	An experienced researcher in international environmental law, climate change law and policy, human rights approaches to climate change, accountability of international organizations, and with an interest in climate vulnerable communities. Author of the book "Indigenous peoples and climate justice: a critical analysis of international human rights law" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). Currently employed as Lecturer and Postdoctoral researcher at the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID). Former Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute.	Law, policy & education	Environmental law	Italy, Switzerland	#climate law	#environmental law	#law and governance	international environmental law, human rights-based climate litigation, indigenous peoples' rights, climate justice, rights of nature, environmental politics, accountability of international organizations, just transition studies	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Rosie Rowe**	Higher Degree by Research (Law) (Curtin Law School): Curtin University: Perth, AU Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5541-9541	Law, policy & education	Human Rights	Australia, United Kingdom	#human rights	#just finance	#law and governance	Business and human rights,, Just transition, Human rights due diligence, stakeholder engagement, renewable energy in Australia, Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Human rights	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Dr. Presha Ramsarup**	Dr. Presha Ramsarup is the Director of the Centre for Researching Education and Labour, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Her PhD focused on a systems approach to change orientated learning pathways and sustainable development. Her work is focused on supporting Green Skills development through an employer led demand project to identify green jobs and researching opportunities to green traditional jobs across sectors. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6747-3094	Law, policy & education	Education	South Africa	#education-policy	#environmental education	#knowledge transfer	Environmental Education, Green Skills, Critical realism, Just Transition, Green Jobs	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Nnennaya J Nwali**	Teaching Assistant (Grade 5) (School of Law), University of Aberdeen: Aberdeen, GB, currently undertaking PhD research focused on the Just Energy Transition. Source: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/people/n.nwali.21 **Representative Publication:** "Avoiding (Offshore) Renewable and Critical Mineral-Based Resource Curse in Africa: The Role of a Continent-wide Legal Regime. Offshore Energy Law: Challenges and Opportunities for Renewables and Hydrocarbons." 2025 I Book chapter. Contributors: Obulor, S.N.; Debski, J.A.; Nwali, N.J. ~~~ Nnenna is a driven and committed energy law academic. Her main interests lie in the intersection between energy and environmental law, human rights law and social justice, and she is currently undertaking PhD research focused on the Just Energy Transition. Her inspiration comes from the need to call attention to the social justice implications of energy development and of the energy transition, particularly as it affects the Global South, to amplify the voices of the most vulnerable within these spaces and ensure that no one is left behind. Her other research interests include the regulation of hydrogen as an energy source, and on the other end of the spectrum, medical law and ethics, particularly as it relates to consent, medical error, and negligence. Nnenna was born in Enugu state, Nigeria. Prior to pursuing her PhD, she obtained an LLM (with Distinction) in Energy and Environmental Law in 2020, at the University of Aberdeen and an LLB (Second class upper) in 2019 from the University of Sunderland, with a strong focus on corporate and commercial law.	Law, policy & education	Law	United Kingdom, Nigeria, South Africa, Congo - Kinshasa	#climate law	#energy policy	#law and governance	Just Transition, Social Justice, Human Rights, Climate Change, Mitigation & Adaptation, Socio-Technical Transitions, Energy & Environmental Law	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Mark Elder**	Mark Elder is Director of Research and Publications in the Strategic Management Office at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan. Source: https://www.iges.or.jp/en/about/staff/elder-mark **Representative publication:** Elder, M. (2025). Integration versus prioritization in the *Sustainable Development Goals*: An argument to prioritize environmental sustainability and a just transition. Sustainable Development, 33(1), 465–477. https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.3130 This paper explores a key implementation issue for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – whether to use integrated approaches or prioritize some goals. The scientific community generally recommends integrated approaches but has little clear guidance on concrete implementation. This paper reaches two main conclusions. First, environmental sustainability needs to be prioritized. This is the inescapable logic of Earth system boundaries and related concepts. Second, environmental sustainability measures need to be based on a just transition in order to secure political support for environmental prioritization; especially, they need to provide good jobs and decent work, and they need to appear concrete and feasible. These principles should inform SDG implementation and discussions on the post-2030 sustainable development agenda. Many existing proposals for environmental solutions stop short of recommending their prioritization; they also acknowledge the need for both social sustainability and a just transition, but these elements are usually not very concrete, especially regarding job creation. Thus, making environmental sustainability measures more economically and socially sustainable also should be prioritized.	Law, policy & education	Environmental policy and governance	Global	#socio-ecological transformation	#sustainability	#energy justice		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Jim Young**	Jim Young is Co-Director of The Labor Institute, a 30-year- old labor education organization, based in NYC, and a New York-based labor writer. Source: https://njwec.org/about/board/jim-young/ **Representative Publication:** Jim Young: Young, J. (1998), Just Transition: A New Approach to Jobs v. Environment. WorkingUSA, 2: 42-48. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1743-4580.1998.tb00090.x The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Union wants a GI Bill for workers who lose jobs because of necessary environmental regulation.	Law, policy & education	Labour writer	United States	#climate justice	#labour law	#energy justice		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Rob Hales**	Sustainability Transition and Climate Change Expert Rob Hales is the Discipline Leader of Sustainable Business in the Griffith Business School. Source: https://experts.griffith.edu.au/9316-robert-hales ~~~ Abstract: New explorations of justice are arising in the wake of post-structuralist and feminist critiques of abstract, generalized notions of justice in Western liberal democracies. These interventions are opening new avenues of study on discursive practices and performances that contest social and environmental injustices in everyday life. Feminist scholars argue for greater attention to the local and the particular, the embodied, gendered, emotion-based, ethnic subject of justice and injustice. Yet, limited research has been conducted on performative and performance-based relationships to justice, despite its potential to inform matters related the use and conservation of public goods and common spaces in everyday life. This critical review examines the notion of performativity and its application to justice, aiming to clarify and advance understanding and theorizing of a potentially valuable direction in environmental and social justice at the local level. We draw on Hobson's articulation of performative justice, as it offers some useful insights into how injustices related to the appropriation of public green spaces agendas are being identified and new meanings are being constituted through local-level citizen practices. We argue, however, that such attempts appear to be identifying injustices and demonstrating the 'what is' of environmental and social justice, but not 'what ought to be'. Directions for future research are offered, which include clarifying the application of performative theories to the study and practice of justice at the local level.	Law, policy & education	Business	Nepal, Asia-Pacific, Mongolia, New South Wales - Australia, Global	#socio-ecological transformation	#climate justice	#environmental justice	Performative justice; Public commons; Development; Performance; Local practices; Injustice #just transition #grassroots	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Romain Mauger**	**Representative Publication:** European Green Deal - What is the Just Transition Mechanism? "Finding a needle in a haystack? Identifying degrowth-compatible provisions in EU energy law for a just transition to net-zero by 2050" Research shows that relying on a green growth strategy to limit climate change is, at best, a gamble. Degrowth represents a much safer way, relying on a steep reduction in energy and materials consumption, starting with developed countries. Consequently, the concept of degrowth should be implemented within European Union (EU) energy law to reach its net zero target by 2050. This academic article is the first to use the theoretical framework of degrowth to analyse EU energy law. To do so, it focuses on various core energy laws: the 2019 Electricity Market Directive, the 2018 Renewable Energy Sources Directive and the 2012 Energy Efficiency Directive (slightly amended in 2018) as well as the recast proposals for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency directives tabled in the 2021 Fit for 55 package and 2022 REPowerEU plan. This research shows that various degrowth-compatible provisions already exist in EU energy law and can be harnessed in the short term, without waiting for a legal overhaul. This article also formulates recommendations, such as interpreting in a degrowth-favourable way the aforementioned provisions and challenging the current as well as forthcoming framework, for instance by amending the proposed 'energy efficiency first' principle to include energy sufficiency. Finally, opportunities for future research are outlined. https://doi.org/10.1080/02646811.2023.2187549	Law, policy & education	Law	UN, Europe, EU, South Africa	#degrowth	#climate policy	#law and governance	#climate policy #energy policy #law and governance	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Anne Lally**	Anne's work with Katalyst Initiative builds on her track record of working collaboratively to find practical, yet principled solutions to some of the most difficult human rights challenges in the garment industry. For more than two decades, Anne has focused on developing regulatory structures that foreground and defend worker rights in the globalised and globalising economic system.	Law, policy & education	Human Rights	Global	#human rights	#labour law	#law and governance		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Prof. Dr. Victor Azubike**	Prof Dr. Victor Azubike is investigating the international environmental laws, policies, and regulations related to the present energy transition, energy security, net-zero goals, and what it means for National Oil Companies, and specifically petroleum-rich developing countries.	Law, policy & education	Environmental Law	UK	#climate law	#energy policy	#law and governance	#oil and gas law #energy transition	
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Dr. Gemma Beale**	Dr Gemma Beale is a National Research Officer for the AMWU. She is an expert in industrial relations, gender studies, precarious work, and the future of work. Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0001-3648-4102 ~~~ Before moving into research, she worked in the South Australian arts, women's and community sectors for almost a decade. Gemma was Communications Coordinator at Vitalstatistix from 2015-2018 and the organisation is thrilled to welcome her back. She holds a PhD from Flinders University and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Gender, Work and Social Inquiry from The University of Adelaide. Senior Project Officer (Australian Industrial Transformation Institute): Flinders University: Adelaide, South Australia, AU	Law, policy & education	Industrial Relations	Australia	#climate policy	#labour law	#demographic change		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Alessia Consiglio**	Avvocata (Diritto del lavoro): Studio Legale Nunziante Magrone: Milano, IT https://orcid.org/0009-0000-9589-4227 ~~~ I specialize in labor law and industrial relations. I am a lawyer and hold a doctorate in labor law. I deal in particular with the management of judicial and extrajudicial disputes, employment relationships, dismissals, consulting, and corporate reorganization.	Law, policy & education	Employement law	Italy	#deindustrialization	#labour law	#law and governance		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Reasat Faisal**	"Reasat Faisal is an experienced development professional and a Commonwealth Scholar, with an intense passion for his field in climate change, migration and sustainable urban development. Over the course of 9 years, he has have accumulated valuable work experience in the realm of international development, both at the national and international scales." Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5857-044X	Law, policy & education	Economics	Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Canada	#sustainable development	#migration	#demographic change		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Dr. Colleen Unroe**	Dr. Colleen Unroe has a PhD is in Adult Education with a dual-title in Comparative & International Ed with a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and MS in Rural Sociology. Her dissertation research explored education and learning to build a Just Transition in communities with economies formerly dominated by the coal industry, specifically Central Appalachia. This included exploring the changing global political economy, informal and non-formal learning, and the impact of working-class masculinity.	Law, policy & education	Education	US	#environmental justice	#community development	#education in rural areas		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Daniel Chavez**	The S-OIL project addresses one of the most pressing challenges of our time: how national oil companies (NOCs) in Africa, Asia and Latin America will navigate the urgent need for global decarbonisation while maintaining a crucial role in their countries' economic and social development. Dr Chavez and his future team of postdoctoral researchers and PhD students will combine various theoretical and methodological insights to transform current understanding of the strategies and prospects of these companies. The research highlights two critical dimensions: their massive significance in global decarbonisation efforts, and their domestic role in development politics, revenue generation, employment provision, and delivery of essential public goods and services. **Representative Publication:** "The Future is Public! The Global Reclaiming and Democratization of Public Ownership Beyond the Market." Development (Basingstoke). 2022 I https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41301-022-00350-3	Law, policy & education	Interdisciplinary research	Netherlands, Uruguay, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Zambia, Malawi	#decarbonisation	#natural resource management	#energy policy		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Prof. Dr. Ian Goldman**	Ian Goldman has worked for 44 years on issues of rural development, decentralization, sustainable livelihoods approaches, community-driven development, and evidence-informed policy and practice, applying the disciplines of planning, evaluation, research and action-learning. He has worked in 20 countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America; with national, provincial and local government; and in the NGO and SME sectors. Dr Ian Goldman is Adjunct Professor at the Nelson Mandela School and teaches a module on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for Change in the School's Masters programme. The module focuses on providing a broad framework and tools for managing change. Source: https://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/expert/ian-goldman	Law, policy & education	International Development	South Africa	#sustainable development	#degrowth	#knowledge transfer		
	Open knowledge index	C Pillar: Law, policy & education	**Moustapha Kamal Gueye**	Moustapha Kamal Gueye is Coordinator of the Green Jobs Programme at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. Source: https://sdgs.un.org/panelists/mr-moustapha-kamal-gueye-30150 **Representative Publication:** 2022. "Just transition." IPPR Progressive Review, 28: 407-412. https://doi.org/10.1111/newe.12280. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/newe.12280. Dr. Moustapha Kamal Gueye is Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, working to promote positive employment outcomes of policies on climate change, green economy and sustainable development. Previously, Kamal served as Head, Green Economy Advisory Services at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and as Senior Programme Manager-Environment at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva. Earlier, Kamal spent twelve years across Asia, managing policy research projects on renewable energy, environment and sustainable development at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan. He was a member of the Management Committee of the Global Social Observatory and participates in the World Economic Forum-ICTSD Expert Group on "Measures to Address Climate Change and the Trade System". A citizen of Senegal, Kamal holds a Ph.D. and Master degrees from Nagoya University, Japan; DEA and LL.M from Dakar University; and Executive Certificates from the World Bank Institute, Washington; Columbia University, NY; Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Japan; and Integrated Research and Action for Development, India. He is a visiting lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Kamal speaks Wolof, French, English and Japanese.	Law, policy & education	Policy development	*unspecified*	#socio-ecological transformation	#sustainable development	#just finance	Sustainable development, Labour organization	

D Pillar: Applied research

	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Mathilde Meireles**	Field recordist, sound artist, and currently a research fellow on Sonorous Cities: Towards a Sonic Urbanism Source: https://www.15questions.net/interview/matilde-meireles-talks-sound/page-1/	Applied research	Sound Art	*unspecified*	#ecosystems	#artistic-research	#multimodal research	Water	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Konstantinia Nikolaidou**	Researcher at University of Western Macedonia: Kozani, GR Just energy transition, SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0008-0503-5188	Applied research	Chemical Engineering	Greece	#energy justice	#decarbonisation	#knowledge transfer		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Eleanor Drage**	Fellow at the University of Cambridge's Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence and co-author of the The Good Robot: Why Technology Needs Feminism https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/aug/02/billionaire-big-tech-frugal-elon-musk-innovation Websites: https://www.gender.cam.ac.uk/technology-gender-and-intersectionality-research-project http://lcfi.ac.uk/about/team/eleanor-drage/	Applied research	Computer science	Europe, EU	#law and governance	#inequality	#feminist ecology		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Carlos Tobón Franco**	In 2018, Colombia's second most powerful waterway was stopped because of a controversial infrastructure project: the Hidroituango dam. Once completed, this massive hydropower project is projected to provide for 20% of the country's energy needs. Yet, the social and environmental impacts are perhaps equivalent in scale to the dam's colossal size. Already the area's inhabitants have suffered forced displacement, massacres, and systematic persecution, along with a permanent alteration in their ways of living. Riada is an ethnographic inquiry into the impacts of this infrastructure project. Source: https://store.der.org/riada-p1096.aspx	Applied research	Filmmaking	Colombia	#environmental justice	#multimodal research	#energy landscape	#art #anthropology of energy #infrastructure	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Laura van Erp**	Laura van Erp is a Dutch filmmaker and anthropologist who received her master's degree in Visual Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam. Her debut film, Minding Sand, explores the sand-mining industry in Sierra Leone and won Best Student Film at the International Festival of Ethnological Film in Belgrade. Her interests lie in how ecological and social concerns are often two sides of the same coin. In her work, she aims to highlight the complexities of living in the Anthropocene through visual storytelling. Source: https://boap.uib.no/index.php/jaf/article/view/4472	Applied research	Filmmaking	Sierra Leone	#infrastructure	#energy transition	#multimodal research		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Jens Isensee**	Jens Isensee is a transmedia artist living in Berlin. He studied video installation in Michael Brynntrup's Filmclass at HBK Braunschweig until 2011 and is guest student in Hito Steyerl's emergent digital media class at AdbK Munich in 2026. Source: https://jensisensee.de/kuenstlerischer-ansatz/ **Representative work:** Novocene is a mixed reality experience unfolding an interactive narrative about the Anthropocene, the current geological era, entirely dominated and shaped by humans. Accordingly, the polar ice masses in this interactive video installation will melt at some point and the climate crisis will cause the analog exhibition environment to sink under a virtually rising sea level.	Applied research	Filmmaker	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#anthropocene	#multimodal research		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Tom Meier**	As a sculptor, Tom Meier works with physical forces in order to evoke psychic forces. In doing so, he attempts to transcend the material and create pure bodies of force: Sculptures that require no material at all. Forces are his medium. For him, sculpture is defined as a force in space that is made visible through bodies. The material is therefore only the packaging of the force, or its indicator. This is due to his systemic understanding of the psyche, which deals with vectors, charges, and social mapping, and considers figures to be relatively interchangeable. Since 2022, he has been working primarily with the medium of light, which he sends through space in ever new movements, mostly with the help of specially designed machines. The result is a handwriting of light reminiscent of human gestures. In 2023 Tom Meier completed his studies in Fine Arts as a master student at the KHB Weissensee. Source: https://www.culterim.de/spaces-ausstellung/tom-meier **Representative work:** "RIP" ist eine kinetische Klanginstallation, ein Automat, einzig erdacht, um zu zerreissen. Ein Riss, der sich durch eine Rolle Textil frisst, die von zwei kleineren Walzen in einiger Entfernung angezogen wird. Durch die räumliche Divergenz der kleineren Rollen zerreißt die Stoffbahn. Dieser Riss ist Vektor und fortlaufende Skulptur. Durch die variierende Spannung entsteht eine Melodie des Reissens.	Applied research	Artistic research	Berlin, Germany	#artistic research	#artistic research	#multimodal research	#sound #psychogeography ?	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Sourabh Phadke**	Earthen construction architect and artist working with sustainable materials. https://soarhub.in/	Applied research	Architect	*unspecified*	#built environment	#sustainable development	#multimodal research		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Antonia Ablass**	Textile designer and artist from Berlin and Brandenburg. Source: https://www.antoniablass.eu/about/	Applied research	Artist	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#multispecies justice	#multimodal research	#interspecies performance #plant textile installation	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Deborah Uhde**	(*1982) erkundet in ihren Montagen und Installationen Bewusstseinsthemen wie Verdrängung, Imagination und plurale Subjektivität. www.duhde.de Deborah Uhdes Arbeit „Phantom-Teich" folgt den Spuren eines kontrollierten Eingriffs in ein unkontrollierbares Erbe. Die Installation widmet sich einem Kampfmittelbeseitigungsprojekt in Deutschland, dem Dethlinger Teich in der Heide. In einem Cross-Media-Ensemble entsteht ein Kippbild zwischen ingenieurmäßiger Höchstleistung und brüchiger Bewältigungsstrategie.	Applied research	Artist	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#infrastructure	#multimodal research		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Karolina Majewska-Güde**	Karolina Majewska-Güde is a researcher, art historian and curator. She graduated in Art History from Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu and in Visual Histories from Goldsmiths College London. She earned her Ph.D at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.	Applied research	Art curator	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#feminist ecology	#multimodal research		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Bernd Hopfengärtner**	I observe scientific concepts and ideas, current technical developments and cultural phenomena. My interest lies in the interdependencies of these fields and the spaces of possibility spanning between them. My work is about designing in these spaces by creating tangible and more or less concrete artifacts: stories, videos and objects. By imagining the possible, the speculative, the non-existent (to quote an old industrial band: what is, is, what is not, is possible), Art and Design can contribute to a broader discourse in a way that is not accessible by purely analytical means. I'm interested in Design as an interdisciplinary intermediary, placed in-between natural science, engineering, cultural and media theory and everyday-life. My work has been exhibited, among others, at the Wellcome Trust in London, the MoMA in New York and the National Museum of China in Beijing. Parallel to my own artistic and design practise, I have worked as a lecturer at the Bauhaus-University Weimar, at F-A-S-T, an interdisciplinary Art, Science and Technology Program, a cooperation of the Academy of Fine Arts in Dresden with the Technical University Dresden and the Dresden University of Technology and Economics, as well as at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. I live in Berlin. Source: https://www.berndhopfengaertner.net/about/	Applied research	Interdisciplinary artist	*unspecified*	#artistic-research	#artistic research	#speculative research		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Ana Elian**	Ana is an urban planner and co-founder of MKBT. Source: https://mkbt.ro/en/about-us/	Applied research	Urban planning	Romania	#urban and regional studies	#law and governance	#participation	Participatory urbanism, strategic planning, public policy	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Alexandra Lulache**	Policy analyst and development practitioner working on making cities more inclusive. (Google scholar) Housing lead facilitation; local development, MKBT Source: https://mkbt.ro/en/about-us/ https://www.just-transition.info/the-just-transition-fund-can-do-more-good-with-a-place-based-approach/	Applied research	Urban planning	Romania	#urban and regional studies	#built environment	#energy justice	#built environment #place	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Dr. Michiel Stapper**	Michiel Stapper is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Source: https://www.uva.nl/en/profile/s/t/e.w.stapper/e.w.stapper.html#Profile	Applied research	Urban Planning	*unspecified*	#urban and regional studies	#socio-ecological transformation	#law and governance	#law and governance #inequality	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Dustin Mulvaney**	Dustin Mulvaney is Professor in the Environmental Studies Department at San José State University, USA. His contributions to research in political ecology and science & technology studies include work on environmental justice, solar energy commodity chains, and public lands and energy development in the American West. He has published across a wide variety of journals and is the author of *Solar Power: Innovation, Sustainability, Environmental Justice* (2019). **Representative Publication:** "The political economy of the 'just transition'." In *The Geographical Journal. Themed section: Global environmental in/justice, in practice*, guest edited by Adrian Martin, https://rgs-ibg.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/geoj.12008	Applied research	Environmental studies	American West	#environmental justice	#energy policy	#energy justice	environmental justice, solar energy commodity chains, and public lands and energy development	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Elena Luciano Suastegui**	Elena teaches Histories and Theories and Policy Design seminars at the Landscape Urbanism MSc and MArch programme at the Architectural Association. She is a research fellow at the Groundlab Research Residency at the Architectural Association, where she has been conducting semi quantitative and qualitative studies of site-specific projects in Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the UK in collaboration with the British Geological Survey, the University College of London, and the British Council. She has taught in the Mexico Visiting School at the AA, at the Royal College of Art, and at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Her work focuses on the verticality of territories, its imaginaries, epistemologies, and disciplinarian tensions in relationship to contemporary design praxis. She also conducts workshops situated in the interstices between soil sciences, collaborative ethnography, its imaginaries and materialities in site specific practices in collaboration with UK Landscape Design institutions. **Representative Publication:** Suastegui, Elena Luciano, Rafael Martinez Caldera, Yasmina Yehia. "Just Transition: Rewiring Carbon-Pollutant Landscapes and Labour into a Community Forestry Framework." https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ad.2771 Elena Luciano Suastegui, Rafael Martinez Caldera and Yasmina Yehia introduce the Just Transition student project they developed as part of the Landscape Urbanism course at the Architectural Association (AA) in London. The scheme focuses on the coalfields of the South Wales Valleys – areas that were mostly abandoned in the 1980s due to the demise of the UK coal industry, proposing new relationships between community, leisure, work and production to sustainably regenerate these locales.	Applied research	Urban Planning	Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, UK	#urban and regional studies	#soil remediation	#urban landscapes	#law and governance	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Yasmina Yehia**	Yasmina Yehia holds a Master Degree in Landscape Urbanism from the Architectural Association School of Architecture and a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the American University of Beirut. She has been involved in a range of professional and academic projects ranging masterplanning and architectural competitions to cartographic research. Yasmina is passionate about understanding how people navigate space and how important it is to create seamless user experience in a project while involving the local community. https://www.spaceagency-design.com/yasmina	Applied research	Architecture	Global	#urban and regional studies	#law and governance	#urban landscapes	#landscape #critical cartography	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Clara McSweeney**	Dublin from Cork; artist and curator who does audio recordings of buildings… talking, anticipating their futures. Clara McSweeney is a visual artist and curator from County Cork. She holds a BA in Fine Art from Limerick School of Art and Design and a Postgraduate Diploma in Cultural Event Management from IADT. Currently, she is the project coordinator/graphic designer for "The Women From The Inside," a collective that focuses on women's issues such as menstruation, diversity, and equality in Limerick City. Her previous experience includes working as a visitor service assistant at Lismore Castle Arts and serving as a mediator for Niamh O'Malley's 'Gather' exhibition at the Venice Biennale. She has also worked as a marketing assistant for the Hunt Museum in Limerick City. Source: https://visualartists.ie/arc-lab-gallery-curatorial-scholarship-2023-recipient-announced-as-clara-mcsweeney/	Applied research	Visual art	Ireland	#artistic research	#feminist ecology	#multimodal research		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Rafael Martinez Gordon**	Clean Energy Analyst at the International Energy Agency. https://www.iea.org/contributors/rafael-martinez-gordon Contributed to: "Is a turnaround in sight for heat pump markets?": https://www.iea.org/commentaries/is-a-turnaround-in-sight-for-heat-pump-markets Contributed to: "Global heat pump sales continue double-digit growth": https://www.iea.org/commentaries/global-heat-pump-sales-continue-double-digit-growth ~~~ I'm an energy analyst working in the Energy Technology and Policy Division of the International Energy Agency. I have extensive experience in policy analysis, long-term decarbonisation scenarios and energy systems modelling, working at the interface between industry, policy-making and academia. I enjoy working in international environments and have lived in five different countries. I am fluent in English, Spanish and Catalan and have a basic understanding of French, Italian and Dutch. Before joining the International Energy Agency, I worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research and at the Energy and Sustainability Research Institute of the University of Groningen. I also spent several months as a visiting researcher at the Physical Resource Theory Unit of Chalmers University in Gothenburg. Between 2018 and 2021, I was also a doctoral researcher at the ENSYSTRA consortium, funded by the EU Commission. I have an engineering background, with a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, a Master's degree in Sustainable Energy from the Technical University of Denmark, and a Ph.D. in Energy Systems Analysis from the University of Groningen.	Applied research	Engineering	*unspecified*	#sustainable energy	#low-carbon technologies	#energy policy		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Tazim Jamal**	Tazim Jamal is Professor in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, Texas, USA. Source: https://hmgt.tamu.edu/people/jamal-tazim/ **Selected work:** "Performative justice: New directions in environmental and social justice," Geoforum, Volume 76, 2016, Pages 176-180. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2016.09.014 Source: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S001671851630224X ~~~ (Together with Rob Hales, next entry)	Applied research	Hospitality & management	*unspecified*	#environmental justice	#socio-ecological transformation	#knowledge transfer		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Takako Mochida**	International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research, Kyushu University: Fukuoka, JP Source: https://orcid.org/0009-0002-6832-9999	Applied research	Science and Engineering	Japan	#energy security	#energy policy	#sustainable energy	#energy poverty, #life cycle assessment, #Just Transition	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Larissa Kuroki**	Sustainable Finance Analyst: NINT Natural Intelligence: São Paulo, BR Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7525-8415 Environmental Engineer, postgraduates in Environmental Management and Master of Science in Environmental Science and Technology, I work with environmental education and conscious consumption to promote more sustainable lifestyles and currently work with consulting on climate change, sustainable finance and ESG strategy for companies **Representative Publication:** "Climate projections of precipitation and temperature in cities from ABC Paulista, in the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo—Brazil" Frontiers in Climate. 2023-05-17 I Journal article, https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/climate/articles/10.3389/fclim.2023.1127026/full	Applied research	Sustainable finance	Brazil	#socio-ecological transformation	#sustainable development	#just finance	#climate change, #just transition, #carbon footprint, #sustainable finance, #sustainable consumption, #EGS strategy	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Paula Leu Fernández Álvarez**	PhD researcher in visual culture and cultural studies at the Art History Department of the Complutense University of Madrid. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3746-3722 Source: https://www.ucm.es/historiadelarte/paula-fernandez-alvarez	Applied research	Artistic Research	*unspecified*	#artistic research	#sites of loss	#post-industrial landscapes	#memory #deindustrialization #ruination	
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Michał Stangel**	Silesian University of Technology: Gliwice, PL **Representative Publication:** Paper: Fostering Local Urban Centers in relation to district train stations as part of the transition from a post-industrial to a sustainable city: a case study of Katowice https://apcz.umk.pl/BGSS/article/view/46991 Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8728-2888	Applied research	Urban Planning	Poland	#urban and regional studies	#sustainability	#post-industrial landscapes		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Rebecca Draeger**	Researcher (Cenergia/PPE/COPPE/UFRJ): Center for Energy and Environmental Economics (Cenergia): Rio de Janeiro, RJ, BR Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0897-323X ~~~ Rebecca Draeger is a researcher at the Cenergia Lab and PhD Candidate in the Energy Planning Program at COPPE/UFRJ. Currently, my doctoral dissertation focuses on the role of fossil fuels in a low-carbon future, mainly exploring just transition analyses. My main research interests include energy transition, just transition, stranded assets, integrated assessment models, and climate change mitigation.	Applied research	Applied Research	Brazil	#energy transition	#energy planning	#decarbonisation		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Prof. Dr. Felipe Encinas**	Prof. Dr. Felipe Encinas is a Associate Professor at the School of Architecture, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Academic Secretary of the Faculty of Architecture, Design, and Urban Studies. His work is related to housing, sustainability, real estate markets, and public policy, currently focusing on the perspective of energy poverty and its urban impacts. Source: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9428-3907	Applied research	Architecture	Chile	#energy security	#housing	#urban planning		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Kostantsa Rangelova**	Kostantsa joined the Ember Global Insights Team to help spearhead the global green electricity transition through insightful data-led analysis. Kostantsa brings her in-depth expertise on global energy markets and her policy advocacy experience to foster a fact-based international public debate about the fast-changing global electricity transition.	Applied research	Data Analysis	Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia	#decarbonisation	#energy security	#energy policy		
	Open knowledge index	D Pillar: Applied research	**Giovanna Sanchez Nieminen**	As a Project Manager at VTT, Giovanna Sanchez Nieminen specializes in facilitating EU-funded projects that emphasize sustainability and international cooperation. Her role involves not only proposal preparation and scientific publication but also rigorous qualitative and quantitative analysis, and strengthening stakeholder engagement in innovation ecosystems. These experiences have honed her ability to disseminate research findings effectively, targeting the nexus of disruptive technologies and socio-environmental sustainability. "Understanding local opposition to renewable energy projects in the nordic countries" in *Energy Research and Social Science*, 2025-04. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629625000763?via%3Dihub	Applied research	Project Management	Finland	#energy policy	#eco-innovation	#sustainable energy		