TOWARDS JUST AND INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITIONS

Utrecht University

International Development Studies |Faculty of Geosciences | Human Geography and Planning

Course summary

Are you interested in learning about the chances, and challenges for just energy transitions that ´leave no one behind´? This course examines the socioeconomic dimensions and distribution outcomes of sustainability transitions in theory and practice from a multi-disciplinary perspective. With a special focus on the Global South, employment and social reproduction, and on energy transitions in particular, the course aims to discuss ways in which green transitions can create sustainable development benefits for vulnerable and traditionally excluded communities and groups. The course runs on an interactive, action research methodology that features group work, lectures and discussions by and with experienced scholars, practitioners, and entrepreneurs. Special emphasis is given to the discussion of ongoing and past programmes and initiatives to make the energy transition work for the people.

Target group

The course is designed for Master students and PhD researchers, more senior academics, and practitioners from environmental and development organizations and the private industry who are interested in gaining a foundational understanding of the socio-economic dimensions, chances and challenges behind transformations to sustainability with a focus on energy transitions on the Global South.

The course provides participants with a solid overview of the conceptual and political debates regarding inclusivity and fairness in energy transitions. Participants will also gain practical insights on ways to optimize the social and economic development impacts of green transition initiatives.

Course set-up

This online course is organized by the International Development Studies Group of the Human Geography and Planning Department at Utrecht University´s Faculty of Geoscience, with contributions from guest scholars, practitioners, and entrepreneurs.

Date

19 – 27 July 2021

Costs

Fee summer school: €125.

ECTS

1.5 credits. Certificate provided.

Registration

For registration, please visit the Utrecht Summer School website. *Please note that the Summer School takes place online.*

Registration deadline

27 June 2021

Questions?

Please contact Dominique Schmid at d.v.schmid@uu.nl

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19 – 27 July 2021

Course Directors: Dr. Kei Otsuki , Dr. Alberto Alonso-Fradejas & Dominique Schmid
Main contact: Dominique Schmid (d.v.schmid@uu.nl)

Draft Program

Monday – 19 July 2021		
Time (CEST)	*Activity*	*Description*
1pm – 2:30pm	Course introduction	Introduction to the course and among participants
2.45pm – 5pm	Roundtable discussion	**Making the energy transition work for the people** Roundtable discussion with: • Slum Dwellers International – SDI (speaker tbc) • International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) (speaker tbc) • Annelies Zoomers, *IDS Utrecht University* • Further speakers tba
5pm – 6pm	Virtual get-together	Virtual get-together to get to know your course fellows, director and coordinator.

Tuesday – 20 July 2021		
Time (CEST)	*Activity*	*Description*
1pm – 2.30pm	Discussion session 1	**Energy justice for the urban poor: Slum Dwellers' International' Energy Justice Program** Speakers: • Speaker tbc
2.45pm – 4.15pm	Discussion session 2	**Uganda energy initiatives: The Urban Know Kampala City Project** Speakers: • Teddy Kisembo, *Urban Action Lab, Uganda* (tbc) • Michael Ayebazibwe, *ACTogether Uganda* (tbc)

Wednesday – 21 July 2021		
Time (CEST)	*Activity*	*Description*
1pm – 2.30pm	Discussion session 3	**Energy enabled capacity building: An insight to energy programs around the globe (tbc)** Speakers: tbc
2.45pm – 4.15pm	Discussion session 4	**Sustainable development of low-income communities (favelas) through solar energy in Rio de Janeiro (tbc)** Speakers: • Eduardo Avila, *Revolusolar* (tbc)

Thursday – 22 July 2021		
Time (CEST)	*Activity*	*Description*
1pm – 2.30pm	Discussion session 5	**Private industry and public sector collaboration to restore mini-grids: The case of Senegal** Speakers: • Aminata Bocar Ba, *ENGIE Powercorner* (tbc) • Mathieu Dalle, *Energy 4 Impact* (tbc)
2.45pm – 4.15pm	Discussion session 6	**tbc**

Friday – 23 July 2021		
Time (CEST)	*Activity*	*Description*
1pm-2pm	Introduction to group work	
2.15pm-4.15pm	Group work	Allocated time to work on group projects. Groups are free to meet on their own schedule. Zoom rooms are available for each group and course directors are available for questions.

Monday – 26 July 2021		
Time (CEST)	*Activity*	*Description*
1pm – 4pm	Group work	Allocated time to work on group projects. Groups are free to meet on their own schedule. Zoom rooms are available for each group and course directors are available for questions.

Tuesday – 27 July 2021		
Time (CEST)	*Activity*	*Description*
1pm – 3pm	Presentations group projects	
3pm-4pm	Virtual get-together	Farewell and networking

Session Details

Roundtable

This interactive roundtable will open our course. The speakers will share their vast experience of working on energy and sustainable development programs. We will explore how compatible the goals of the energy transition are with the sustainable development agenda and we will discuss the chances and challenges for inclusive and just energy transitions.

Session 1 - Energy justice for the urban poor: Slum Dwellers' International' Energy Justice Program

The SDI network spans 32 countries where grass roots community organizations are supported by professional support NGOs in the building of social movements, transforming urban environments, and securing a more inclusive and resilient future for the world's urban poor. SDI's Energy Justice Program (EJP) demonstrates SDI's actions to improve clean, reliable, safe, and affordable energy access in slums.

Session 2 - Uganda energy initiatives: The Urban Know Kampala City Project

In this session energy and development experts from the Urban Action Lab at Makerere University and from ACTogether Uganda will talk about some of their energy initiatives in the city of Kampala and beyond.

Session 3 - Energy enabled capacity building: An insight to SNV energy programs around the globe

In this session we will learn about some SNV's energy programs. Within the agriculture and energy sector, SNV operates between public and private sector companies to develop meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for (young) people in developing economies. By enabling them to acquire relevant market-based skills and develop their own leadership and entrepreneurial competencies, SNV improves young people's capacity to access employment opportunities and establish their own enterprises.

Session 4 - Sustainable development of low-income com-munities (favelas) through solar energy in Rio de Janeiro

While energy is mainly produced and organized somewhere else, and predominantly by other actors, citizens' initiatives challenge this top-down organization, providing an alternative/complementary vision of how energy-related challenges should be tackled.

Session 5 - Private industry and public sector collaboration to restore mini-grids: The case of Senegal

The government of Senegal has embarked on an intensive program to build solar mini-grids for rural electrification. It is estimated that rural electrification by mini-grids could concern up to 2,292 villages and hamlets out of the 13,819 villages not yet electrified. However, very few mini-grids in Senegal to date have been able to prove their viability. Over the last 20 years and until 2018, less than 5% of the mini-grids built are operational to date. The main reasons are linked to maintenance, inadequate tariffs, under sizing of the network, lack of monitoring and surveillance, but also low demand from both domestic and rural consumers in rural areas.

The mini-grids pose an operating problem for the national electricity company (Senelec), because their core business is the extension of the grid and not the economic development of the rural world via

off-grid solutions. Under a subcontracting agreement, ENGIE restores some of the mini-grids and sets up an innovative operating model, which also supports community development. The model aims to improve the economic viability of mini-grids through productive energy use applications and interventions.

Session 6 - tbc

Recommended materials (will follow shortly)

Speaker and course director bios (will follow shortly)