



## Special Session Proposal

### Building just futures for regions in green industrial transitions

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#### Abstract

A large number of regions across Europe find themselves confronted with a need for far-ranging green transitions due to challenges such as decarbonisation, making them vulnerable to a wide range of negative socio-economic impacts such as industrial downsizing and unemployment (OECD, 2023; Rodríguez-Pose & Bartalucci, 2023). Hence, these ongoing or impending transitions call for ways to develop new futures for regions that are both environmentally sustainable and socially just (Heffron & McCauley, 2018; Wang & Lo, 2021). To advance such a “green and just” agenda (Eadson & van Veelen, 2023), a better understanding of the preconditions, processes and diverse social, economic and environmental outcomes of transitions at the regional level is needed. This includes understanding how regional actors deal with trade-offs between diverging social, economic and environmental development goals and how regions function as arenas for contestation in achieving just futures.

The special session focuses on regions in green industrial transitions and their challenges in reconciling social, economic and environmental goals to build just futures. We invite conceptual and empirical research on topics including, but not limited to, the following ones:

- Place-specific contextual preconditions for green regional industrial transitions including enabling and constraining factors;

- Processes of imagining, negotiating and implementing just futures in green regional industrial transitions and drivers of these processes (e.g., roles and interests of diverse actors, power relations, discourses);
- Diverse social, economic and environmental outcomes of green regional industrial transitions and possible trade-offs between them;
- Regional innovation policy approaches that deal with trade-offs between diverse outcomes of green regional industrial transitions;
- Impacts of higher-scale (e.g., supranational or national) policy frameworks on the preconditions, processes and outcomes of green regional industrial transitions.

## References:

- Eadson, W., van Veelen, B. (2023) Green and just regional path development. *Regional Studies, Regional Science*, 10:1, 218-233.
- Heffron, R.J., McCauley, D. (2018). What is the 'just transition'? *Geoforum*, 88, 74-77.
- OECD (2023). *Regional industrial transitions to climate neutrality*. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- Rodríguez-Pose, A., Bartalucci, F. (2023). The green transition and its potential territorial discontents. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 120, DOI: 10.1093/cjres/rsad039.
- Wang, X., Lo, K. (2021). Just transition: a conceptual review. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 82, 102291.