Geographies of just transitions

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Extended abstract

Multiple crises of our time demand rapid sustainability transformations. These require not only

innovation but also the destabilisation and phasing out of non-sustainable structures and

practices. Such transformations can come with significant negative repercussions (OECD,

2023) and bring to the forefront the question of how transitions can be designed in a just and

fair manner (Carley & Konisky, 2020; Cha, 2020; Wang & Lo, 2021). However, just transitions

can take many different forms (e.g., Cha & Pastor, 2022; Kaljonen, 2023; Narayan, 2023;

Withouck et al., 2023).

Drawing on a wide literature review, we identify dimensions of the notion of just transition that

allow for a nuanced view on the geography of just transitions. The dimensions identified

through the literature review show that just transitions can take many different forms which

depend on regional context. Drawing on our broad literature review, we propose an analytical

framework to grasp how regions can cope with the challenges of the green transition and ensure

that the transitions enfold in a just way. Based on this framework, we call for further research

on just transitions in regions.

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