

Call for Papers

Justice and values in the climate transition

Date: July 4th-5th 2022

Confirmed keynotes: Prof. Henrik Thorén (Lund University)

Increasingly, communities, cities and economies face the need to not only mitigate, but also adapt to climate change. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change are complex and multifarious efforts, involving profound transformations in critical infrastructure systems, social behaviors and values and governance systems, as currently captured with umbrella terms such as, respectively, the “energy transition” and “resilience building”. At present, there is abundant research on the economic and technical aspects of these endeavors. However, despite an increasing interest in the public acceptability and justice of the measures and policies involved in these contexts¹, how to understand and include social values and justice in these transformative programs is a topic that is only starting to be analyzed in depth (Schlosberg 2012; Belkeley et al. 2013; Patel et al. 2020; Meerow et al. 2019; Táiwò 2021; Cañizares et al. forthcoming; Olsson et al. forthcoming).

This workshop is an invitation to contribute to the exciting challenge of imagining how our climate transitions can be just –and what challenges they face in this regard. We propose to address this topic with one conference session followed by a discussion.

For this workshop, we ask for contributions that offer philosophical insights about specific challenges for justice and morality in the climate transition, especially if they are based on interdisciplinary work and practice. In particular, we strongly welcome articles discussing the appropriate embedding of values and justice concerns in various aspects of climate action (models and discourses in climate economics and other climate-related science, energy future scenarios, adaptation models, resilience building policies and plans, and education about climate change and energy). For example:

- Should forward-looking considerations of distributive justice dominate work on climate justice, or is there room for other perspectives, such as procedural justice or backward-looking concerns about e.g. reparations? In which ways can these distinct justice concerns complement or be at odds with one another?
- Assuming that the climate transition require a radical revision of social values, how can values change guide, but also obstruct, public discourse or policy development in this context?
- What normative assumptions in climate economics and climate modelling are problematic from a moral or justice standpoint?
- Is energy justice possible at all in a post-fossile scenario, or in a scenario of energy descent?
- What are the main challenges for justice in current initiatives and programs for building climate resilience?
- Which theories of justice are more suitable for guiding modelling, plans and policy-making in climate adaptation?
- Challenges for climate justice in a context of fragmented, polycentric and global governance.
- How can we integrate natural, technical and social perspectives in education about climate change? Can we identify assumptions or tendencies that currently hinder the prospects of integrated education that seems needed in this domain?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/simson/announcements/speech-kadri-simson-cop26-ensuring-just-and-people-centered-transition_en