Durham University
Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy

MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT HALLE-WITTENBERG

JTC JUST TRANSITION CENTER

Just Transitions to a Net Zero World

Second Annual International Conference

Jointly convened by Durham University's Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP) and the European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Thursday 9th & Friday 10th October 2025
Durham University





Conference Synopsis

The arrival of the concept of just transitions at the level of the international climate change regime under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement provides a new opportunity to fundamentally shape the Paris Agreement's preambular imperative of a just transition. Just transitions entail the transformation of societies towards sustainable ways of life. At the international level, the global stocktake decision of 2023 reaffirmed that "the global transition to low emissions and climate-resilient development provides opportunities and challenges for sustainable development and poverty eradication". Yet one year later, at the 29th Conference of the Parties in 2024, Baku, no consensus between countries could be forged for a substantial decision on the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP), not even on the identification of elements for dialogue. Proposals so far include to develop stand-alone principles, mechanisms and measurements for just transitions, or to embed these into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Long-Term Strategies (LT-LEDS).

This conference seeks to advance the academic discourse but also the policy and international developments so that the agreed goal of "Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science" (1/CMA.5 para. 28 d) can move closer to reality. Our interdisciplinary focus acknowledges the international and national contestations of pathways and elements that form just transitions, and the need to find implementable solutions that reflect the social, economic, technological, legal and ethical dimensions.

Objectives:

- Assessing progress on the interdisciplinary research agenda of JusTN0W and the JTC in respect of international, regional, and national environmental legislation.
- Analysing the potential of the emerging digital technologies, including AI, to manage interdisciplinary decision-making under uncertainty and investigating the potential of Digital Twins as a supporting technology.
- Understanding how stakeholders are recalibrating just transitions in the changing political world order.
- Comparing developments in international law as they emerge from the ICJ, the ITLOS, and IACtHR advisory opinions.
- Mapping the science-policy interface with a view to the scientific production and policy uptake of climate science evidence.

Conference outcomes will include content for influencing **UNFCCC submissions** and **reports that feed into regulatory and policy agendas at COPs.**

Conference programme

Day One, Thursday, 9th October 2025

08:30 – 09:00 Registration, coffee & networking

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome from Durham University and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Prof Martin Evans, Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Durham University

Prof Keiran Fernandez, Executive Dean & Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Durham University

Prof Christian Tietje, Chair for Public Law, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University, Germany

09:15 – 09:20 Introduction to Day One - **Prof Petra Minnerop**, Durham University

09:20 – 10:00 **Morning keynote**

Prof Elisa Morgera

UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, **Professor of Global Environmental Law.**

Theme 1 - Interdisciplinary Research for Conceptualisations of Just Transitions

Chair: **Prof Petra Minnerop,** Professor of International Law, Director of the CSDLP, Principal Investigator of the JusTN0W Initiative, Durham University.

10:00 – 10:20 **Prof Rüdiger Wolfrum**

Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, Heidelberg

10:20 – 10:40 **Dr Kevin Grecksch**

Associate Professor, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford

Presentation - Shaping (just) transformation: Historic narratives and property rights

10:40 – 11:00 Panel discussion & questions from the audience

11:00 – 11:30 **Morning coffee, networking and posters**

Launch of Poster Exhibition Sessions

Facilitator: Prof Laura Marsiliani, Professor in Economics, Faculty of Business Associate Dean for Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability (ERS), Principal Investigator of the JusTN0W Initiative, Durham University

11:30 – 11:50 **Prof Gleider Hernández**

Professor of Public International Law, KU Leuven

Presentation - And now the Hard Part: Taking Stock of the ICJ Advisory Opinion

11:50 – 12:10 **Dr Katalin Sulyok**

Associate Professor in International Law and Sustainability, Durham University

12:10 – 12:30 **Dr Amy Elizabeth Walker**

Researcher, Institute of Geosciences and Geography and European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

	Felix Schiedlowski Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS), Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany Presentation - Ethnographic Reflections on the Limits of Just Transition Interventions in the Central German Coal Mining Just Transition Territory
12:30 – 12:55	Panel discussion & questions from the audience
12:55 – 13:05	Group Photo
13:05 – 14:05	**Lunch, networking & posters**

Theme 2 - Digital and Technical Infrastructures for Just Transitions

Chair: **Danielle Yeow**, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

14:05 – 14:25	**Prof Einar Broch Johnsen** Professor, Department of Informatics, University of Oslo Presentation - Digital Twins and the Natural Environment
14:25 – 14:45	**Prof Adrian Friday** Professor of Computing and Sustainability, Lancaster University
14:45 – 15:05	**Dr Nelly Bencomo** Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, Principal Investigator of the JusTN0W Initiative, Durham University
15:05 – 15:30	Panel discussion & questions from the audience
15:30 – 15:55	**Afternoon coffee, networking & posters**
15:55 – 16:15	**Dr Thomas Hoffmann** Associate Professor, Tallinn University of Technology Presentation - e-Estonia in Just Transition
16:15 – 16:35	**Dr Janine Hauer** Researcher, Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS), Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
16:35 – 16:55	Presentation – *to be confirmed*
16:55 – 17:20	Panel discussion & questions from the audience
17:20 – 17:30	Closing remarks Day One - **Prof Petra Minnerop**, Durham University & **Prof Christian Tietje**, Martin Luther University

Speakers' Dinner venue, Durham Cathedral Prior's Hall

9th October, Reception at 19:00 | Dinner to start at 19:30

Fireside Chat after first course - Judge Ida Caracciolo, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Brief address by JusTN0W PIs and the JTC leads

The dinner will be introduced by the Dean of Durham Law School, Durham University.

Conference programme

Day Two, Friday 10th October 2025

08:30 – 09:00 Coffee and networking

09:00 – 09:10 Introduction to Day Two - **Prof Laura Marsiliani**, Durham University & **PD Dr Katrin Seidel**, Martin Luther University

09:10 – 9:50 **Morning keynote** *(Introduction by Pia Andres, JusTN0W)*

Prof Ralf Martin

Principal Economist (Climate, Natural Resources & Sustainability) &

Professor of Economics (Imperial College Business School, London)

Economics and Private Sector Development

IFC International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group

Theme 3 - Science for Just Transitions

Chair: **Prof Christian Tietje,** Chair for Public Law, European Law and International Economic Law, Director of Institute of Economic Law, Law School, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University, Germany

09:50 – 10:10 **Prof Friederike Otto**

Professor in Climate Science, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College

Presentation - From World Weather Attribution to losses and damages

10:10 – 10:30 **Prof Uwe Schlink**

Senior Researcher, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Dept. Urban and Environmental Sociology

Presentation - Shaping a just distribution of environmental exposures through adaptive personal behaviour

10:30 – 10:50 Panel discussion & questions from the audience

10:50 – 11:10 **Morning coffee, networking & posters**

11:10 – 11:30 **Prof Maurizio Zollo**

Professor of Strategy & Sustainability, Imperial College Business School and Scientific Director, Leonardo Centre on Business for Society

11:30 – 11:50 **Dr John Bothwell**

Associate Professor (Reader in Bioenergy), Principal Investigator of the JusTN0W Initiative, Durham University

11:50 – 12:10 **Dr Stefan Knauß**

Senior Researcher, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University

12:10 – 12:30 Panel discussion & questions from the audience

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch, networking & posters**

Theme 4 - Financing Just Transitions

Chair: **Prof Laura Marsiliani**, Professor in Economics, Faculty of Business Associate Dean for Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability (ERS), Principal Investigator of the JusTN0W Initiative, Durham University

13:30 -13:50	**H.E. Mr Francois Jackman** Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations (Barbados)
14:10 – 14:30	**Prof Franziska Müller** Professorship of International Development, University of Vienna, Austria Presentation - Thinking like a fund. A governmentality analysis of renewable energy projects of the Green climate fund in Africa
14:30 – 14:50	**PD Dr Katrin Seidel** Senior Researcher, European Center of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer, Martin Luther University, Germany Presentation - The Justice Gap in Just Energy Transition Partnerships: Bridging Rhetoric and Reality in Climate Finance
14:50 – 15:10	Panel discussion & questions from the audience
15:10 – 15:30	**Afternoon coffee, networking & poster exhibition**
15:30 – 15:50	**Dr Joseph Kobusheshe** Director Environment, Health and Safety, Petroleum Authority of Uganda Presentation - Equity in Just Transitions
15:50 – 16:10	**Dr Sandra Batten** Senior Economist, Bank of England
16:10 – 16:30	**Ingmar Juergens** CEO & Founder, Climate and Company
16:30 – 16:50	Panel discussion & questions from the audience
16:50 – 17:00	Closing remarks Day Two – **Prof Petra Minnerop**, Durham University & **Prof Christian Tietje**, Martin Luther University

Evening Drinks Reception

17:00 to 19:00

Join speakers and delegates from the day and enjoy refreshments and informal networking.





Registrations for the conference are now open and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To register and secure your place, please visit the following link or scan the QR code.

https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/just-transitions-to-a-net-zero-2025

For further information on either the JusTN0W project or the JTC, please email the following contacts in the first instance:

JusTN0W – Just Transitions to a Net Zero World
Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy, Durham University
Kate Morris, kathryn.l.morris@durham.ac.uk

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
European Centre of Just Transition Research and Impact-Driven Transfer (JTC)
Transregional Just Transition Governance: socio-legal and polit-economic perspectives
PD Dr. Katrin Seidel, katrin.seidel@jura.uni-halle.de

Durham University and Durham University logo are registered Trade Marks of the University of Durham. Unless otherwise stated, all material in this publication is copyright of the University of Durham. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information contained here is accurate. This publication is intended as a general guide to University of Durham's facilities and form no part of any contract between you and the University. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the permission of the University. Please note that the University's website is the most up to date source of information and we strongly recommend that you always visit the website before making any commitments.

© Durham University 2025