

ENERGY FUTURES - EMERGING PATHWAYS IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD?
International conference by the Leibniz Research Alliance on Energy Transitions
May 6th - 8th 2020
WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Application requirements

Please submit your 250-word abstracts to the session organizer(s) by December 15th, 2019. All abstracts must include a title, your name, institutional affiliation, and contact information.

Title

Transformation of Transportation (Part 2): The social question of mobility.

Panel Chairs

Working Group „Energietransformation“ - German Political Science Association

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Abstract

The public has paid little attention in the last years to the social impact of sustainability transformation in the transport sector. However, now it has recently become a key issue of societal debates in the context of “just transition”. Not least for political parties, as well as for citizens' initiatives and associations, the fundamental pros and cons of the change in transportation address questions of poverty, cost explosion and assumed negative implications in rural areas. Moreover, populist movements scandalize social distributional effects.

From a scientific perspective, a distinction can be made between individual and collective action: the change in traffic as a direct burden on the individual and as a task for society, which depends on consensus and legitimacy. The scientific debate often focuses on poverty and justice, on costs and consumption, and solutions for cities, communities and neighborhoods. In particular, the distributional justice is emphasized, whereby the procedural dimension should not be ignored: Numerous study results show that not all parts of the population are equally represented in discursive participatory processes in the context of the development of new mobility concepts.

The following aspects are of particular interest to political science:

- Social inequality and social Structure: Which influences of certain social groups on the one hand and effects on social milieus on the other hand can be identified in the context of the change in traffic? To what extent do socially disadvantaged groups suffer from a change in traffic?
- Social inequality and policy programs: Which policies have which impact? Which effects of an urban and rural traffic transition are to be expected?
- Social inequality and Participation: How does inequality appear in participation? How can asymmetric participation effects and an unequal distribution of benefits and costs be avoided?
- Social inequality and parties and elections: To what extent does the aspect play a role in election campaigns, in coalition negotiations and election decisions? Who determines the public discourse with which strategies?
- Social inequality and local negotiation processes: How is the transition realized at the local level? Who participates in negotiation and decision-making processes, how do specific groups of actors and populations work together?