
The conference is organized by NEST, the Network of Early Career Researchers in Sustainability Transitions, formerly known as the PhDs in Transitions Network. NEST is a part of, and serves as a complement to, the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN), and caters specifically to the needs of researchers new to the field of sustainability transitions. The name change was effected to make our network more inclusive and reaffirm our founding commitments to create a safe space for new entrants in the field of sustainability transitions.

The aim of the upcoming conference is to discuss and exchange work in progress, leading to fruitful debates and feedback (from both peers and senior researchers) to help you further your current research. We welcome contributions at any stage of progress. Discussions will be on the methodological, empirical, conceptual, and/or contextual part of the study, depending on the research stage and need of the presenter. We invite all PhD students and ECRs working on sustainability transitions to submit a 400-word abstract by Friday, December 15, 2017 for a 15 minute presentation followed by a 10 minute discussion. The abstract should be accompanied by a short biography of no more than 100 words. We ask interested parties to link their project to sustainability transitions as discussed below. This description is based on the STRN research agenda. The full research agenda can be found online on the STRN homepage.

Sustainability transitions are understood as long-term structural transformations of large-scale societal systems towards sustainability, and are as such distinct from the field of sustainability research, which does not necessarily focus on such large-scale structural and transformative change. Pointing to a broad understanding of transitions, the research conducted in the sustainability transitions field tackles such phenomena from many different perspectives: governance, power and politics, implementation strategies, civil society, culture, social movements, the role of firms and industries, sustainable consumption, practice and everyday life, geography of transitions, and modeling.
The above list of research themes is not exhaustive and we welcome all submissions relevant to the field of sustainability transitions. The conference is an open space where young researchers can share their ideas for exploring the new frontiers of the field. We move away from the traditional focus of dividing sessions purely on the basis of the main topics of contribution, and strive to make the session more diverse in content. We aim to group you together in sessions with other researchers working on similar methodological, empirical, and conceptual advancements. Hence the 3rd NEST Conference will center on supporting you based on the type of research that you are currently conducting. Inputs, issues, inspirations will be shared with peers and experts and (along with our entertaining social program) we are confident that the conference will enable you to take the next step forward in your academic career.

Please submit the abstracts for your presentation and accompanying biographies in PDF format to nest.conference@uu.nl by Friday, December 15, 2017. We will respond to all applications with our decision by the 15th of January 2018.

Please use the hashtag #NEST2018 in your public communication about the conference.