

Transitions in the Global South webinar series

The “Transitions in the Global South network” (formerly Translacasaf¹) is a network that brings together researchers working on transitions in developing countries – and is affiliated to the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN). Established in 2015, the network has organized regular webinar series as a platform for discussions within the transitions research community and beyond, on critical questions that have been raised in regard to the applicability and usefulness of transition frameworks in a different setting than the industrialized/western countries where they originate from.

Webinar 2 – Multi-scalar linkages

Topic: Influence of multi-scalar linkages on transitions in a development context

Description: Recent work on the geography of sustainability transitions emphasizes the increasingly important role of multi-scalar linkages in many transition processes. To understand why transitions succeed in some places and fail in others, it is often not sufficient to analyze the actors and change processes in a given regional or national context. We rather need a spatially open perspective that analyzes how actor networks and institutional contexts co-evolve between distant regions.

This observation is of particular importance for transition dynamics in a development context, where various international donors, NGOs and consultants try to transform local socio-technical systems. Yet, how multi-scalar linkages influence transition dynamics in developing countries is a largely under-researched question. In this webinar we will thus discuss whether and how a more internationalized perspective on the TIS or niche/regime concepts may help to better disentangle the localized and international barriers and opportunities for transition dynamics in developing countries.

The discussion will be kicked-off with presentations on ‘globalized’ TIS and niche/regime concepts and then venture into an open discussion on e.g. developing countries’ potential for leapfrogging, the role of powerful outside actors or power struggles in slum regions between local bottom-up initiatives and political elites that follow global development models.

Date: 24 January 2018

Time: 11am (CET) (9pm in Sydney, 8am in Rio de Janeiro)

Platform: GoToMeeting, click on the link to join the meeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/577926237>

Speakers

Dr. Christian Binz
(Group leader, Eawag, Switzerland & Post-Doctoral Researcher,
CIRCLE, Lund University, Sweden)

<http://www.eawag.ch/en/aboutus/portrait/organisation/staff/profile/christian-binz/show/>

Dr. Rainer Quitzow
(Research associate, IASS Potsdam, Germany)

<https://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/people/rainer-quitzow>

¹ Transition studies in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa network

Webinar series - general features

Themes/topics

Webinars are organized around a clear topic/theme that is relevant to the Transitions in the Global South network.

Audience & promotion

We aim to reach out to the broader transitions field by promoting the webinars in the STRN, the PhDs in Transitions network and relevant other platforms. The webinar series is announced on the subpage of the network on the STRN page. We invite not only researchers who work in the Global South, but also those who work in the OECD countries (cross-learning between the two sub-categories can provide useful insights to the broader transitions research).

Webinar series 2017/2018

Webinar 1 - Informality

Topic: How can transitions scholars include and conceptualize “informal” institutions, routines and networks?

Date: 17 October 2017, 3pm (CET)

Webinar 2 - Multi-scalar linkages

Topic: Influence of multi-scalar linkages on transitions in a development context

Date: 24 January 2018, 11am (CET)

Webinar 3 - Heterogeneity of urban infrastructures

Topic: Urban infrastructures in developing cities: insights and challenges for transition research

Date: April 2018 (Tentative)

Please contact us if you have questions regarding the planned series, if you are interested to organize future series, or if you want to be included in the mailing list of Transitions in the Global South Network.

Mara van Welie & Pauline Cherunya

E-Mail: transitions.globalsouth@gmail.com