



Call for submissions

11th International Sustainability Transitions Conference

IST 2020

18-21 August 2020, Vienna, Austria

We are delighted to invite you to the 11th International Sustainability Transitions Conference which will take place in Vienna from 18 - 21 August 2020. The conference venue will be Campus WU with its internationally renowned architecture.

The conference will be co-hosted by AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) in association with the Sustainable Transition Research Network (STRN). IST 2020 will be a great opportunity for the international transitions research community to meet familiar and new faces from all continents and from the many local and international research organizations engaged in transition studies or related fields.

Main Conference Theme

“Governance in an Era of Change – Making Sustainability Transitions Happen”

European Parliament has declared a climate emergency, following a number of countries and local communities worldwide. Proposals for a **“Green New Deal”** have been advanced on both sides of the Atlantic, seeking broad-based support. Calls for **“just transitions for all”** constitute an integral part of the Paris Agenda and the Green Deal proposed by the President of the European Commission. These and other recent developments create the impression that there is a growing realization of the necessity of immediate and profound systemic change, in order to tackle the manifold global crises of our times. However, business-as-usual and one-size-fits-all approaches won't be successful in providing the most effective and suitable multi-level and place-based actions, policies and governance approaches that will substantially boost transitions in this respect.

Against this background, the call for IST 2020 **“Governance in an Era of Change – Making Sustainability Transitions Happen”** invites researchers to put these developments into perspective. Following up on last year's focus on **“Accelerating sustainability transitions”**, we specifically invite contributions that address structural issues and causes for current challenges together with the design and implementation of transformative governance and policies for systemic change. Contributions may want to shed light on issues such as the role of the state, the role of non-state actors (e.g. intermediaries, social movements) or new forms of governance tackling multiple, interacting, and potentially overlapping transitions. We also welcome contributions that address the challenges and opportunities of **“just transitions”**, including e.g. tradeoffs between different sustainability objectives.

Guiding questions include:

How to best understand and problematize the nature of the challenges ahead? What lenses do we need, to identify the multi-dimensional causes of the current crisis and the causal interlinkages between various phenomena?

What are the critical conditions that enable individuals and collective actors to build up and mobilize the capacity for systemic and structural change?

What kind of multi-level governance configurations foster the capacity to accelerate profound change across various scales? How does the political, legal, institutional context shape and constrain transformative governance strategies?

What is the future of work in sustainability transitions, and what about the role/representation of the labor force in shaping transitions?

What are the challenges of “just transitions”, how do we increase participation in governance processes, and how do we deal with conflicting sustainability goals?

Conference Tracks

The IST 2020 program will be made up of diverse contributions, organized to stimulate debate around the conference theme and the [STRN research agenda](#). Submissions should explicitly relate to one or more of the following conference tracks:

- 1) Conference Track: Governance in an Era of Change. Making Sustainability Transitions Happen
- 2) Understanding Transitions – Theoretical contributions to transition frameworks
- 3) Power, Agency, and Politics in Transitions
- 4) Civil Society, Culture, and Social Movements in Transitions
- 5) Organizations and Industries in Sustainability Transitions
- 6) Transitions in Practice and Everyday Life
- 7) Geography of Transitions: Spaces, Scales, Places
- 8) Ethical Aspects of Transitions: Distribution, Justice, Poverty
- 9) Methodologies for Transitions Research

Exchange with Viennese research community and encounter with Policy-Makers and Local Pioneers of Change

Vienna has a long-standing tradition in social sciences and humanities research interested in understanding social development, both from a research as well as a practice perspective. More recently, research on socio-ecological and socio-economic transformations and on the understanding of change and sustainability has gained considerable prominence in the Viennese research landscape. IST 2020 will therefore provide an excellent opportunity for a stimulating exchange among international transition scholars and local practitioners.

One half-day during the IST2020 will include a number of On-Site Dialogue Sessions on various locations in Vienna with high relevance for transition researchers, such as urban-rural coalitions in food sustainability transitions, creative and innovative milieus in different spatial contexts, energy and resources and others. The holistic Viennese Smart City Strategy and Vienna’s unique approach to social housing will provide the opportunity for inspiring insights and debates organized around innovative

projects, initiatives and demonstration sites in collaboration with policy makers and local pioneers of change. Transport will be provided.

Newcomers & Early Career Session

A Newcomers & Early Career Session will be held on 18 August 2020. This session traditionally provides an overview of international transition studies and their highlights. The aim is to introduce researchers who are not yet familiar with transitions literatures to this vibrant community, and to explore complementarities with related research fields, perspectives and approaches.

Session Formats

IST2020 follows previous IST conferences by providing a range of formats to stimulate scholarly debate as well as dialogue with practitioners:

Full paper sessions: 90 minute sessions for presentation and discussion of original research papers (typically 3 per session). Authors are required to submit a draft of their full paper in advance of the conference. Full papers are also eligible for nomination for the best paper award (details to follow).

Speed talk sessions: 60 minute sessions for 3 to 5 speed talks, which briefly introduce new research ideas, data and analytical insights, and early stage work to provide a basis for collective discussion. We encourage contributions from practitioners as well as researchers. Submission of full papers is not required for speed talk sessions.

Posters: Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference in a designated poster area. Authors will also have an opportunity to present their posters during a dedicated poster session in the conference program. A prize will be offered for the best poster presentation.

Dialogue sessions: 60- or 90-minute sessions, which aim to stimulate discussion and debate around a particular thematic focus. These sessions are proposed by an external session organizer / chair with pre-agreed speakers. Dialogue sessions should be conceived to maximize audience participation. The session organizer should propose the precise format of the session, which could be a panel, a sequence of speakers, a debate or workshop. We specifically invite proposals that feature non-academic participants and innovative formats. Submission of full papers is not required for dialogue sessions.

Abstract Submission Requirements

Extended abstracts (max 600 words) for all session formats, with brief biographies of authors and session organizers for dialogue sessions (max 4 lines per person), should be submitted by 31 January 2020 through the abstract system (link below). Abstracts for full papers, speed talks and posters should clearly identify the most relevant conference track and should describe the key research questions, theory, method, and findings. Abstracts for dialogue sessions should describe the thematic focus, the contributions of speakers, and explain how the session will be organized (e.g., how it will maximize audience participation).

The abstract system can be accessed [here](#)

Review Process

Submissions will be reviewed based on the following criteria: novelty, quality, and engagement with the conference theme and STRN research agenda. Notification of acceptance is expected to be communicated

by 31 March 2020. Please note that depending on the number of submissions, and to ensure we have a viable and lively conference program, the organizers may allocate submissions to an alternative session format. Any reallocation will be communicated in the decision letter.

Child-Care

We are delighted to announce that professional child-care (including meals) will be available on campus during the conference days and on request also during evening events. The service will be offered by KIWI, a well-established day-care provider, who is also running the WU-Kindergarten.

Please note that for organizational reasons **advance notification is necessary**. Participants who want to make use of child-care service are kindly requested to use the child-care registration page by 1st May 2020.

The day-care service is included in the conference fee. Only in case of extraordinary demand, a low contribution will be raised.

Key Dates

20th December 2019 – Abstract submission opens

31st January 2020 – Abstract submission deadline

31st March 2020 – Expected Notification of Acceptance

1st April 2020 – Early bird registration starts (including child-care registration)

1st May 2020 – Early bird registration deadline, Child-care registration deadline

1st June 2020 – Presenter registration deadline

2nd July 2020 – Full papers submission deadline

5th August 2020 – Regular registration deadline

18th August 2020 – Late afternoon session for newcomers to sustainability transitions studies

18th-21st August 2020 – IST 2020 conference

Please direct any questions to ist2020@ait.ac.at

Organizing Committee

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, Center for Innovation Systems & Policy

WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business), Institute for Law and Governance/Research Institute for Urban Management and Governance at the Department of Socio-Economics