

STRN PhD School

“Systems, Theories, Policies and Practices: An Introductory PhD Course in Sustainability Transitions Research”

Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

February 3-7, 2025

Apply Now!

Welcome to Sustainability Transitions Research, an interdisciplinary field focused on driving sustainable change. Hosted by [Chalmers University of Technology](#) and in partnership with the [Sustainability Transitions Research Network \(STRN\)](#), this PhD course provides an in-depth overview of the field's theories, methodologies, and practical strategies. This year's focus is on systems, theories, policies, and practices, offering you a platform to connect with peers, grasp fundamental concepts, and engage with practitioners who bring these ideas to life.

The week-long course will contain the following six modules:

- Introduction to Sustainability Transitions: Delve into the fundamental concepts of sustainability transitions, exploring their relevance and impact on shaping a sustainable future.
- A Systems Perspective on Innovation and Sustainable Transitions: Learn to navigate the complex systems of innovation, recognizing their role in steering transitions towards sustainability.
- Key Theories and Perspectives: Engage with pivotal theories such as the Multiple Level Perspective and Technological Innovation Systems, vital for understanding and analyzing transitions.
- Global South and Geography of Transitions: Investigate the unique challenges and opportunities of sustainability transitions in the Global South, understanding their geographical contexts.
- Just and Inclusive Transitions: Embrace the ethical dimensions, focusing on equity and inclusivity in the pursuit of sustainable transitions.

- **Transformative Innovation Policy:** Examine the intersection of innovation policy with transformative goals, both in theory and applied contexts.
- **Paper development:** participants will have an opportunity to work on a paper and receive feedback from faculty

This course is a comprehensive introduction to the dynamic field of sustainability transitions, designed to equip you with the knowledge and connections to make a meaningful impact.

Course Details

Target Group: Early career PhD students specializing in Sustainability Transition studies.

Preparation: Submission of a research proposal or paper draft is required 3 weeks in advance, with a readiness to present and critique peer work.

Social Program: A curated social itinerary to foster connections and immerse in the essence of Göteborg.

Practical Information:

Dates: February 3-7, 2025

Location: Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden

Fees: The course is free of charge and includes lunches, coffee, snacks during the day, as well as the PhD school dinner. All participants have to book and pay for their accommodation and meals.

Credits: We anticipate roughly 80 workload hours and 5 ECTS

Funding Opportunity

Travel Grants: Non-EU applicants may apply for a travel grant up to €500, with a maximum of 3 grants available. If you would like to apply for funding, please attach a letter requesting funding, signed by yourself and your supervisor.

How to apply:

Application deadline: Friday, September 20th, 2025

Include in your application:

- Motivation: Write 200-500 words motivating why this course is suitable for you and what you hope to get out of it.
- Abstract: Include a 500-800 word abstract of the paper or research proposal that you would like to present.
- Your CV
- A short letter of recommendation from your main supervisor or examiner
- Financial letter of request (if applicable)

Notification of acceptance: Mid-October, 2024

CLICK HERE TO APPLY: https://survey.uu.nl/jfe/form/SV_74IM4DAICUhAX2e

Confirmed Faculty:

- Anna Bergek
- Björn Sandén
- Helené Alhlborg
- Sverker Jagers
- Hans Hellsmark

Organizing staff:

- Hans Hellsmark, Mascha Altunay, Adriaan van der Loos

For any questions, please reach out to sustainabilitytransitions@gmail.com