

Call for Participation

Young Scholars' Conference:

Time & Justice. Temporal Interrogations into Social-Ecological Justice

8–10 October 2025

Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies

»Futures of Sustainability«

Universität Hamburg

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Responses to the socio-ecological crisis are increasingly understood in terms of their inherent temporal structure: whether it's the time lag between action and risk (e.g., greenhouse gas reduction measures and rising sea levels), the decoupling of social and environmental subsystems (e.g., fast growth and lack of time for regeneration), the prevalence of losses (e.g., harvests, means of existence), or the urgency of necessary action and transformation. These temporal dimensions restructure conflicts over ecological "matters of concern" (Latour, 2004) within societal arenas, producing different frames of justice along multiple questions: How is the socio-historical responsibility for ecological destruction contested through past and present practices of colonialism, capitalism and industrialism (Whyte, 2017)? How do environmental loss and damage challenge the dominant recognition of generational and North-South inequalities? What notions of justice are being articulated that go beyond an "anticipatory futurism" (Barad, 2020)?

The distribution of costs across generations, classes and the planet are subject of lively and controversial debate in political arenas. It highlights the disparities between the immediate and actual costs and the potential future benefits for those already struggling financially. This imbalance in the timing and distribution of climate policy burdens, rather than climate skepticism or lack of environmental awareness, is crucial in shaping perspectives on present and future responsibilities (Mau et al., 2023; Latour & Schultz, 2022). Hence, bringing the temporal dimensions more into dialogue with social-ecological justice seems unavoidable.

Scholarship on environmental justice and climate change temporalities has developed in recent years but has yet to be systematically integrated: How do temporal considerations influence the intergenerational distribution of environmental burdens and resources, and what role do persistent and temporally uneven responsibilities play in environmental justice discourses? Furthermore, critical environmental justice discourses, which extend traditional distributional approaches by emphasizing the plurality of environmental justice understandings in terms of locus, power dynamics, criticality and disruptiveness (Schlosberg et al., 2024), may need to incorporate temporal sensitivity into their analyses. What would such a temporal sensitivity look like, and how might it deepen our understanding of socio-ecological transformations?

In this conference on the *Temporal interrogations into Social-Ecological Justice*, we aim to bring together scholars from different disciplines to consider how alternative paradigms of time are or could be conceptualized and how these alternatives could promote a just social-ecological transformation, beyond the eco-modernist notion.

We are therefore particularly interested in theoretical and empirical contributions from sociology, political theory and a variety of disciplines that explore environmental justice through resistant, prefigurative or decolonial temporal orientations. We encourage the inclusion of perspectives that focus on "decolonial futuring" (Mignolo, 2011), as well as themes of loss and mourning. We invite engagements of the intersections between the temporalities of the socio-ecological crisis and justice across the following:

- Decolonial perspectives
- Class struggles / Inequalities within and between regions
- Temporalities of Just Transition
- Epistemologies and ontologies
- Justice of loss and mourning
- More-than-human temporalities
- Financialization and economic tools

The conference is primarily aimed at doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers. It combines traditional papers and discussions with methodologically focused sessions, conversations with activists, and keynote addresses from a variety of

distinguished speakers. We will ask all participants to share their written work in progress a few weeks in advance so that the group can read the papers and engage in discussion based on that material. We also plan to produce a collective publication.

We warmly encourage contributions from across disciplines and regional areas. We have limited funds available. For those of you who do not have the opportunity to receive funding from their home institution, support for accommodation and travel costs can be offered. Please let us know if you need funding.

Dates and Deadlines

The conference will take place from **8–10th of October 2025**.

It is hosted and organized by the Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies »Futures of Sustainability« at the University of Hamburg.

Submission of abstracts (max. 500 words) and a short biography by: **15 February 2025**
 Submission of conference papers: **September 2025**

Please send abstracts to:

zukuenfte.der.nachhaltigkeit@uni-hamburg.de [subject: Time & Justice Abstract]

Sources

Barad, K. (2019). After the end of the world: Entangled nuclear colonialisms, matters of force, and the material force of justice. *Theory & Event*, 22(3), 524–550.
 Latour, B. (2004). Why has critique run out of steam? From matters of fact to matters of concern. *Critical inquiry*, 30(2), 225–248.
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 Schlosberg, D., Rickards, L., Pearse, R., Della Bosca, H. & Moraes, O. (2024). Critical environmental justice in contemporary

scholarship and movements: consensus and plurality of the discourse. *Environmental Politics*, 33 (7), 1–22.
 Mau, S., Lux, T. & Westheuser, L. (2023). *Triggerpunkte. Konsens und Konflikt in der Gegenwartsgesellschaft*. Suhrkamp.
 Mignolo, W. (2011). *The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global futures, decolonial options*. Duke University Press.
 Whyte, K. (2017). Indigenous climate change studies: Indigenizing futures, decolonizing the Anthropocene. *English Language Notes*, 55(1), 153–162.