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The Politics of Global Just Transitions

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A decade after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, scholarly and policy discourses are shifting toward the opportunities and challenges posed by its implementation. However, a growing gap between climate action and global goals is becoming increasingly apparent, especially given broader challenges to multilateralism and the ongoing global power shift that is complicating climate politics and governance. Geopolitics is reshaping global governance as multilateralism faces decline. Moreover, the intensifying competition for critical minerals among major powers risks exacerbating the extractivist models that have long impoverished resource-rich but less powerful countries, while some major emitters are simultaneously backsliding on their climate commitments. Against this backdrop, “just transition” has emerged as a powerful metaphor capturing both the normative and strategic dimensions of meeting global climate goals. Yet its connection to ongoing global power shifts remains largely unexplored. This panel examines the prospects of just transition as a framework for understanding the emerging politics of implementing climate commitments. By connecting the concepts of just transition and global order, we illuminate the evolving global politics of just transitions—including both their promise and their contestations. Speakers will draw on their pioneering scholarship on just transitions to reflect on the longer-term challenge of meeting climate goals in a fair and just manner in the coming decades.

Track Classification: Environment and Climate Politics Working Group