



भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान बंगलूर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
BANGALORE

Local environmental democracy and green transitions: Mapping institutional mechanisms and political mobilisations

International conference

Geneva, 23-25 October 2024 (Geneva Graduate Institute and hybrid)

As people and ecosystems confront escalating environmental challenges, there is a growing recognition of local stakeholders' pivotal role in decision-making processes. This international conference seeks to explore how local institutional mechanisms and political mobilisations shape green transitions. It asks: What is the interplay between environmental democracy and the pursuit of green transitions efforts worldwide? Which constellations of actors can be observed and how do they map onto decentralised institutional environments?

The conference seeks to include case studies from the global North and South, which are impacted differently by climate change and environmental degradation. The cross-context and transnational perspective it proposes to adopt will unpack contrasting discourses of development, environment and transitions.

Contributions will explore questions such as:

- How have local environmental movements articulated issues of green transition and environmental justice? Which issues have been foregrounded by young people and which modes of mobilisations have they been using?
- How have legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms for local environmental democracy evolved within federal or decentralized political systems?
- How do scales and levels of governance play out in policies and instruments that have been set up to foster green transitions?
- What are the drivers and the obstacles to green transitions? What does the term elicit, in terms of mobilisation and policy innovations and responses?
- What are transnational articulations of institutional mechanisms and political mobilisations?

The conference aims to bring together scholars from a range of disciplines (including political science, anthropology, sociology, legal studies, environmental studies, history, economics). It is organised by Christine Lutringer (Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Geneva Graduate Institute) and Rusha Das (Indian Institute of Management - IIM Bangalore) with the support of the [Swiss Leading House for South Asia and Iran](#) and in collaboration with the research project "[Youth Climate Activism and Local Institutions: Reframing Democratic Spaces at a Time of Polarisation](#)".

PROGRAMME:

<p>Wednesday 23 October 2024</p>
<p>14:00 – 14:15 CEST / 17:30 – 17:45 IST Introduction, conceptual overview and objectives of the conference Rusha Das and Christine Lutringer</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:45 CEST / 17:45 – 19:15 IST <u>Panel 1: Environmental Justice and Democracy (I)</u></p> <p>Who dares wins? Framework for Environmental Justice Movements: Empirical Review of Biodiversity Conservation Related Movements Sneha Thapliyal (<i>online</i>), Associate Professor, National Law School Bangalore and Akansh Khandelwal, PhD candidate, Indian Institute of Management Indore</p> <p>Contestation related to CRZ Map in shaping the environmental justice practices in the Kasarkod, Honnavar port region in Karnataka, India Sreeja Chakraborty, Independent Lawyer, Living Earth Foundation India (LEAF), Bengaluru, and Rusha Das, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore</p> <p>From sustainability to climate justice: what is lacking? The case of the district of Vaubàn, Freiburg, Germany Marco Palma, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Lugano</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Ashish Kothari (<i>online</i>), Founder-member, Kalpavriksh</p>
<p>15:45 – 16:00 <i>Coffee break</i></p>
<p>16:00 – 17:30 CEST / 19:30 IST – 21:00 IST <u>Panel 2: Environmental Justice and Democracy (I)</u></p> <p>Eco-swaraj: Radical ecological democracy towards a just world Ashish Kothari (<i>online</i>), Founder-member, Kalpavriksh</p> <p>Voices from the Valley: Challenges in Environmental Justice and Community Mobilization under the Forest Rights Act in the Chandra Valley. Abhishek Awadhut Daithankar (<i>online</i>), MA Development Studies, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi</p>

Criminalization of Tribals: Role of India's Wildlife Protection Act

Renjith Thamarakshan (*online*), PhD candidate, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar and Ambika Aiyadurai, Associate Professor, IIT Gandhinagar

Existence in a gap: addressing genocide against Indigenous communities in the 21st century

Helena Szczupak, LLM candidate from the Geneva Academy and intern at the Association for the Prevention of Torture

Discussant: Sneha Thapliyal (*online*), Associate Professor, National Law School, Bangalore

Thursday 24 October 2024

10:00 – 12:30 CEST / 13:30 – 16:00 IST

Panel 3: Policy Instruments

Hydraulic imaginaries and the temporal politics of dam-making: A study of policy safeguards and community responses for an infrastructural project in central India

Budhaditya Das (*online*), Assistant Professor, School of Human Ecology, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, India

Experiences from Italian context: empirical evidence from various participatory processes

Anna Rita Ceddia, PhD candidate and Ombretta Presenti, Department for Sustainability (SSPT), Casaccia Research Centre, ENEA, Rome, Italy

Perceptions of stakeholders in advancing Circular Economy of Plastic Waste Management-A phenomenological study in the city of Hyderabad

V Vijaya Rekha Dasika (*online*) and Nayan Krushna Samantray, Indian Institute of Management, Sambalpur

Diluting Environmental Oversight: The Future of EIA in India Post-2020 Draft Notification

Michael Thomas Thevaril (*online*) and George Thomas Thevaril, Associates, Allied Law Practices Bengaluru

Social Stock Exchange after Covid-19 for building Nature-Positive Economies

Akshat Bhargava (*online*), Doctoral Scholar, Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, Subhadip Mukherjee, Associate Professor & Chairperson-PGP, IIM Shillong and Neelam Rani, Associate Professor, IIM Shillong

Discussant: Sharachchandra Lele (*online*), Adjunct Professor at IISER Pune and Distinguished Fellow, ATREE, Bangalore

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:30 CEST / 17:30 – 19:30 IST

Panel 4: Political Mobilisations and Civic Engagement

Influence of patron-client relations on transparent environmental decision-making processes: A case-study on fisheries co-management in Bangladesh

Rehnuma Ferdous, Research Fellow, International Development Department, School of Government, University of Birmingham

Role of citizen participation in planning, restoring and maintenance of urban lakes: the case of Bengaluru

Deepthi Ramachandra Adiga (*online*), Research Scholar, Christ University, Bengaluru

Mobilising for green transition in Bologna: the case of comitato Besta

Ilaria Cauzzi and Isabella Gigliotti, Research assistants, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Geneva Graduate Institute and University of Bologna, Italy

Do Mini-Publics Answer Environmental Demands by Youth? Promises and perceptions of 'Voice' in four European Cities

Yanina Welp (*online*), Research Fellow, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy

Discussant: Arpit Shah (*online*), Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

16:00 – 17:30 CEST / 19:30 – 21:00 IST

PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION

Citizen-Led Reforms in Democracy: How to foster green transitions?

With Pauline Plagnat-Cantoreggi, Senior Lecturer, University of Geneva and Mayor of Machilly, and Trilochan Sastry, Professor, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

Friday 25 October 2024

9:00 – 10:30 CEST / 12:30 – 14:00 IST

Panel 5: Transnational Perspectives on Green Transitions (I)

Testing Strength of Local Environmental Democracy with AI Based Neural Networks

Pooja Jain (*online*), Customer Engineer, Google, Stanford; Pranjal Jain, Research Scholar, Lovely Professional University; Anju Jain, University of Delhi

Leaving No One Behind: Putting the Disability Inclusion Agenda in the Clean Mobility Transition in India

Sagar Verma (*online*), Doctoral candidate, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

Access to Food-Water-Energy Nexus: Securitisation through human rights for India

Shubham Payasi (*online*), Sustainability Studies Group, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Salla Nithyanth Kumar, Post Doctoral Researcher, Jaya Prakash Narayan, National Centre of Excellence in the Humanities, IIT Indore and Pritee Sharma, Sustainability Studies Group Lead, IIT Indore

Discussant: Anna Rita Ceddia, PhD candidate and research collaborator, Department for Sustainability (SSPT), Casaccia Research Centre, ENEA, Rome, Italy

10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:30 CEST / 14:30 – 16:00 IST

Panel 6: Transnational Perspectives on Green Transitions (I)

Dilemmas of just transitions: Democratic spaces and meanings of justice in intertwined green and political transitions in Argentina.

Filippo Bozzini, PhD Researcher, University of Lausanne

Towards Decolonizing Climate Science: The Place of Indigenous Knowledge in Environmental Protection and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa and the Global South

Geoffrey Nwaka (*online*), Professor of History, Abia State University, Uturu, Nigeria

Are Trade Unions in India Green Deal Makers?

Sree Harica D (*online*), PhD Scholar, School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi

Youth policies: Designed with youth, for youth?

Maria Mexi, Research Fellow, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, Geneva Graduate Institute

Discussant: Marco Palma, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Lugano

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30 – 14:30 CEST / 17:00 – 18:00 IST

Wrap up and next steps