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Aleksandra Wagner, Jagiellonian University
Paulina Sekula, Jagiellonian University
Elizabeth Pollitzer, Portia
Rocio Diaz-Chavez, Imperial
Yara Evans, Imperial

External Speakers

Keynote speaker: Joy Clancy, University of Twente

Deborah Logan, Publishing Director Elsevier
Saska Petrova, University of Manchester
Lena Hartog, University of Utrecht
Giulia Tregnago, Senior Editor, Springer Nature
Gordon Akon-Yamga, CSIR-Science and
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Giacomo Falchetta, EMCC
Hanna Szabó, Portia

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Gender and Intersectional Inequalities in Energy Transition Autumn School

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe - Culture, creativity and inclusive society - under grant agreement no. 101094326

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October 6_10 2025
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BRIEF MODULES' DESCRIPTIONS

DAY 1. ENEA – “Conceptual foundations of the Energy System and gendered analysis of the energy transition scientific community”

This session introduces the conceptual foundations of the energy system using the Energy System Ontology (ESO) as a shared lens, mapping five interlinked layers, environment, strategy, policy, behaviour, and operations, to surface interdependencies and the actors of change. Building on this lens, we present an ESO-informed, SCOPUS-based assessment of the energy-transition research community: findings indicate a pronounced gender gap, with men prevailing overall and in most subcommunities. Environment shows comparatively higher female participation yet remains male-majority; policy is closer to balance on several indicators; operations and strategy are the most male-dominated.

The ENERDOM (ENERgy DOMinoes) Experience is a hands-on, game-based session to explore the energy transition through systems thinking. It unfolds in two phases: the ENERDOM Arena, a fast-paced card game where teams link environment, strategy, policy, behaviour, and operation scenarios into causal chains; and the ENERDOM Lab, where teams transform a selected chain into a concise real-world narrative and share insights. Together, the phases blend playful competition with collaborative reflection to reveal interdependencies and practical strategies for change.

Navigating the journal publishing process and the role of diverse editorial teams

Researchers today need to secure funding, collaborate, share data, publish results, commercialise research, and demonstrate impact. Early career researchers, in particular, are faced with multiple pressures around these challenges. In this talk, aimed primarily at ECRs, I will cover how the journal publishing process works in general, what editors and reviewers are looking for, and the importance (and challenges) in creating diverse editorial teams. Sharing examples from Elsevier's Energy journals portfolio I will also highlight particular points around the three gold standards of quality, integrity, and equity.

DAY 2. Fraunhofer IAO – “Creating Data-Driven and Human-Centered Policies for a Just Energy Transition”

This module explores the complexities of energy justice, using insights from the gEneSys survey of 30,000 citizens across the EU and Sub-Saharan Africa. Participants will examine how energy systems affect social groups differently, focusing on issues like energy poverty, health impacts, and value-driven energy choices. Key topics include the presentation of data-driven analyses of marginalization in energy policy and foundational concepts drawing on theories such as social and energy justice, feminist political ecology, and science and technology studies to design truly just energy systems.” Through a policy-making exercise based on real-world personas, participants will design targeted strategies to address energy justice challenges. The seminar follows the SEE (sensitization, equipping, empowerment) approach, combining interactive learning, theoretical insights, and competitive group work to empower participants in creating equitable energy policies.

DAY 3. CNR-IRPPS – “TRANSFORM LAB_Interrelations of Power in Energy Transition”

This module applies the Transformative Power Lab model to explore power dynamics within the energy transition and develop tools for fostering equitable transformations. Participants will examine the five layers of the energy system—environment, strategy, policy, behavior, and operation—through the gEneSys ontology framework.

The first part covers theoretical foundations of power dynamics, introducing concepts like "power to," "power over," and "power with," to build power literacy. In the second part, participants engage in workshops, analyzing power relations within specific layers and exploring strategies to enable just transformations. This hands-on approach equips participants with analytical and strategic skills to influence equitable energy transition policies and innovations.

DAY. 4 Jagiellonian University – “Shaping Sustainable Futures: Gender, Policy, and Research in the Energy Education”

This module explores the intersection of ethics, innovation, and gender in the energy sector. It begins with a 15-minute introduction on co-creating innovation through gender perspectives, followed by a 90-minute lecture on the Gendered Innovation framework and the theory of change approach.

In workshops, participants will identify gender biases in energy education materials and develop inclusive high school modules, such as gendered energy use, energy careers, and mainstreaming gender in energy innovation. Teams will present their projects for feedback. The module aims to enhance understanding of the Gendered Innovations framework, the gender-energy nexus, and strategies for creating inclusive engaging curricula.

DAY 4. Portia – "Socio-Technical Ecosystems of Energy Transition: Power, Gender, and Policy Goals"

Participants will be introduced to the concept of energy transition as a socio-technical ecosystem made of several interacting and potentially competing subsystems. The aim is to show if and how gendered power relations and societal inequalities influence achieving the policy goals of energy transition from traditional to renewable and 'green' systems. The session includes three presentations explaining how to analyse the impact of technological solutions on the environment and the lives of the communities where transition policies are implemented. This will be followed by Q&A and an open discussion.

DAY 5. Imperial – “Engendering Energy Just and Fair Pathways”

This module aims to equip participants with tools to integrate the gender innovation framework into research and policy, using the SHIFTS project as an example. It covers how energy pathways are developed and how to apply gender-sensitive criteria and indicators in the design of socio-technical systems for energy transition.

Through the analysis of existing energy pathways, including the Net Zero model, participants will learn the importance of incorporating gender and social inequality factors to ensure a just energy transition. The module includes practical exercises, including using AI to design gender-inclusive energy pathways, and participatory methods such as group activities, discussions, and hands-on exercises with technology to create pathways that promote gender equality.

IRPPS - CNR

Lucio Pisacane: sociologist and researcher at the National Research Council of Italy where he coordinates the Horizon project gEneSys (Transforming Gendered Interrelations of Power and Inequalities for Just Energy Systems). He served as expert for the European Institute Gender Equality. His works focus on human resources in science, gender equality, diversity and inclusion.

Cloe Mirenda: anthropologist with a PhD in sustainability science. She is a research member of the Horizon project gEneSys (Transforming Gendered Interrelations of Power and Inequalities for Just Energy Systems) at the National Research Council of Italy. Her work focuses on the gender dimension of sustainability and climate change vulnerability.

Maria Camilla Fraudatario: sociologist with a PhD in Social Sciences and Statistics. She is currently a research member of the Horizon project gEneSys: Transforming Gendered Interrelations of Power and Inequalities for Just Energy Systems at CNR-IRPPS. Her work focuses on gender equality, sustainability, social innovation, and territorial development.

Marco Cellini: holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS) Guido Carli in Rome and is a researcher at the National Research Council of Italy. He conducts research on democratization processes, democracy measurement, inequality and poverty, global governance, and European policies.

Serena Tagliacozzo: is a researcher at the National Research Council of Italy, where she evaluates European projects and supports their development and implementation. She holds a Ph.D. in Disaster Risk Reduction from University College London (UK). Her research interests include monitoring and evaluating humanitarian projects and translating research findings into policies to minimize and manage risks associated with crises and disasters.

Azzurra Malgieri: graduated in Anthropology from Sapienza University (2001) and SOAS, London (2003), she also completed advanced training in International Politics (2005) and a Master's in Local Development (2007). She worked with organizations in Rome on cultural mediation and social inclusion. From 2008 to 2019, at CNR, she managed migration research projects, collaborated with the European Commission, and focused on research policy and scientific communication. Since 2019, she has been at IRPPS-CNR, researching applied anthropology, science communication, and R&D policies.

Monia Torre: holds a degree in Cultural Anthropology from Ca' Foscari University of Venice and a Master in Science Communication from SISSA, Trieste. She has worked as a research fellow at INMI Spallanzani on antibiotic use monitoring and collaborates with Zadig in health communication and European project dissemination. Her interests include science communication, risk communication, and participatory methodologies.

Miriam Tombino: holds a PhD in Latin American Studies from New York University. Her research examines the representation of gender-based violence in contemporary photography in the Mexican context. She is a member of the gEneSys project, collaborating in the organization of the Autumn School.

Antonella Rissotto: holds a PhD in Environmental Psychology and works as a Technologist at the Training and Welfare Unit of the National Research Council of Italy. She is a member of the gEneSys project, collaborating in the organization of the Autumn School.

ENEA

Antonio De Nicola: holds a PhD in Computer Science, Geocontrol and Geoinformation and is a Senior Researcher at ENEA, the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development. His research focuses on methodologies and tools for conceptual modeling of socio-technical systems, ontologies, social network analysis based on semantic technologies and complexity science, industrial applications of semantic technologies, and collaborative information systems for cyber-security.

Fraunhofer IAO

Clemens Striebing: political scientist and PhD in Sociology. Senior researcher at the Fraunhofer IAO Center for Responsible Research and Innovation (CeRRI), he leads national and international projects on organizational culture and diversity in innovation processes and teaches gender-sensitive R&D at TU Berlin. He is a research member of the Horizon project gEneSys and co-authored the CINEA study.

Sabine Loss: researcher at the Center for Responsible Research and Innovation (CeRRI), Fraunhofer IAO, leading projects on the intersection of (energy) technologies and society. As a doctoral student working on the topic of feminist energy systems, she explores truly just and sustainable energy systems harnessing feminist perspectives and the planetary boundaries framework. In doing so, she draws on theories such as energy justice, feminist political ecology, ecofeminism, as well as science and technology studies.

Martina Schraudner: holds the Chair "Gender and Diversity in Technology and Product Development" at the Technical University of Berlin, developed the Center for Responsible Research and Innovation at Fraunhofer IAO and was a board member of the acatech – National Academy of Science and Engineering. Her main interest is in diversified innovation and transition processes.

Jagiellonian University

Aleksandra Wagner: specializes in the sociology of energy and social communication. Her research focuses on socio-technical change, public communication, deliberation, and inclusive policy. She coordinates the MA program in Social Communication at the Institute of Sociology, JU, and studies public discourses on energy transitions and responsible technology development.

Paulina Sekula: is an assistant professor at the Institute of Sociology at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Her research focuses on gender equality, particularly in academia and research, as well as political culture and democracy theories. She has been involved in several H2020 projects on structural change in higher education, including GENERA, ACT, and MINDtheGEPs, as well as the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation project on international mobile women scientists.



Portia

Elizabeth Pollitzer: is the founder and director of Portia, a non-profit organization focused on advancing gender equality in STEM and promoting the integration of gender perspectives in scientific research. With a background in biophysics, she has over 20 years of experience in teaching and research at Imperial College London. Pollitzer coordinated the genSET project and established the Gender Summits to foster global collaboration on gender issues in science. She is also an expert adviser to the European Commission and has contributed to various international projects on gender equality in research.

Imperial

Rocio Diaz-Chavez: is a Senior Research Fellow at Imperial College London's Centre for Environmental Policy. She previously served as Deputy Director and Energy and Climate Change Programme Leader at the Stockholm Environment Institute Africa Centre in Kenya (2017-2022). Her research focuses on sustainability assessment, bioeconomy, land use, natural resources, and synergies with energy and SDGs. She has contributed to numerous EU-funded projects and consulted for the European Commission, FAO, and IEA. She received the SCOPE 2010 Young Scientist Award for her work on environmental management.

Yara Evans: is a Human Geographer with expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. Her research has primarily focused on the dynamics of immigrant life in the UK, particularly within the Brazilian community in London. In recent years, she has expanded her work to include social sustainability assessments, stakeholder engagement, and social acceptance analysis, particularly in the context of biofuels and bioproducts in Europe. She holds a PhD from the University of Wales Aberystwyth and is currently a Research Associate at the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College London.

External Speakers Bio

Joy Clancy – University of Twente: is a Reader in Technology Transfer at the University of Twente, The Netherlands, with over 30 years of research on the socio-economic aspects of energy systems for rural development. Her work focuses on rural electrification, biomass fuels, small-scale industries, gender, energy poverty, and sustainable livelihoods. She serves on the Dutch Ministry for Development Cooperation's knowledge panel on sustainability, climate, and energy and is a technical advisor on gender and energy to the World Bank. She is a founding member of ENERGIA and works on gender mainstreaming in energy programs.

Deborah Logan – Publishing Director for Elsevier: focuses on fostering diversity, and innovation in scientific publishing, drawing on over two decades of experience in publishing and international collaborations.

Saska Petrova – University of Manchester: is a Professor at the University of Manchester, specializing in the intersection of precarity, gender, and energy resource use. Her research, conducted across the UK, Europe, South Africa, and China, focuses on the political governance of social and environmental injustices. Drawing on political ecology and feminist geographies, they aim to transform low-carbon transition practices. She has led over 20 funded research projects, influencing policy at the European Commission and Parliament. Her work addresses energy politics, nature governance, and the social dimensions of low-carbon futures.

Lena Hartog – Utrecht University: (she/her) is a researcher, writer, and organizer working at the intersection of climate justice, economic transformation, and systemic change. She is currently pursuing a PhD at Utrecht University on transformative power in prefigurative movements, with a focus on how grassroots initiatives build power literacy, challenge dominant systems, and navigate the emotional dimensions of change. Lena has co-founded and led international campaigns such as Sail to the COP and the Slow Fashion Movement, and is now producing a feature documentary on the hidden costs of economic growth in Europe and the rise of resistance movements. Her work weaves together pluriversal politics, Art of Hosting practices and years of experience in facilitation, strategy, and action research.

Giulia Tregnago: is a Senior Editor at Nature Energy, handling manuscripts in the areas of photovoltaics, wind energy, energy harvesting, and heating and cooling technologies. She joined the journal in May 2018. She obtained her PhD in Physics from University College London where she studied the photophysics of organic semiconductors and their application in light-emitting diodes. She then took up a position as project manager within a Horizon 2020 European Training Network on organic materials for photonics and optoelectronics. She did an internship at Solaronix, Switzerland, where she worked on dye-sensitized solar cells.

Hanna Dorottya Szabó: (she/her) completed her doctoral research in Media and Communication at Freie Universität Berlin as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Early Stage Researcher in the European Training Network 'Gender – Achieving Gender Diversity'. Her work focuses on identity and social media, examining how young people navigate self-presentation in digital spaces. Alongside her academic work, she consults on media and communication projects, supporting researchers in making their work accessible to audiences beyond academia.

Giacomo Falchetta: is a Scientist at the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change and a Research Scholar at the Energy, Climate, and Environment program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. An Applied Energy and Environmental Economist by training, he works on data-driven approaches for integrated energy-economy-environment analysis, with a specific focus on multi-level decisions (household, infrastructure, national and global policy) related to climate change impacts and adaptation, as well as to sustainable development challenges. He coordinated modelling activities in the H2020 LEAP-RE – RE4AFAGRI (Renewables for African Agriculture) project, aiming to inform and contribute to the transformation of the African smallholder farmers' agriculture and demonstrate planning and implementation approaches to the integrated water-energy-food-environment-economic development nexus management and business models for infrastructure implementation that are truly tailored to the local needs and socio-cultural and economic and financial context.

Venue:

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<https://www.univiu.org/focus-areas/environmental-management-and-security/genesys-autumn-school-2025>
<https://genesys-project.eu/events/>