

Energy Humanities: A Path to Just Transitions



<https://creds.curtin.edu.au/courses/just-energy-transitions>

Petra Tschakert

**Professor of Geography
and Global Futures**

**School of Media, Creative Arts and
Social Inquiry**

Curtin Institute for Energy Transition

8 September 2023








Reimagining Climate Change Adaptation
National Strategy for Just Adaptation

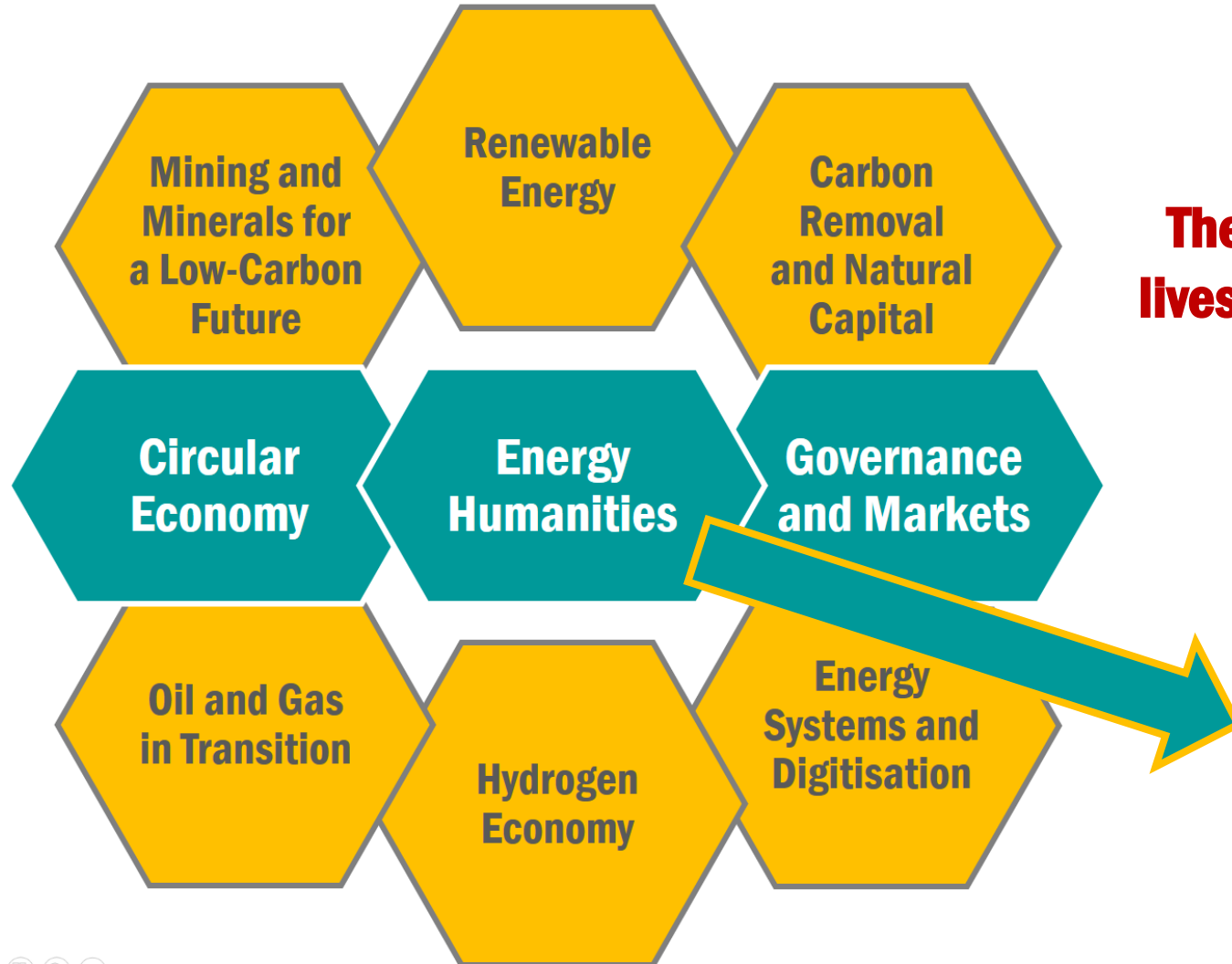
The strategy is co-chaired by Mr Bhiemie Williamson (ANU), a Euahlayi man from north-west New South Wales, Professor Petra Tschakert (University of Western Australia) and Dr Mark Stafford-Smith (CSIRO).



for a world leading contribution to solution-focused climate research



Curtin Institute for Energy Transition



The climate crisis affects every facet of our lives, so we're combatting it from every angle.

We are investigating how to make energy transitions just and inclusive, for all people and living beings, everywhere.

EH – Team Members at Curtin Social Sciences, Humanities, Creative Arts, and Education

in MCASI: Petra Tschakert (lead), Matt Chrulew, Rob Briggs, Rachel Robertson, Cass Lynch, Thor Kerr, Caitlin Maling, Stuart Bender, Susanna Castleden; specialisations in creative writing, speculative fiction, social/environmental/climate/energy justice, philosophy, Indigenous studies, emotional media, media representations, life cycle of buildings and technology

in Education: Toni Dobinson, Sonja Kuzich, Paul Gardner, Paul Mercieca, Cindy Smith; specialisations in education, student engagement, pedagogies for climate action and social transformations

Others: Philip Ely (speculative design, artefacts for climate action), Raquel Tardin-Coelho (urban planning, cultural landscapes); Hannah Uren (population health, environmental and energy policy), Josh Byrne (Dean Sustainable Futures), Jessie Perish (Office DVCR, SDG manager), Peta Ashworth (Director CIET), Claus Otto (industry operations), Gemma Cook (RACE)

ENERGY

AN ANTHOLOGY

humanities

2017

EDITED BY Imre Szeman & Dominic Boyer



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

2022

Energy Research & Social Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/erss

Original research article

A critical review of energy democracy: A failure to deliver justice?

Sufyan Droubi^{a,*}, Raphael J. Heffron^b, Darren McCauley^c

^a Dundee Law School, School of Social Sciences, University of Dundee, UK

^b Faculty of Law, University of West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

^c Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

ONE Energy and Modernity: Histories and Futures

TWO Energy, Power, and Politics

THREE Energy in Philosophy: Ethics, Politics, and Being

FOUR The Aesthetics of Petrocultures



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

2021

Energy Research & Social Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/erss

Original research article

Towards energy care ethics: Exploring ethical implications of relationality within energy systems in transition

Caroline Sejer Damgaard^{a,*}, Darren McCauley^b, Louise Reid^a

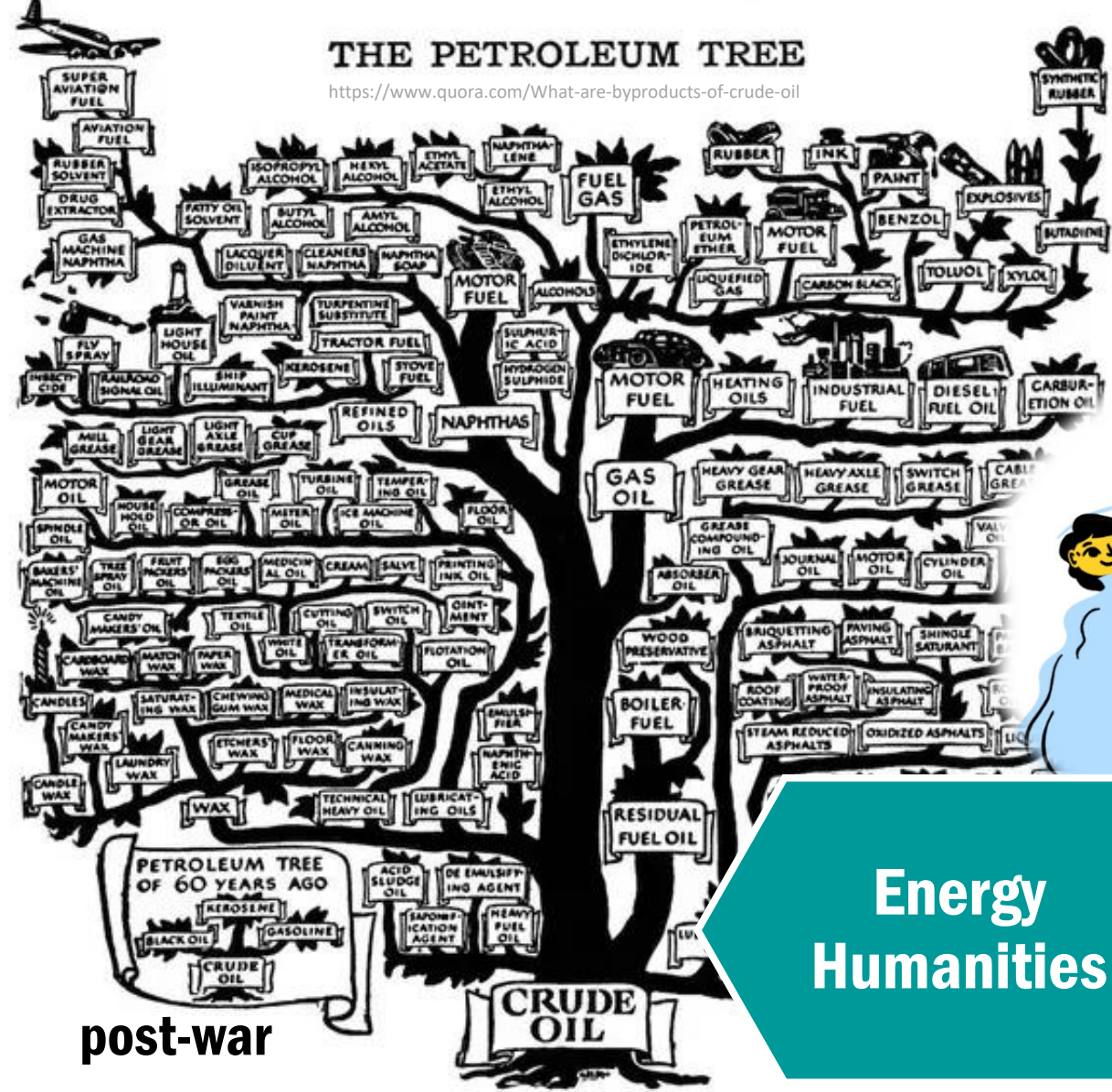
^a School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews, College Gate, St Andrews KY16 9AJ, UK

^b Department of Public Administration and Sociology, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Burgemeester Oudlaan 50, 3062 PA Rotterdam, Netherlands



THE PETROLEUM TREE

<https://www.quora.com/What-are-byproducts-of-crude-oil>



post-war



Energy Humanities



<https://projectgreta.eu/energy-citizenship/>

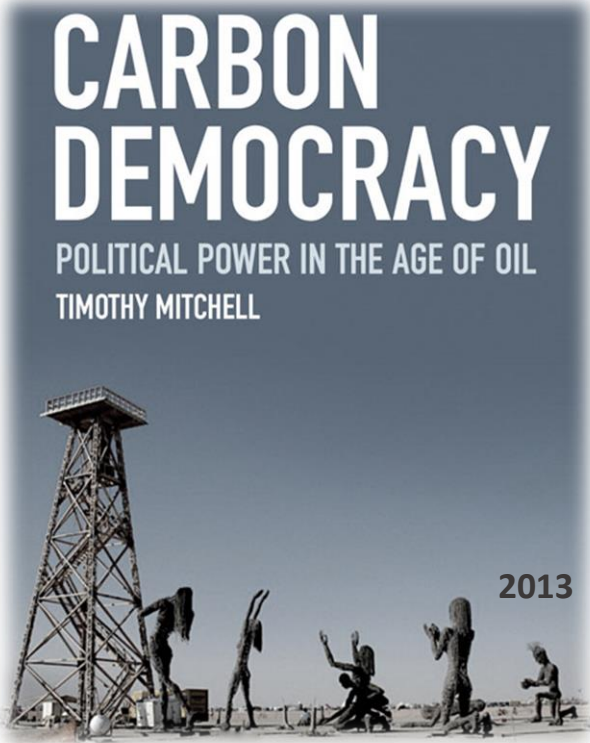
Citizens and subjects entangled in petrocultures

Before

Now

To Come





Ken Saro-Wiwa

PETRO-VIOLENCE

SOME THOUGHTS ON COMMUNITY,
EXTRACTION, AND POLITICAL ECOLOGY

Michael J. Watts

1998

**Energy
Humanities**

Before

Now

To Come



Review

Who are the victims of low-carbon transitions? Towards a political ecology of climate change mitigation

Benjamin K. Sovacool ^{a, b, *}

^a Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), School of Business, Management, and Economics, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

^b Center for Energy Technologies, Department of Business Development and Technology, Aarhus University, Denmark

PETRO-VIOLENCE

SOME THOUGHTS ON COMMUNITY,
EXTRACTION, AND POLITICAL ECOLOGY

Michael J. Watts

1998

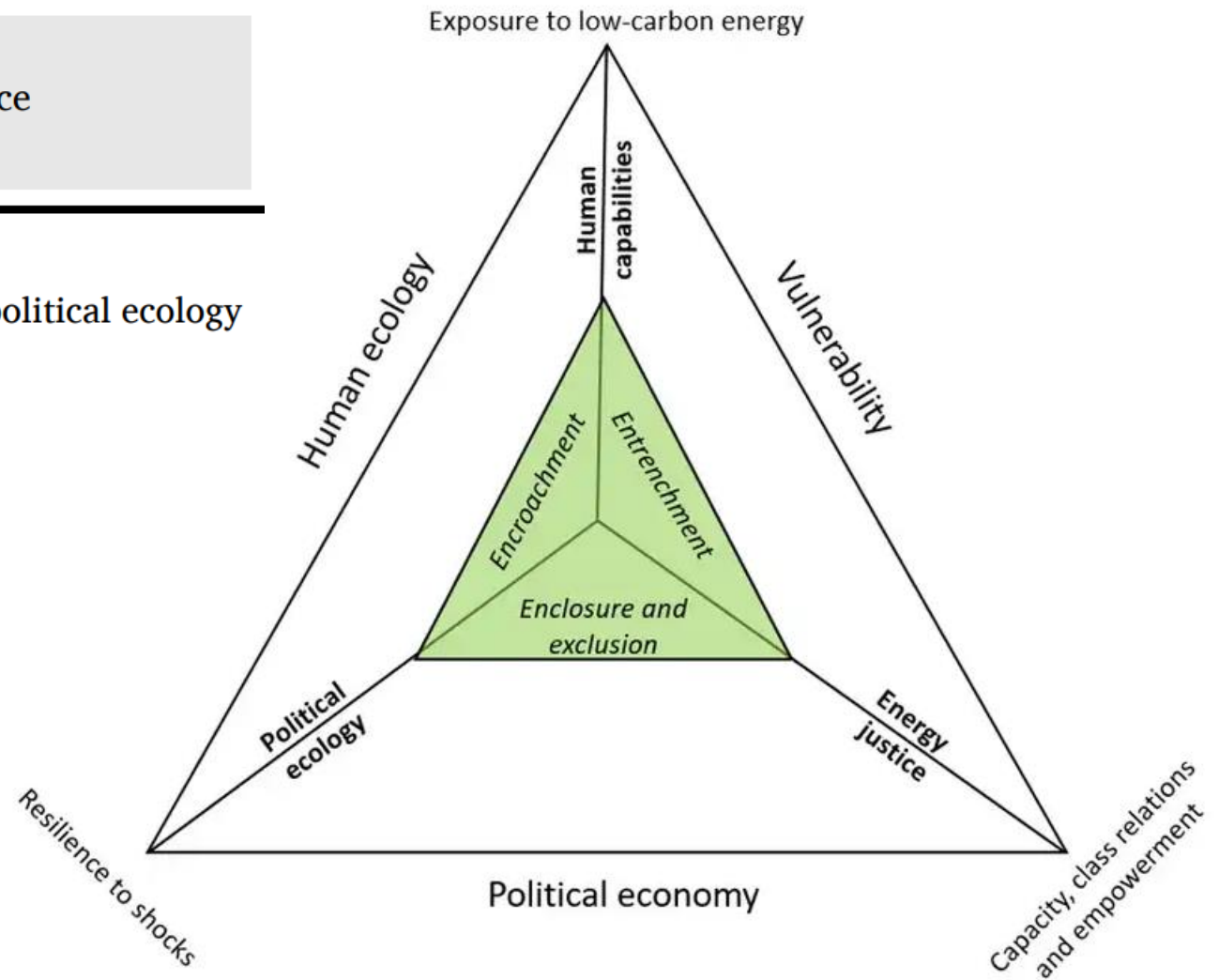


Fig. 1. Conceptualizing the political ecology framework of enclosure, exclusion, encroachment, and entrenchment.

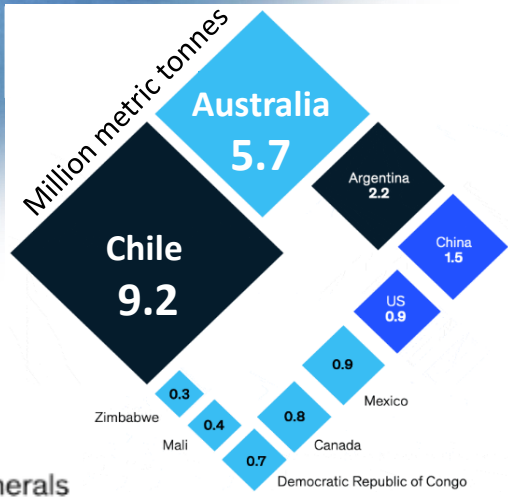
Before

Now

To Come



**Energy
Humanities**



Before

Now

To Come



<https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/progress-on-wetsuweten-rights-and-title-slower-than-parties-would-have-liked/>



<https://www.evwind.es/2019/10/12/oaxaca-among-the-states-with-the-greatest-wind-energy-potential-in-mexico/71291>



**IDLE
NO
MORE**

Idle No More calls on all people to join in a peaceful revolution which honours and fulfills Indigenous sovereignty and which protects the land, the water, and the sky. Colonization continues through attacks to Indigenous rights and damage and harm to all our relations. We must repair these violations, live the spirit and intent of the treaty relationship, work towards justice in action, and protect Mother Earth.

Energy Humanities

The Journal of Peasant Studies, 2018
Vol. 45, No. 3, 630–652, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2016.1259221>

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

Counterinsurgency for wind energy: the Bú Hioxo wind park in Juchitán, Mexico

Alexander Dunlap

Before

Now

To Come

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/desley-should-be-preparing-to-study-law-instead-she-lives-in-her-car-through-sweltering-perth-heatwaves-202203-p59tjc.html>



**Heatwaves: Just adaptation and energy security
(Unnati research grant, June – Dec 2023) Perth metro and Delhi**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/11/australia-gas-project-petroglyphs-woodside-climate-culture-carbon-bomb>



Energy Humanities

<https://www.albanyadvertiser.com.au/news/albany-advertiser/regular-oversized-loads-expected-on-albany-highway-as-delivery-of-flat-rocks-wind-farm-components-starts-c-10842037>



<https://thefifthstate.com.au/columns/spinifex/energy-poverty-urgently-end-2/>



Before

Now

To Come

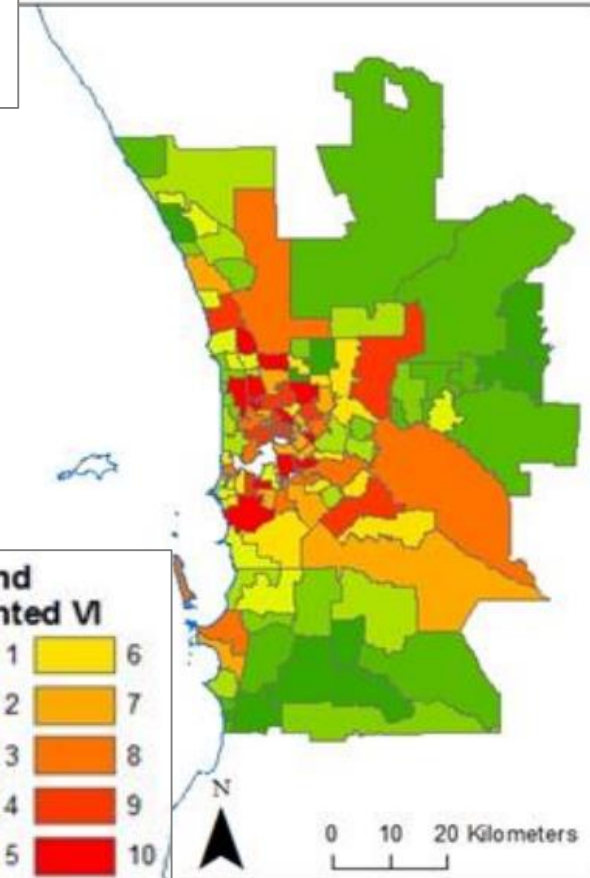
Thermal & Social Inequalities / Energy Poverty

Land surface temperature
on a hot day in February
City of Joondalup



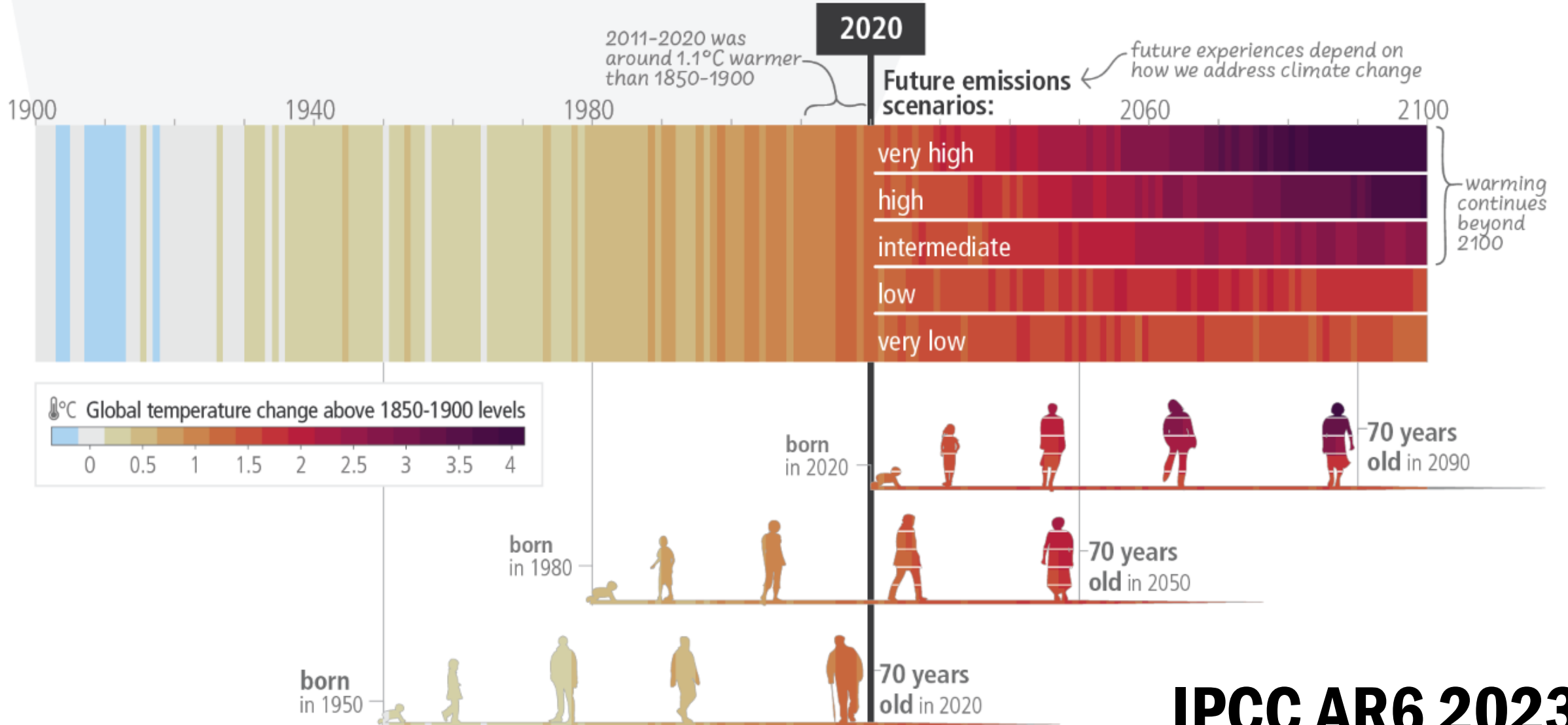
- 6.1% ■ <36°C
- 19.2% ■ 36-41°C
- 69.2% ■ 42-45°C
- 5.4% ■ >45°C

https://watersensitivocities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Urban-Heat-Briefing_Final.pdf



<https://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/content/uploads/2016/08/Thermal-Map.pdf>

c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near term



IPCC AR6 2023

Modernity

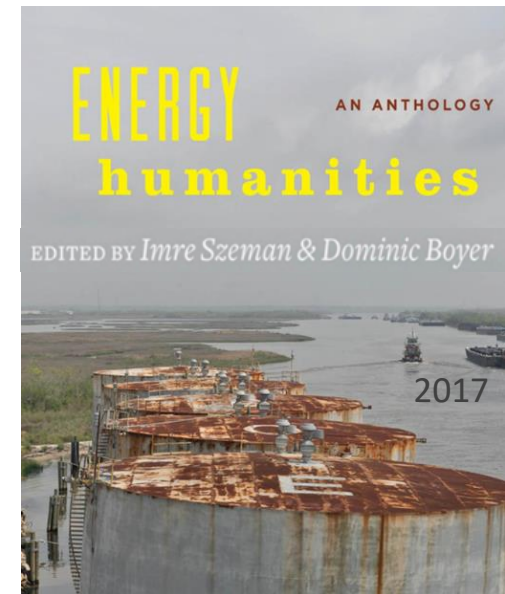
one trajectory for the future



**Human and Non-Human
Winners & Losers**
(inequality, precarity, struggles,
marginalisation, oppression,
exclusion, violence, destruction)



Imre Szeman



Before

Now

To Come

Modernity

one trajectory for the future



PetroModernity

RenewableModernity



**Human and Non-Human
Winners & Losers**
(inequality, precarity, struggles,
marginalisation, oppression,
exclusion, violence, destruction)



**Human and Non-Human
Winners & Losers**
(inequality, precarity, struggles,
marginalisation, oppression,
exclusion, violence, destruction)

+ green extractivism



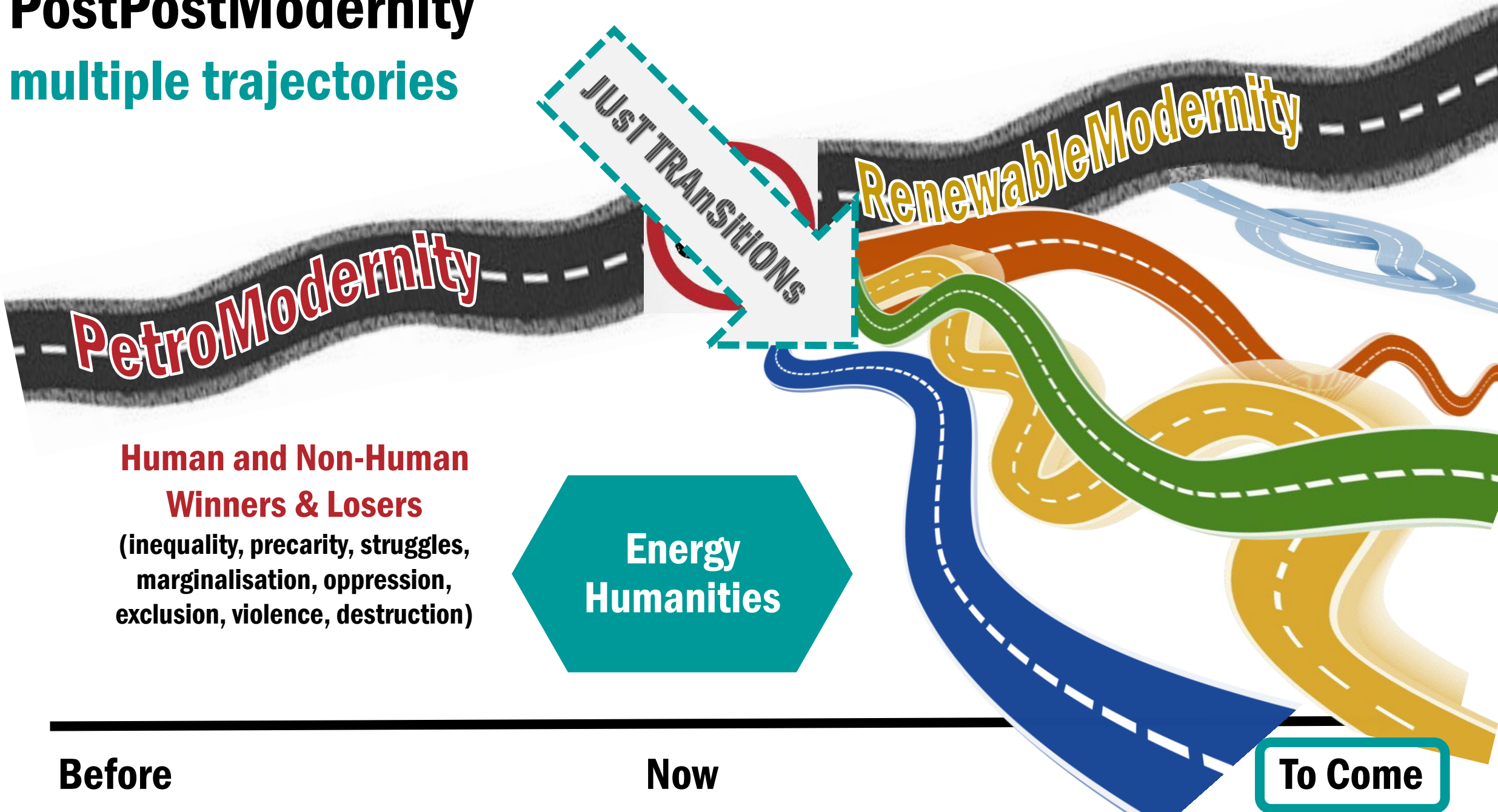
Before

Now

To Come

PostPostModernity

multiple trajectories



PetroModernity

**Human and Non-Human
Winners & Losers**
(inequality, precarity, struggles,
marginalisation, oppression,
exclusion, violence, destruction)

**Energy
Humanities**

JUST TRANSITIONS

RenewableModernity

Before

Now

To Come

Multiple trajectories to post-carbon societies re-thinking that challenges what and how we know

Critical Energy Literacy

Energy Communication

Reimagining Energy Futures



Imagining Energy Futures exhibition

JUST TRANSITIONS

values, ethics, beliefs,
power, habits,
feelings, institutions,
deliberations, care,
dignity

Energy
Humanities

Book-of-the-Future

THE CLIMATE
DOMESDAY
BOOK

Speculative Design



Before

Now

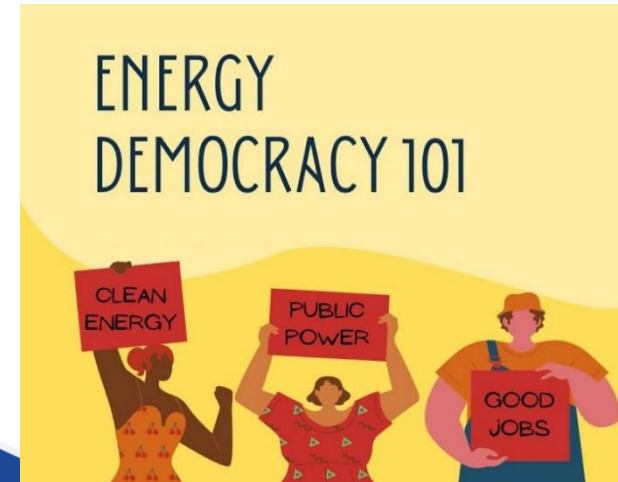
To Come

Multiple trajectories to post-carbon societies re-thinking that challenges what and how we do things

Energy Justice



Energy Democracy



<https://publicpower.ny.org/energy-democracy-101/>

REDUCTION REVOLUTION | 100% RENEWABLES | ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING

TOTALLY RENEWABLE DENMARK COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM

LOW CARBON FUTURE 'APPROACHING ZERO' | LOCAL JOBS & SMART INVESTMENTS



Energy Collectives



JUST TRANSITIONS



Multiple trajectories to post-carbon societies re-thinking that challenges what and how we know/do and how we work together

- **Broaden energy imaginaries**
 - **Enrich vocabularies**
- **Augment scientific rigour**
- **Inclusive participation**
 - **Co-creation**

“Today’s energy dilemmas
are fundamentally all
within the traditional
areas of expertise of the
humanities.” 2014



JUST

walk with us

**Energy
Humanities**

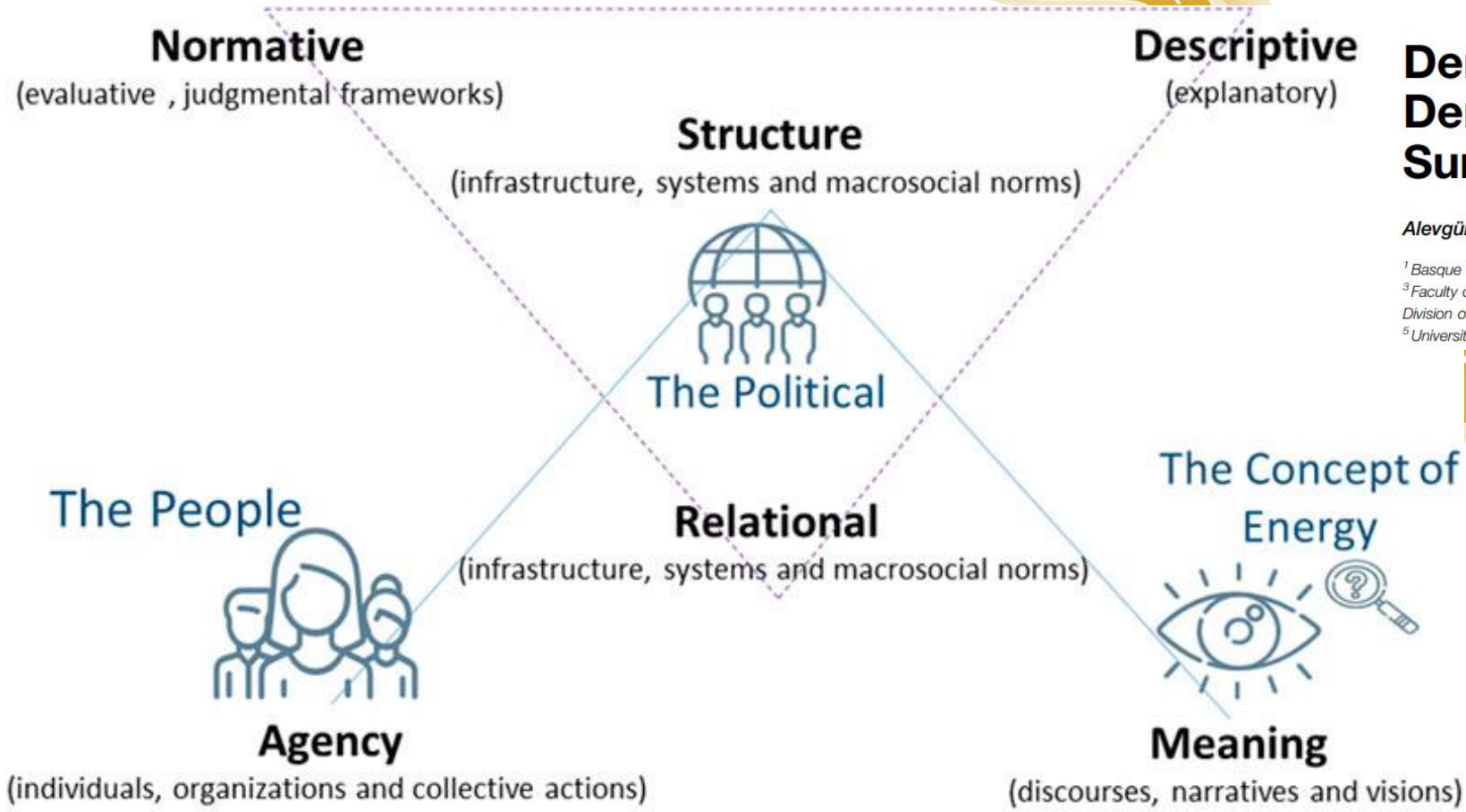
TRANSITIONS

Before

Now

To Come





Democratizing Energy, Energizing Democracy: Central Dimensions Surfacing in the Debate

Alevgül H. Sorman^{1,2}, Ethemcan Turhan^{3,4*} and Marti Rosas-Casals⁵

¹Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3), Leioa, Spain, ²IKERBASQUE, Basque Foundation for Science, Bilbao, Spain, ³Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands, ⁴Environmental Humanities Laboratory, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden, ⁵Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (BarcelonaTech-UPC), Barcelona, Spain

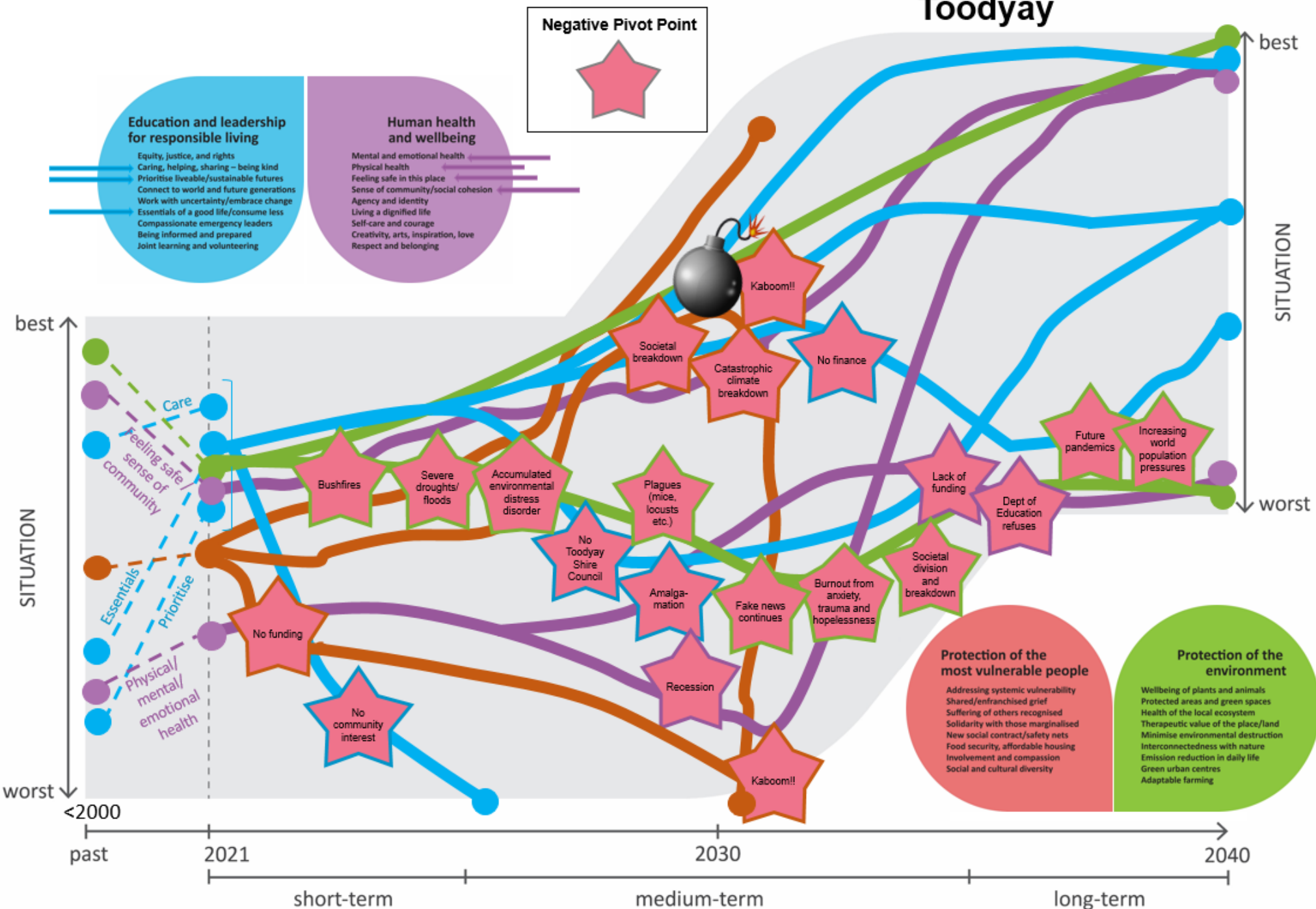




Back-casting



Toodyay



Back-casting



Curtin Credential

“Just Energy Transitions”

Learn how societies can decarbonise in a fair and responsible way and how energy solutions can be produced by industry and communities, together.



You will identify the inequities that determine access to clean and affordable energy and renewables and explore the unequal social and cultural costs of producing, transporting and using energy.

Your studies will examine energy poverty, energy democracy and energy care ethics, including the crucial role of sharing decision-making power. You will also look at different socio-political visions of ‘just energy’ transitions and the type of leadership needed to achieve these changes.

<https://creds.curtin.edu.au/courses/just-energy-transitions>

Call for Proposals

PETROCULTURES 2024: PERTH

November 2024, Precise Dates TBA

<https://www.petrocultures2024.com/perth.html>



THEME: “CONTESTED ENERGY FUTURES”

This conference explores distances, struggles, visions, dynamics, flows, regulations, and resistances in the reproduction of petrocultures. The conference provides a platform for voices of the South—from Western Australia, the country’s eastern States, the Indian Ocean Rim Region and beyond—to discuss energy futures, their problematic pasts, and what inclusive and just trajectories toward transitions to renewables may look like. This platform will allow us to merge scholarly contestations of possible and desirable energy futures with imaginative interventions from the creative arts, community activists, and First Nations’ yarns to prefigure more equitable and liveable energy outlooks.