



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

“Just Transition: Interdisciplinary Insights for Sustainable Pathways”

conference April 10th 2025 in Paris/Saint Quentin en Yvelines, France

Audencia, Business School, and Larequoi, the Research Laboratory in Management of the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines/University Paris Saclay, are organizing the conference "Public Management and Sustainable Policies" which will take place on April 10, 2025, in Paris, France. This edition is dedicated to the theme: "Just Transition: Interdisciplinary Insights for Sustainable Pathways."

We define sustainable public management as a set of policies and actions in which at least one of the stakeholders is a public organization and which are aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since 2021, the Just Transition Mechanism has aimed to mobilize approximately €55 billion by 2027 to support the most affected regions in transitioning to a climate-neutral economy. With 70 Territorial Just Transition Plans covering 96 territories now approved, actions have been initiated at different levels to ensure that the transition is fair and inclusive. These actions are interdisciplinary, involving initiatives from the public sector, private sector, and civil society.

These upheavals are varied: technological, socio-cultural, and ecological. They affect territories as socio-geographical spaces, particularly in terms of ecological changes, new social relationships between administrations, citizens, and private organizations, as well as new relationships with work and communal living. The transitions produce varied effects across different layers of society, necessitating the adaptation of daily social practices, the costs and efforts of which must be shared equitably.

However, questions arise regarding the distribution of these burdens. As such, social justice becomes a key element in the social acceptability of these transformations, yet it cannot be decreed and must be co-constructed by the various stakeholders. Socio-cultural changes provide opportunities to rethink our relationships with others but require deep work that is political, cultural, and socio-educational.

Finally, technological transitions can be seen either as a partial solution to certain ecological and socio-cultural issues or as part of the problem itself. Both technophilia and technophobia are problematic. The effects of technological transitions are multifaceted, simultaneously driving and being driven by ecological and social transformations. In short, these multiple transitions interact and produce complex, often unpredictable effects. They are being acutely felt by public authorities and administrations, which are expected to anticipate and manage them in the long term. It is this central role of public organizations, interacting with their stakeholders in an unstable and complex environment, that interests us in this conference.

This complexity necessitates considering public action as distributed among public service actors, citizens, users, and other socio-economic actors: companies, NGOs, media, etc. Public authorities and organizations play a key role in defining, planning, and implementing sustainable public policies regarding

territorial management, preserving equitable social relationships, and maintaining democratic values and the common good. Through these policies, their impact on society is significant, establishing regulatory, economic, and material infrastructures that foster sustainable social and economic practices among other stakeholders: businesses, citizens, etc. For these public policies to be considered sustainable, they must align with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Public organizations must themselves adapt to ecological, social, and technological transitions. They are encouraged to be more efficient, more innovative, and to offer personalized public services while maintaining constant or even decreasing resources. In other words, the challenges and issues to be addressed are becoming increasingly numerous and significant, while social and citizen monitoring intensifies. This tension results in significant cultural and organizational changes that are not always easy to manage, especially in a context where the public sector is not always attractive enough to recruit experts.

In short, public organizations must both respond to and simultaneously support citizens in adapting to current transitions. They must rethink their own structures while also devising responses for their users. The sustainable actions and projects initiated and led by public organizations must systematically address several Sustainable Development Goals and go far beyond the SDG associated with their primary administrative missions (for example, the "Quality Education" goal for educational institutions).

Thus, the relationships between public administrations, citizens, and private organizations are evolving. Approaches associated with participatory democracy are being increasingly tested. Public actors strive to co-construct public policies, projects, and actions. Co-constructing the meaning of public policies and actions promotes citizen engagement and the relevance of actions to specific contexts. In short, public organizations have a dual responsibility: in terms of both the content and effects of their policies, and in terms of the processes of dialogue, co-construction of meaning, and maintaining a democratic political system.

Public service missions are sometimes shared or even entrusted to private companies. Similarly, organizations in the social and solidarity economy, NGOs, and other forms of social movements and organizations are actors, partners, or even beneficiaries of sustainable public policies and actions. It seems necessary to study the relationships between stakeholders in ecosystems of varying scopes: territorial, sectoral, etc.

Topics

In light of the above issues the conference invites research presentations exploring the intersection of public and private sector actions on topics such as:

- Policy design and innovation
- Policy implementation and evaluation
- Change management in the public sector
- Sustainable territorial and urban management
- Innovative business models for transition (e.g., circular economy, ESG)
- Reskilling and upskilling workers
- Participative democracy
- Public-private partnerships
- NGO and social movement management
- Public communication
- Communication approach to sustainable development and just society

Selective bibliography

Bozeman, B., 2007. *Public Values and Public Interest: Counterbalancing Economic Individualism*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

International Labour Organisation Report, 2023. *Achieving a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*.

Heffron, R.J., 2021. What is the "Just Transition"? in: Heffron, R.J. (Ed.), *Achieving a Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy*. Springer International Publishing, Cham, pp. 9–19.

Leal Filho, W., Pons-Giralt, M., 2024. Beyond the Just Transition: a critical inquiries from the pluriverse. *Environ Sci Eur* 36.

Rouet, G., Raycheva, S., Côme, T. (2024) *Ethics and Innovation in Public Administration*, Springer: New York.

Keynote Speaker

- Bert George, Full Professor of Public Management & Strategy, Director of City U Research Cluster on Brain, Behavior and Society, City University of Hong Kong, Deputy Editor in Chief of Public Management Review.

Key Dates

- Submission deadline: February 7, 2025
- Notification of review results: February 15, 2025
- Registration deadline: March 15, 2025
- Conference date: April 10, 2025

Paper Submission Guidelines

Authors are invited to submit a max 1000-word document (including literature review, research question, methodology, and results, if any) in English, in PDF format, via the conference website. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the deadline.

Contact Information

For more details, visit the conference website <https://just-transition.sciencesconf.org/> or contact us at audencialarequogroup@gmail.com