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New Engagement Strategies for Energy Justice: Perspectives from the Next Generation

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Just Transitions

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Editors

New Engagement Strategies for Energy Justice

Perspectives from the Next Generation

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FOREWORD

In an era fraught with unprecedented environmental challenges, the discourse surrounding energy justice has never been more pressing. Moreover, the ever-evolving landscape of academia and scholarship demands inspiration from burgeoning scholars across the globe. Therefore, it was an honour and a privilege to be invited by Alicia Phillips and Laura Kaschny to introduce the significance of this book and its role in our efforts towards a more just and equitable energy future. “New Engagement Strategies for Energy Justice: Perspectives from the Next Generation” serves as a vital contribution to this dialogue, charting a path that bridges the gap between academic exploration and tangible societal impact.

This volume, with its five thoughtful and comprehensive parts, is more than just a repository of research; it is a testament to the boundless potential and ingenuity that young scholars bring to the table. This generation of researchers is distinct in its approach, characterized by an unparalleled agility with technology, a keen sense of social responsibility, and an inherent inclination towards interdisciplinary collaboration. They are not just consumers of knowledge but active creators, capable of bridging the gap between theory and action to address energy justice, one of the most complex challenges of our time.

I recently witnessed this first hand, during the 2024 International Energy Justice Early Career Conference at Tilburg University, expertly planned and executed by Alicia and Laura. There, the young scholars

assembled pushed the boundaries of what is known and ventured into uncharted territories of scientific inquiry with fresh perspectives.

This journey to produce impactful scholarship is not traversed in isolation. A considerable debt of gratitude is owed to the seasoned academics whose support and wisdom have been instrumental in nurturing the next generation of energy justice scholars. We take seriously our roles as mentors to contribute time, insights, and guidance to the impassioned young hearts that will take energy justice scholarship and action to new levels.

The success of this book and the authors of each chapter is a testament to the transformative potential of combining rigorous academic inquiry with an unwavering commitment to social equity. To the young researchers who aspire to see their work translate into real-world impact: remember, the journey from policy to action begins with clear communication, robust evidence, and unwavering persistence rooted in justice principles. Engage with communities, policymakers, and other stakeholders, understand their constraints, and present your findings in actionable terms. My own success has shown that when research is distilled into practical, relatable insights, it has the power to drive meaningful change.

May this book and its authors inspire you to dream boldly, research thoroughly, and, most importantly, act decisively. The future of energy justice scholarship is in your capable hands.

Yours in Energy Justice,

Tony G. Reames, Ph.D
Tishman Professor
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SERIES EDITOR'S PREFACE

Modernizing the energy sector across the world is the key challenge of society today. How this is achieved is of vital importance, and justice needs to be at the core of this aim. For too long the energy sector has not transformed its 'business-as-usual' approach despite all the evidence pointing to the need for change. The application of justice can ensure just outcomes from the energy sector and provide a pathway for action that tackles climate change and socio-economic issues.

For these reasons outlined above, it is commendable to see a new project be realized from its initial visions. In aiming to respond to the continued threats of the environmental impact of the energy sector, more literature is needed. More studies on energy justice and how it works and can be applied are needed. Indeed, over time, the best ideas for energy justice policymaking will survive over time, in essence, a 'survival of the fittest'. There are good chapters in this book, and I look forward to scholars interacting with this text into the future.

The book focuses on energy justice and how its principles can be applied. The five key principles are studied in different ways by the contributors. Overall, these justice principles which are being applied in many countries are already from early research, demonstrating success in achieving just outcomes for all. Even in China recently, there has been significant development in applying restorative justice to lower environmental impacts from industry activity.

This project is from a collective of young scholars on energy justice. The two editors have shown great vision to produce this compelling book whereby they also provided the opportunity for other young scholars. I look forward to their next contributions in the field of energy justice. Further, it is with thanks and they have had many scholars who have supported them on this journey for this project including Professors Tony Reames, Leonie Reins, Benjamin Sovacool, Xavier Arnaud de Sartre, and Martha Roggenkamp. Issues in climate and energy policy need more illumination and I hope all enjoy reading this project!

Anglet-Biarritz, France
August 2024

Raphael J. Heffron

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the product of a collaborative effort by a committed group of scholars who have made significant contributions to advancing the energy justice discourse in recent years. It is the result of a shared vision to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and to further develop the field of energy justice.

The co-editors would like to express sincere thanks to the below institutions and research projects, who collectively funded and supported the inaugural ‘International Energy Justice—Early Career Conference’, which took place in April 2024 in Tilburg, the Netherlands. It was from this Conference that the convenors for the Conference (the co-editors) saw the need to further collaborate and promote interdisciplinary discourse among the early career energy justice community. Thank you to:

- The New Energy Outlook for the Netherlands (NEON) research project, the Netherlands;
- Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology & Society (TILT), Tilburg University, the Netherlands;
- The Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour- Pau, France;
- The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France;
- The TRansitions Energétiques et Environnementales (TREE) Laboratory, France;
- The Energy Justice and Social Contract Chair, France;
- Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands; and

- The Measuring, Gathering, Mining & Integrating Data for Self-Management in the Edge of the Electricity System (MegaMind) research project, the Netherlands.

The co-editors would also like to express gratitude to Professors Tony Reames, Raphael Heffron, Benjamin Sovacool, Leonie Reins, Ronald de Jong, Xavier Arnauld de Sartre, and Martha Roggenkamp as well as Dr. Guy Block and Auke Hoekstra for their invaluable guidance and support throughout this journey. Their expertise and encouragement have been instrumental in shaping the direction of this work.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to our families and partners, Raphael and Magnus, for their enduring support.

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