

# Just Transition

The Global Energy Transition from a  
Regional Perspective

Maputo, Mozambique

October 10-13, 2024

This conference is a collaborative effort proudly hosted by Maputo Pedagogical University and the German Research Foundation (DFG) through the "Programme Point Sud". We are also delighted to partner with the University of Marburg (UMR), the University of Giessen (JLU), the German-Colombian Peace Institute (CAPAZ) and the Goethe University of Frankfurt/Main.



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# On the Conference

Climate change is reshaping the twenty-first century, with a critical focus on transitioning away from fossil fuels, which are major contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. The war in Ukraine and tensions between the so-called “West” and Russia have brought energy sovereignty to the forefront of political agendas in the Global North countries. These two drivers – long-term energy sovereignty concerns and the push for low-carbon societies – are likely to bolster support for renewable energy sources and transform resource extraction globally. At this historical juncture, the search for pathways for a just transition takes on great significance.

The concept of ‘just transition’ has evolved from a labor-focused discourse to a broader framework addressing the needs of those adversely affected by the shift to low-carbon societies. Endorsed by international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and COP declarations, ‘just transition’ now encompasses diverse interpretations across different actors and regions, leading to varied conceptualizations and operationalizations. This variability complicates discussions on how a ‘just transition’ in one country might lead to unjust outcomes elsewhere. And until now, the debate is very much nourished by Northern perspectives and interests.

For many Global South countries, which rely on exports of natural resources, the historical and colonial roots of this dependence influence current power dynamics and ideas about development. This dependency often results in socioenvironmental conflicts and deepens rentier dynamics, making it challenging to transition away from an extractivist development model. Local opposition to extractive projects reflects broader tensions, exclusions, and systemic issues, including racial and social inequities.

Critics argue that the envisioned green energy transition may exacerbate existing issues by intensifying mining activities and land use, potentially leading to new forms of ‘green extractivism’. This shift could transform regions into green ‘sacrifice zones’, as seen in disputes over large-scale renewable energy projects and extraction of so-called ‘transition minerals’ or ‘critical minerals’ like cobalt, copper or lithium. Yet, these detrimental effects of the global energy transition remain underexplored.

In many countries, national and regional challenges arise in addition to these global dimensions of the energy transition. The challenge here is not only to cope with global transformation, but also to ensure a functioning energy supply for the own population. Mozambique, where large parts of the population do not have access to electricity, or South Africa, where the population is regularly confronted with power cuts, are just two examples in this regard.

This conference seeks to address these research gaps by stimulating debate on the economic, social, and political impacts of the energy transition from regional and oftentimes marginalized perspectives from Sub-Saharan Africa. Across different disciplines, we aim to critically discuss the following key questions:

- What are the regional effects and realities of the energy transition outside the Global North, and how can the 'dark side' of sustainability and the energy transition be understood from various regional and local perspectives?
- What conditions are necessary for a 'just transition' in countries dependent on natural resource extraction and export?
- How can the international discourse on 'just transition' be made more inclusive by incorporating regional and local experiences?

# Programme

# Thursday, October 10

## 09:30-10:30 **OPENING WORDS**

**Luís Jorge Manuel António Ferrão**, Rector of Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo (Mozambique)

**Issa Fofana**, Point Sud Programme (Mali)

**António Osvaldo Saíde**, Vice-Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy (Mozambique)

**Ronald Münch**, Ambassador of the German Embassy in Mozambique (Germany)

**Urânio Stefane Mahanjane**, Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo (Mozambique) &

**Michaela Meurer**, University of Marburg (Germany), Organizing Committee

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## 10:30-11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

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## 11:00-12:30 **KEYNOTE: *Rethinking the Energy Transition with Care at its Core***

**Amollo Ambole**, University of Nairobi (Kenya)

**Moderated by** Stefan Peters, University of Giessen (Germany)

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## 12:30-14:00 **LUNCH**

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## 14:00-15:45 **ROUND TABLE: *'JUST TRANSITION' – REFLECTIONS FROM SUB-SAHARA AFRICA***

**Evance Mwachunga**, University of Malawi (Malawi)

**Michelle Pressend**, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

**Simon Bawakyillenuo**, University of Ghana (Ghana)

**Moderated by** Julia Schwab, University of Giessen (Germany)

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## 15:45-16:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

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## 16:15-17:45 **PANEL 1: *CHANGING PERSPECTIVES – DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS' STANCE ON THE ENERGY TRANSITION***

**Devan Pillay**, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa): The “just transition” and the pursuit of a counter-hegemonic, working class politics

**Vanesa Castán Broto**, University of Sheffield (UK): An intersectional perspective on community energy and its role in the sustainable energy transition

**Oliver Johnson**, UK Government Office for Science (UK): A gender perspective on energy transition

**Moderated by** Marcos Cherinda, UNESCO Maputo (Mozambique)

# Friday, October 11

09:00-10:45 **PANEL 2: MAPPING EXTRACTIVE FRONTIERS: PERSPECTIVES FROM MOZAMBIQUE**

**Angela Kronenburg García**, UCLouvain/University Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique): Shades of green: The energy transition and the extractive landscape in Mozambique  
**Emilinah Namaganda**, Utrecht University (Netherlands): Governing energy transition-related extraction in Mozambique: Harnessing sub-national actor interactions  
**Talassamo Saíde Ali**, Uni Rovuma (Mozambique): Industrialization and the environment: Perspectives on the socio-environmental impact of hydrocarbon extraction in the District of Palma, Mozambique

**Moderated by** Michaela Meurer, University of Marburg (Germany)

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10:45-11:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

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11:15-12:30 **PANEL 3: THE DARK SIDE OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION: PERSPECTIVES FROM BEYOND AFRICA**

**Antonio Maria Pusceddu**, CRIA-ISCTE (Portugal): Contentious transition: The making of internal energy frontiers in Southern Europe  
**Julia Schwab**, University of Giessen (Germany): The Double-Bind of (Post)Oil Futures in Ecuador

**Moderated by** Arsénio Mindú, Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo (Mozambique)

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12:30-14:30 **LUNCH**

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14:30-16:30 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: 'JUST TRANSITION': A CHALLENGE FOR POLICY MAKERS**

**Nadia Ouedraogo**, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Ethiopia)  
**Stefan Peters**, University of Giessen - CAPAZ Institute (Germany)  
**Linda Weber**, GIZ Sector Programme Extractives and Development (Germany)  
**António Osvaldo Saíde**, Vice-Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy (Mozambique)  
**Olga Utchavo Madeira**, Electricidade de Moçambique (Mozambique)

**Moderated by** Urânio Stefane Mahanjane, Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo (Mozambique)



## Saturday, October 12

09:00-10:30 **KEYNOTE: *Ubuntu World/view in Response to Just Energy Transition: A Utopian Imaginary?***

**Aïda Terblanché-Greeff**, North-West University (South Africa): Ubuntu

**Moderated by** Bento Rúpia Júnior, Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo (Mozambique)

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10:30-11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

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11:00-12:30 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: *THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION***

**Carla Braga**, University Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique)

**Andreas Meurer**, German Aerospace Center (Germany)

**Ruy Llera Blanes**, ISCTE-IUL/CRIA (Portugal)

**Moderated by** Michaela Meurer, University of Marburg (Germany)

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12:30-14:30 **LUNCH**

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14:30-16:30 **FINAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: *A WORLD BEYOND EXTRACTIVISM: TOWARDS GLOBALLY JUST FUTURES***

**Urânio Stefane Mahanjane**, Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo (Mozambique)

**Esther Miedema**, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**Damião Victor Namuera**, Head of Renewable Energy Department, Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (Mozambique)

**Florian Pfaffenholz**, GIZ (Germany)

**Moderated by** Stefan Peters, University of Giessen (Germany)

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16:30-16:45 **CLOSING REMARKS**

## Sunday, October 13

### **EXCURSION TO “NEER UP – PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS FOR IRRIGATION”**

*Note: You need to register to the excursion during the conference*

The Center for Research and Training in Renewable Energies and Sustainable Food Production in the rural community of Nhongonhane, Marracuene District, Maputo Province was built by the Núcleo de Electrónica e Energias Renováveis (NEER) at the Pedagogical University of Maputo from 2020 to 2022 as part of the university extension project titled “Photovoltaic System for Sustainable Irrigation of Family Farming Units and Training of Young People and Women in the District of Marracuene, Maputo Province.”

The Center links renewable energies with agriculture and education to contribute to the energy transition and the achievement of all sustainable development goals. The main activities of the Center are interdisciplinary and interinstitutional research, training in renewable energies, and sustainable food production and processing. The target groups for the training programs are children, pupils, students, youth, women and men from disadvantaged communities, teachers, and school representatives.

# Abstracts

## KEYNOTE 1: RETHINKING THE ENERGY TRANSITION WITH CARE AT ITS CORE

**Amollo Ambole**, University of Nairobi (Kenya)

The energy transition is often seen as a technical challenge, but at its heart, it's a question of justice, filled with tough choices and trade-offs that impact our daily lives. To make this transition truly just, we need to shift the focus to what matters most: caring for each other, our communities, and this planet we all call home. Instead of treating technology as the hero of the energy story, let's view it as a tool to help us build a care-based society. Building such a society requires us to reflect on how socio-technological shifts and policy transformations can uplift lives while healing our environment. Let us draw on inspiring stories from Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond to explore how centering care can guide us through this difficult yet essential journey. I encourage us to think bigger, dig deeper, and imagine a future where justice, community, and sustainability are at the heart of our energy choices. My hope is that by the end of this gathering, we will rethink the energy transition not as an energy provision challenge, but as an opportunity to re-engineer how we live and thrive together.

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## KEYNOTE 2: UBUNTU WORLD/VIEW IN RESPONSE TO JUST ENERGY TRANSITION: A UTOPIAN IMAGINARY?

**Aïda Terblanché-Greeff**, North-West University (South Africa)

Approaches to just energy transitions in the Global South are often grounded in the hegemonic onto-epistemic assumptions of Western modernity where the individualistically orientated homo oeconomicus places instrumental value on nature. Alternative approaches founded on world(s)/views that differ from that of the One-world world are frequently ignored or silenced. Scholars call for a pluriverse approach – a world of many worlds – to overcome the dominance of the One-world world when investigating ways to address the contemporary polycrisis. In response, I aim to facilitate what might be perceived as a utopian imaginary by presenting aspects of a different world/view based on indigenous African thought. I introduce a relational ontology by focusing on Ubuntu as humanness and a way of life, Ukama as relatedness, and the resultant principle of sufficiency. By proposing such a utopian imaginary, I challenge the status quo of the One-world world. This is motivated by the need

to critically examine existing conditions and explore transformative possibilities that align with the world/views of often marginalised societies impacted by just energy transition initiatives. I conclude that incorporating alternative world/views – such as those derived from an Ubuntu world/view - may facilitate a more equitable and contextually appropriate approach to a just energy transition.

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## PANEL 1: CHANGING PERSPECTIVES – DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS’ STANCE ON THE ENERGY TRANSITION

**Devan Pillay**, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa)

### ***The “just transition” and the pursuit of a counter-hegemonic, working class politics***

As the science of climate change becomes irrefutable, alongside the increased recognition of a range of other environmental threats, the discourse around a 'just transition' to a post-carbon future has increased in intensity. The dominant discourse, however, has taken the form of a green capitalism that says little about the social dimensions of 'fossil' capitalism, including rising inequality (both between and within countries) and a deep appreciation of patriarchy. Thinking and practice around eco-socialism and feminism has come from groups outside the dominant paradigms. They draw on growing struggles and bodies of thought throughout the world that grapple with the ravages of 'fossil' capitalism, colonial dispossession and patriarchy. New thinking has emerged around happiness and wellbeing, degrowth, a Green New Deal and ecosocialism, and the pursuit of a broad counter-hegemonic, 'working class' politics.

**Vanesa Castán Broto**, University of Sheffield (UK)

### ***An intersectional perspective on community energy and its role in the sustainable energy transition***

Gender has long been a central topic for discussion in relation to energy provision and energy access, but it becomes particularly prominent when considering community energy and transitions to sustainable energy. Gender relations continue to shape infrastructure networks. There is a gender gap in the energy transition both in terms of women and gender non-conforming people being able to access the green labour market, and in terms of understanding how gender relations are at the root of energy injustices. This chapter engages with feminist theory and asks what does an intersectional perspective mean for community energy. In particular, the chapter argues that an intersectional perspective enables a radical rethinking of the technological, political, social, and institutional dimensions of the energy transition.

**Oliver Johnson**, UK Government Office for Science (UK)

***A gender perspective on energy transition***

Transitions to low-carbon energy systems are essential to meeting global commitments to climate change mitigation. Yet “greening” energy systems may not make them any fairer, inclusive or just. In this presentation, I present insights from a review of the academic literature to understand the state of knowledge on how diffusion of low-carbon technologies impacts gender and social equity in intersectional ways. Findings from this review show that renewable energy projects alone cannot achieve gender and social equity, as energy interventions do not automatically tackle the structural dynamics embedded within socio-cultural and socio-economic contexts. If existing power asymmetries related to access and resource distribution are not addressed early on, the same structural inequalities will simply be replicated and transferred over into new energy regimes. To help ground these findings, I also present real-world examples from in-depth research on energy and gender in Zambia and Kenya.

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## **PANEL 2: MAPPING EXTRACTIVE FRONTIERS: PERSPECTIVES FROM MOZAMBIQUE**

**Angela Kronenburg**, UCLouvain (Belgium)/University Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique)

***Shades of green: The energy transition and the extractive landscape in Mozambique (in co-authorship with Nikkie Wiegink from Utrecht University)***

In this paper, we explore how the energy transition as a global narrative is shaping the extractive landscape of Mozambique. The energy transition narrative calls for a shift away from fossil fuels towards a low-carbon future and aligns with a larger discourse on the “green economy” (Symons 2018). We wonder what the politics are of this global narrative as it translates into Mozambican contexts.

Rather than focusing on one extractive industry we “study through” the energy transition narrative by exploring how it shapes, and is mediated by, three different industries all present in Mozambique: coal mining, Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) extraction, and graphite mining. We consider the different ways in which the energy transition narrative translates in relation to each of these sectors, resulting in divestment of coal mining (coal being a classic fossil fuel) by large multinationals; portrayal of LNG as a “transition fuel”; and graphite as a “green mineral”. We identify three themes that cut across these sectors and allow for comparative analysis: 1) futures in the relation to the energy transition; 2) extractive booms and busts; 3) experiences of dispossession and displacement by people living in the surroundings of extractive projects. The data presented in this article derives from ethnographic fieldwork of both authors in and on extractive projects in Mozambique.

**Emilinah Namaganda**, Utrecht University (Netherlands)

***Governing energy transition-related extraction in Mozambique: Harnessing sub-national actor interactions***

This paper examines the role of the sub-national level in governing energy transition-related extractivism in Africa toward a just energy transition, going beyond the national and international levels where previous analyses have focused. It pays particular attention to how the interactions among various actors at this level influence the implications of these processes. The paper draws on the case of Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique where graphite and natural gas extraction is expanding, and where over 70 interviews with actors involved in resource governance were conducted. Various bilateral and multi stakeholder engagements are observed among the actors (including government, NGOs, transnational corporations, research institutions, and foreign agencies). However, the engagements are fragmented and often short-lived, limiting the ability of the actors to steer the extraction processes toward a just energy transition. The paper argues for more attention to subnational actor dynamics and their influence on the outcomes of energy transition-related resource extraction in efforts to enhance the contribution of these processes to a just transition.

**Talassamo Saíde Ali**, Uni Rovuma (Mozambique)

***Industrialization and the environment: Perspectives on the socio-environmental impact of hydrocarbon extraction in the District of Palma, Mozambique***

The first oil research in the Rovuma basin in Mozambique began in the 1980s. In 2007 Anadarko occupied the area and in 2019 sold the shares to Total Energy to continue the project. The mega project created expectations for the development of the local community.

With this work inserted in the thematic axis of the fair energy transition, the aim is to analyze the contribution of the oil industry to the sustainable development of local communities in Palma due to the potential of hydrocarbons and new local geopolitics. Based on the principle that in Mozambican territory the installation of an industry in the cities of Maputo, Beira, Nacala, Pemba has a different view on the impacts on the local community and the way in which populations are accommodated, due to the level of information and knowledge of the impacts of mega projects in sustainable development.

The results of our research indicate that until 2019 local communities had the prospect of having International Airport, access roads, increase in health, education and other infrastructures, but the reality is that there are more deaths of people due to wars, destruction of infrastructures, benefactors, fragmentation of families, kidnapping, murder and sexual and morality of children and young people, destruction and pollution of ecosystems. This leads us to reflect in this work that the mega projects in Palma are not sustainable because the economic development of a mega project is summed up by social, economic and environmental sustainability, which we do not find in Palma.

## PANEL 3: THE DARK SIDE OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION: PERSPECTIVES FROM BEYOND AFRICA

**Antonio Maria Pusceddu**, CRIA-ISCTE (Portugal)

### ***Contentious transition: The making of internal energy frontiers in Southern Europe***

The paper examines the energy transition from a peripheral European regional perspective. It focuses on a Portuguese coastal area (Sines), which has attracted a considerable volume of foreign investments related to (and presented as relevant for) the energy transition. The industrial reconfiguration of a predominantly oil and coal-based industrial region towards the “green” and digital economy is based on the expansion of renewable energies in the immediate inland. The “greening” of industrial production is thus being planned at the expense of rural areas, where some of the largest solar park projects in Europe have been approved or are under discussion, subordinating the spatially intensive expansion of renewables to the energy-intensive concentration of “green” industries. The ongoing expansion of construction activities is also attracting a growing temporary workforce, with a significant (and relatively new) presence of non-European migrant communities. While the region has become a national hotspot for “green” investment, it has also become a contested terrain for Portuguese climate justice movements promoting alternative, bottom-up visions of just transition. Situating the Portuguese case within a broader regional and global perspective, the paper attempts to connect different scales and dynamics of the energy transition to illustrate the complexity of its controversial development.

**Julia Schwab**, University of Giessen (Germany)

### ***The Double-Bind of (Post)Oil Futures in Ecuador***

This study delves into the nested hierarchy of plans and powers that shape Ecuador's state planning, particularly in the realm of decarbonization. Despite the mainstreaming of climate change initiatives, the persistence of extractivist logic remains evident, revealing a complex interplay between global climate policies and national development strategies. State policies exhibit a parallelism by fostering conservation initiatives alongside extractive projects in the Amazon region, resulting in the creation of "conservation islands" amidst expanding zones of oil exploitation. These conservation islands serve as symbolic gestures towards environmental stewardship while enabling the underlying extractivist agenda to persist. The rhetoric of climate justice further complicates this landscape, often highlighting the North-South dichotomy to obscure pressing internal justice issues, such as social inequities and environmental degradation within the country. By critically examining the double-bind of (post)oil futures, I seek to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in addressing the climate crisis in Ecuador and beyond.

# Biographies

**Aïda C. Terblanché-Greeff** is a senior lecturer in the School of Philosophy at North-West University, South Africa. She previously served as an extraordinary researcher in the focus area Social Transformation at the same institution. Aïda holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Johannesburg. Her research focuses on African philosophy, social philosophy, cross-cultural studies, disaster studies, and environmental ethics. Her work is characterized by its empirical engagement and interdisciplinary approach, contributing significantly to her areas of expertise. She has published in reputable national and international journals and books. Finally, she is a steering committee member of the Institute for Contemporary Ethics.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* School of Philosophy at North-West University (South Africa)

**Amollo Ambole** is a seasoned development and innovation expert with 17 years of experience in academia, international development, and philanthropy. In academia, Amollo has spearheaded pivotal energy-related projects like the "Co-Designing Energy Communities (CoDEC)" project and the "Gender for Energy Security (GENS) project, which aimed to foster inclusivity in the energy sector in diverse Africa cities. With a firm background in design, Amollo employs human-centered design and co-creation approaches to promote user-focused solutions. Having a disability has bolstered Amollo's resolve to create sustainable innovations that elevate livelihoods and promote effective leadership, generating lasting positive change across Africa.

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**Andreas Meurer** studied mechanical engineering with a focus on energy technology at the Kaiserslautern Technical University and Dresden Technical University, both located in Germany. Previously he worked as a design engineer in the field of power plant engineering and technical equipment. In 2019 he joined the German Aerospace Center (DLR) as a PhD candidate with a focus on sustainable fuel production at the department of Energy Systems Analysis. Since 2023, he has been a researcher with a focus on: Energy systems analysis in national and regional contexts; technology assessment in the context of complex sustainable energy systems; medium- and long-term energy scenarios; national and global policy strategies in the context of climate change mitigation pathways.



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*Institutional Affiliation:* German Aerospace Center (Germany)

**Angela Kronenburg** is an anthropologist, researcher, and currently an F.R.S.-FNRS postdoctoral fellow at the UCLouvain (Belgium) doing a multi-sited ethnographic study on energy transition, graphite mining and the politics of anticipation in Europe, Mozambique and Australia. She is also involved in collaborative research on land demarcation and religious change (Kenya) and alternatives to extractivism (Mozambique). Angela is based in Maputo, Mozambique and affiliated to the Department of Archeology and Anthropology of the University Eduardo Mondlane.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) and Board of Academic Directors at State University of Maringá (Brazil)

**Antonio Maria Pusceddu**, PhD, is an anthropologist and senior researcher at the Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia (CRIA), Iscte, Lisbon. He is currently developing a comparative project on industrialization, socioenvironmental change and popular ecologies in Southern Europe, at the intersection of economic anthropology and political ecology. He's also interested in value theory, social reproduction and extractivism. His latest publications include "Energopolitics of transition: The Political Ecology of Anticipation in the Portuguese Lithium Rush" (Anthropological Quarterly, 2024) and the coedited book "The Global Life of Mines: Mining and Post-Mining in Comparative Perspective" (Berghahn 2024).

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**Antonio Osvaldo Saíde** has been Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy since June 2022. He is an expert in renewable energy, with a career focused on this sector. Antonio started as an Energy Systems Analyst and progressed to key leadership roles, including Chairman of the Energy Fund (Fundo de Energia), where he developed off-grid electrification projects. He contributed to Mozambique's National Electrification Strategy in 2018. Internationally, he represented Southern Africa on the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership Board from 2009 to 2012. Antonio holds a degree in Applied Physics from Eduardo Mondlane University and a Master's in Renewable Energy from Beuth University, Germany.

*Institutional Affiliation:* Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (Mozambique)

**Carla Braga** holds a PhD in Anthropology from the State University of New York and is Associate Professor of Anthropology. She is part of several international research projects, including “Alternatives to Extractivism (A2E): Collaborative examinations of ways of knowing, being and doing in relation to the (sub)surface in Mozambique and beyond”. Carla’s research interests are in the intersection of Land, Livelihoods and Health. She has been researching topics ranging from Gender and Land Governance to Decolonial readings of knowledge production about Africa. Her current research interest is on the onto-epistemic dimensions of extractivism.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique)

**Damião Victor Namuera** graduated in Geology from Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in 2006. His professional experience dates back to 2005 in the private sector and later 2007 when he joined the Ministry of Energy. He participated in the development of several Strategic programs and documents for the energy sector with a focus on renewable energy and participated in several professional courses. In 2014 he was appointed Head of the Renewable Energy Department at the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy. The Master's degree in Renewable Energy Systems Management at UEM began in 2022, and is in the process of preparing the Thesis. It is a national focal point for ISA, IRENA, AREI, ARGeo and other platforms for dialogue and strengthening energy actions.

*Institutional Affiliation:* Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (Mozambique)

**Devan Pillay** was formerly a political prisoner under the during apartheid regime, and has worked in academia, the alternative media, government and the National Union of Mineworkers. His research interests include labour history, political economy, ecological Marxism, and the interface between ecosocialist, happiness and wellbeing perspectives. He has published extensively on these topics in the popular media, academic journals and books.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* Global Labour University (International) and Sociology Department at University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

**Emilinah Namaganda** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning of Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Her research looks at the implications of an expanding frontier of energy transition-related extractivism for societies and environments in Africa, with a specific focus on Mozambique.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* Utrecht University (Netherlands)

**Esther Miedema** is a social scientist, with a background in feminist theory and pedagogy, and gender and sexuality studies. I am interested in narratives of nation, development, socio-ecological justice and the role of education, broadly conceived, in their conception. I explore how research and education can contribute to thinking, imagining and doing otherwise, and working with (visual) artists is a budding part of my work. Beyond my work in/through the University of Amsterdam, I work with various civil society organisations that seek to review and alter their modes of collaboration across geographic 'divides,' particularly those between the so-called Global South and North.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* Department of Geography, Planning and International Development at University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**Evance Mwachunga** is an Associate Professor of Human Geography and Planning at the University of Malawi. He holds a PhD in Geography and Environmental Studies from Stellenbosch University and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Heriot-Watt University. His research focuses on urban development politics in Africa, sustainability in post-industrial cities, and energy geography. He has published on spatial energy justice in Malawi and he is currently researching on the making of African cities through large scale urban investments. He was a Visiting Scholar at Witwatersrand University. He is the coordinator of the MSc and PhD in geography. He served as Commissioner and Chair of the policy subcommittee for the Malawi National Planning Commission.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* University of Malawi (Malawi)

## **Florian Pfaffenholz**

*Institutional Affiliation:* German Development Cooperation, GIZ (Germany)

**Julia Schwab** is a research associate and PhD candidate at the Chair of Peace Studies at the University of Giessen (Germany). She holds a Master's in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University (Sweden) and a Bachelor's in Anthropology and History from Heidelberg University (Germany). Her research on post-oil futures and Indigenous autonomy in the Ecuadorian Amazon lies at the intersection of the anthropology of futures, resource affects and the anthropology of oil. Her general research interests revolve around human-Nature relationships, extractivism and the energy transition.

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*Institutional Affiliation:* Chair for Peace Studies at University of Giessen (Germany)

**Linda Weber** works since 2021 for the Sector Programme Extractives and Development at Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Her focus of work is strengthening gender equality in the extractive sector, in line with the Feminist Development Policy that was presented in 2023 by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). With her master's degree in physical geography, she also works in the field of environment and climate in mining.

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