

Call for papers:

Special Issue Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft:

Multilevel Governance of Energy Transitions in Europe

Guest editors: Jörg Radtke & Stefan Wurster

Since well before the EU Clean Energy Package of 2018 multilevel frameworks including local, national and international (EU) strategies characterize the governance of energy transitions in European countries. In doing so, multilevel governance can create conflicts and hurdles as well as opportunities and benefits for the complex sociopolitical-technical task of transforming an energy system. To better understand its consequences research in the field of energy transition requires a multiple understanding of political scales, energy policy strategies and how deeply interrelated social and technical systems are. Therefore, questions about technical feasibility and implementation should be complemented by theoretical and empirical investigations focusing on governance theory, policy research, and institutionalization from a comparative perspective. In our Special Issue, we want to stress the alignment of theoretical and analytical approaches enhancing the accountability, legitimacy and functionalities of the energy transition in European countries. Case studies regarding different national energy systems as well as transformations on the local and urban level should be accompanied by comparative analysis of thematic fields concerning for example renewable energies, coal, grids and mobility, and theoretical considerations on energy transition governance. An overarching essential point of reference is the questionable success of cooperation of actors and institutions in multilevel governance arrangements. The contributions in the Special Issue should present various examples of success and failure of cooperation in energy governance processes. The aim is to discuss different obstacles and setbacks in achieving positive effects such as better problem solving and decision-making. In doing so, the findings should complement and add to literature on multilevel governance in general, as well as in energy transitions in particular. We want to draw conclusions from the theoretical research on governance as well as broadening the view on specific energy transition issues as well as governance strategies on the national and local level. The contributions of the Special Issue should provide an overview of multilevel governance configurations in the field of energy transition, address problems and barriers to new modes of governance, and discuss new approaches to improved cooperation. The empirical case studies and comparative analyses can include political institutions, energy transition practitioners, energy companies, civil society organizations and local authorities as well as regional representatives.

If interested to contribute, please submit your paper proposal (max. 200 words outlining topic and research design) by January 15, 2020 to Jörg Radtke (radtke@politikwissenschaft.uni-siegen.de) and Stefan Wurster (stefan.wurster@hfp.tum.de). Based on the submissions, the guest editors will select papers that have the potential to contribute innovative insights and speak to each other. Once the Special Issue proposal gets final approval from the editors of *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft*, the selected papers have to undergo a regular peer review process.