

ProBE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

WBS – WESTMINSTER BUSINESS SCHOOL in collaboration with
fABE – FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

WORKSHOP:

WHAT KIND OF GREEN AND JUST TRANSITION? WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

DATE: **Thursday 12 July 2018, 12 noon-18.00pm**

VENUE: **Room CG28**, University of Westminster Marylebone
Campus,

35 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LS (opposite Madame Tussaud
and diagonal from Baker Street tube station)



There is much discussion as well as divergent approaches to the question of a just transition to a low carbon economy, revolving around what is achievable by the market or by ecological modernisation and whether instead a much more radical transformation is necessary. This workshop addresses this debate and is concerned in particular with the active role of workers and the trade unions in this transition, including examples from the built environment of successful intervention.

11.30-12.00	REGISTRATION AND COFFEE		
12.00-12.05	Welcome: Introduction: Vice-Chancellor	Dr Peter Bonfield tbc	University of Westminster
SESSION 1: WHAT IS A GREEN AND JUST TRANSITION? CHAired BY			
12.05-12.25	Just Transition and Beyond Just Transition: Strategies, Tactics, Labour Leadership	Carla Lipsig Mummé	York University, Toronto
12.25-12.45	Enabling city networks for green transitions	Fred Steward	University of Westminster
12.45-13.05	Trade Union Approaches to Just Transition Strategy	Sam Mason	Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union
13.05-13.30	Discussion		
13.30-14.15	LUNCH BREAK		
SESSION 2: CONSTRUCTING A LOW CARBON BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY PROVISION CHAired BY			
14.15-14.35	From constructing carbon-intensive to low carbon energy supply	Colin Gleeson	ProBE/University of Westminster
14.35-14.55	Conflicting ways from Black to Green	Béla Galgóczi	European Trade Union Institute
14.55-15.15	Green jobs and sustainability in European offshore wind turbine manufacturing	Lisa Schulte	Middlesex University
15.15-15.35	Discussion		
15.35-15.55	COFFEE BREAK		
SESSION 3: GREEN TRANSITIONS, TRADE UNION ACTIONS AND LOCALITIES			
15.55-16.15	Green Transitions in the built environment in Europe	Linda Clarke and Melahat Sahin-Dikmen	ProBE/University of Westminster
16.15-16.35	Framing Just Transition	Dimitris Stevis	Colorado State University
16.35-17.00	Discussion		
PANEL SESSION: WHERE DO TRADE UNIONS GO FROM HERE? CHAired BY			
17.00-18.00	Mercedes Landolfi (Fillea CGIL, Italy); Philip Pearson (GJA); Vivian Price (US)		
18.00-18.30	Winding up: Professor Malcolm Kirkup (tbc): Dean, Westminster Business School Followed by drinks		

To reserve a place and for further information, contact, Melahat Sahin-Dikmen M.Sahindikmen@westminster.ac.uk or Linda Clarke: clarkel@westminster.ac.uk

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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Professor Linda Clarke will argue that a transformation in the coalition of actors and in the construction labour process and the construction vocational education and training system are needed if a just transition to meeting European low energy construction targets is to be achieved. Low energy construction requires a holistic approach to VET and integrated teamworking at odds with the individualised system of employment in construction, dominated by self-employment, a myriad of small firms and extensive subcontracting. Linda is a Director of the Centre for the Study of the Production of the Built Environment, University of Westminster, an Associate Director and partner in the ACW project, and on the board of the European Institute for Construction Labour Research. She has extensive experience of comparative research on labour, equality and diversity, vocational education and training (VET), and wage relations in the European construction sector.

Dr Béla Galgóczi will argue why `just green transition` is different from any other transformation (globalisation or digitalisation that also fundamentally reshape the world of work) and why more public responsibility is needed to shape it properly. A number of cases from around the world will demonstrate how conflicting interests can be overcome with social dialogue and coalition building. Béla is senior researcher at the European Trade Union Institute, among others dealing with the effects of decarbonisation and with the role of trade unions in building just transition strategies. He has edited the book <https://www.etui.org/Publications2/Books/Europe-s-energy-transformation-in-the-austerity-trap> and is author of a recent ILO policy brief on just transition.

Dr Colin Gleeson will address the transition from fossil fuels to low carbon/renewable electricity supply and its implications for engineering construction workers. This transition challenges both traditional employers and workers, yet opens up new possibilities for highly skilled employment. What are these new forms of generation, how do they differ from the old and how can the engineering construction trade unions respond? Colin's insights are based on his experience as a JIB plumber-welder, as a building services engineer and his research in applied low carbon technologies. He is a co-investigator in the ACW project, a Director of ProBE, Reader at the University of Westminster and Honorary Reader at University College London.

Mercedes Landolfi is responsible for the International and European Department of the Italian construction trade union FILLEA-CGIL (*Federazione italiana lavoratori legno ed affini*) as well as for Gender, Migration, Refugees and the Mediterranean Policies, collaborating with the CGIL Confederation on these matters. She is also responsible for Gender Issues for FETBB European Federation and a Member of ETUC Women; Standardisation; Collective Bargaining and wage, Migration and Inclusion Permanent Committee. She has worked for the construction trade union: 16 years and has also been involved in the Green Building and Climatic Transition for the last five years.

Professor Carla Lipsig Mummé is Professor of Work and Labour Studies at York University, Toronto, and Principal Investigator of the 7-year international research project based in Canada, entitled *Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change: Canada in International Perspective (ACW)*. ACW is organising union-partnered projects for just transition, with strategies for making labour leadership central to this work. Carla will highlight the more than significant danger of duplicating each other, at least in the Global North, given the huge and growing volume of writing on Just Transition, attracting pop-ups as well as established research institutes. Drawing on the UNFCCC's 2016 and ILO's 2018 profiles of ACW's work, she will discuss: the structuring questions; the seriously central importance for labour leadership; and dissemination and international union exchange of best practices for both JT tactics and Beyond JT strategy. Carla began her working life as a trade union organiser in Quebec, California and Ontario, working with farmworkers, garment workers, and teachers. Since 2008, she has focused her research and organising on the need for labour leadership in the struggle to slow global warming. In 2018 she was awarded the Sefton-Williams Award for Contributions to Labour Relations and Human Rights.

Sam Mason will set out some of the current debate within trade unions on Just Transition from being a redundancy policy to a transformative agenda that argues against the market driven 'green' transition. This will focus specifically on the UK but also draw on the international discussion for a more 'social movement' based trade union approach to Just Transition that recognises the weakness of organised labour within a corporatist model of consultation. Sam is a Policy Officer at PCS trade union within the Assistant General Secretary's office with whom she works on taking forward PCS's policy climate change and environmental issues. She is the main author of the PCS pamphlet: *Just Transition and Energy Democracy: a civil service perspective*.

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Philip Pearson is former Senior Policy Officer in the TUC's Economic & Social Affairs Department covering energy and climate change, sustainable development and the green economy. He represented the TUC on both the ETUC and ITUC's working groups on climate change. Among his present activities, Philip is currently coordinator of the Greener Jobs Alliance, a member of Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED), advises the Yorkshire and the Humber TUC's low carbon industrial regions strategy, and is chair of Hackney Energy in London.

Professor Vivian Price Vivian Price is a Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies at California State University and coordinates Labour Studies. She is active in community and labour issues, focusing on social justice unionism and the struggle against environmental racism, and has worked in factories, refineries and as a union construction electrician and apprenticeship instructor. Vivian has a PhD in Politics and Society and is a filmmaker whose award winning work on labour issues includes *Hammering It Out* (2000), *Transnational Tradeswomen* (2006), *Harvest of Loneliness* (2010). She has published widely on gender and labour, visuality and pedagogy, as well as collaborating with artists and workers and students on visual exhibits on social justice. Vivian is currently a Spring 2018 Fulbright Scholar at the University of Liverpool whose research focuses on how labour unions are addressing climate change.

Dr Melahat Sahin-Dikmen is a Research Fellow at ProBE. Drawing on findings from two projects, this presentation will discuss implications of the European Union led transition to nearly zero energy building for vocational education and training and employment in the construction sector. Melahat's interests lie in the sociology of work and employment. Previously, she studied the divisions and narratives of architecture as a professional field of practice. Before that, she worked at the Policy Studies Institute, University of Westminster, on labour market disadvantage and discrimination in relation to women, ethnic minorities and migrants.

Dr Lisa Schulte's contribution will shed light on job quality in the offshore wind turbine manufacturing industry in Denmark, Germany and England. While most scientists support that transitioning from fossil fuel to renewables is essential to life on Earth, policy-makers see in it an opportunity for creating good jobs. Yet large parts of the manufacturing workforce are agency workers. How does this fit with transitioning to a green and sustainable society? Lisa is a Lecturer in Organisational Behaviour at Middlesex University. Her research interests are job quality and employment relations in renewable energy technology industries as well as industrial, active labour market policy and vocational education and training. Her research approach is comparative with a focus on Denmark, France, Germany and the UK and she has published in the *Journal of European Social Policy* and *Human Relations*.

Professor Dimitris Stevis will address the deep contestation over the ownership and meaning of Just Transition, arguing for the importance of thinking about it systematically so that we can, at the very least, differentiate initiatives that co-opt and dilute its promise from initiatives that contribute to a global politics of social and ecological emancipation that includes workers and their organizations. Dimitris is professor of politics at Colorado State University, where he is a founder of the Environmental Justice Working Group, a collaborator in the [ACW programme](#) and a participant in the Just Transition Research Collaborative. He has recently co-edited, with Nora Räthzel and David Uzzell, a special issue of the journal [Globalizations \(15:4\)](#) entitled 'Labour in the Web of Life'.

Professor Fred Steward will argue that transforming urban systems of buildings, transport and energy offers the greatest potential for significant green house gas emissions in the near to medium term. Trade unions can play a constructive role in the networks and alliances that have emerged in cities internationally to promote a low carbon transition. This will involve the promotion of new styles of action, which embrace a wide range of public and private organisations and citizens. The potential co-benefits of such a sustainability strategy for work and jobs deserve far more attention. Fred is Emeritus Professor at the Policy Studies Institute, University of Westminster and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College. He is currently on the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency and a participant in the Japan Ministry of Environment programme: Policy design and evaluation for sustainable consumption and production patterns in Asia. He was a member of the international Scientific Committee of the KSI Knowledge Network on System Innovations and Transitions (2005 - 2010) and of Climate-KIC's Making Transitions Happen platform, Transitions Hub and Transition Cities network (2010-).

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ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The workshop programme seeks to bring a labour perspective to bear on what often appears as a green strategy driven by technical priorities and implemented in the context of a market economy. The urgent need to combat climate change presents an opportunity for trade unions to develop alternative green and just transition strategies and to challenge the dominant economic growth paradigm based on the exploitation of nature and workers. The workshop will provide a platform for exploring where and by what means labour can influence the transition process and how the barriers to developing a more radical, social and labour centred environmental strategy can be overcome. It draws in particular on research carried in the [Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change \(ACW\)](#) international programme led by York University, Toronto, Canada. A particular focus is the built environment, responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of end-use CO2 emissions and therefore a significant sector in the fight against climate change. The workshop will connect debates on ‘just transition’ with the imperatives of low energy construction, including the need to transform the vocational education and training (VET) system, the construction labour process and employment relations.

With these aims in mind, the first session considers the contested notion of ‘just’ transition, its prevalent interpretations by trade unions, and the limits of dominant green transition paradigms. The second session puts the spotlight on the built environment and low carbon energy supply and considers the energy saving, regional economic regeneration and employment potential offered by green infrastructure production. The third session begins with an overview of the varied implementation of the shift to nearly-zero-energy building and the VET required for this, drawing on research in ten EU countries. This followed by the example of a direct labour organisation that overcomes the fragmentation of employment in the construction process and the session ends with an emphasis on the role of cities in any green transition strategy. The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion, drawing together the three strands of the programme and asking what a radical ‘just’ transition agenda, especially for the built environment, might look like.

It is anticipated that participants will include academics and researchers, trade unionists, employers, construction workers, and VET experts, as well as policy makers.

ABOUT ProBE

ProBE (Centre for the Study of the Production of the Built Environment) is ideally placed to organise this symposium as a joint research centre between Westminster Business School (WBS) and the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE), committed to the development of a rich programme of research and related activities, including projects, oral history, film, exhibitions, and seminars. ProBE provides a research hub, a forum for debate and discussion and a focus for interdisciplinary and international activity related to the production of the built environment, as a social process, and its members have long experience of research on VET in the construction industry in Britain and abroad.

ABOUT ACW

ACW is a seven year research programme, funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) at \$2.5m Canadian plus the equivalent matched funding, and led by Professor Carla Lipsig Mummé of York University, Toronto (see <http://www.adaptingcanadianwork.ca/>). It aims to explore the role of work and global warming and the role of organised workers as a force for adaptation. It follows on from the SSHRC funded *Work in a Warming World* project <http://www.workinawarmingworld.yorku.ca/>. *Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces* asks these questions:

- How best can Canada’s diverse workplaces adapt work in order to mitigate greenhouse gases?
- In Canada’s present economic and social environment, what changes in law and policy, work design and business models for industry and services, would assist the ‘greening’ of workplaces and work?
- What can we learn from other countries to deepen our understanding of strategic options?

The project represents an alignment between Trades Unions and Academics with the support of environmental groups. Labour organisation partners include: British Columbian Government Employees, Federation of Labour, and Building Trades; Canadian Union of Public Employees; Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Canadian Labour Congress; Council of Black Trade Unionists; Labor Network for Sustainability; National Union of Public and General Employees; Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour; Ontario Federation of Labour; Public Service Alliance of Canada; United Food and Commercial Workers; Canada; United Steelworkers ; European Trade Union Institute.

The methodology is based on strategic themes - Law, Policy (Canadian and International) and Work Design - which feed into four areas of Industrial Studies: Built Environment, Energy, Public and Private Services, and Manufacturing. The overall aim is to create a “Green Workplace Training Programme” and to set up “Workplace Adaptation Pilot Projects”