



4. Energy

INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, 3. Automotive, 4. **Energy**, 5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array, 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation, 7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies), 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.

Working Group Session

You are cordially invited to the 1st 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for Energy. The theme for series 1 is “Advancing Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity in Catalytic Niche Area Research”. In this series, we will anchor our 2026 approach by reaffirming the commitment to expansive conceptualisations of, and multidisciplinary avenues of participation into, the catalytic niche areas. Our framing for this session is: Energy as technological system, social justice issue and development driver.

Readings:

- Heffron, R. J., & McCauley, D. (2017). The concept of energy justice across the disciplines. *Energy Policy* 105. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421517301593?via%3Dihub>
- Agbaam, C. et al. (2023) The Political Economy of Sustainable Energy Transitions: A Literature Review and A Research Agenda. *IZNE Working Paper Series* 23/3. <https://d-nb.info/1302958798/34>
- Szeman, I. (2027) Introduction. In: *Energy Humanities An Anthology*. <https://imreszeman.ca/content/Energy%20Humanities%20Intro%202017.pdf>

Discussion prompts:

- How does an energy justice lens reshape research priorities?
- Which disciplines are essential for understanding energy transitions?
- How can energy research better engage communities and policymakers?
- How do stories, values and ethics shape energy transitions?
- What does a “just” energy future require beyond technology?



Tuesday, 17 March 2026
11:00 – 12:00

REGISTER HERE

<https://forms.office.com/r/H4d0zBbsFU>

ENQUIRIES:

CGScatalyticnicheareas@unisa.ac.za

FACILITATOR:

Prof Jessica Murray

