

Call for Papers

The Greyzone of the Green Transition:

Environmental Inequalities in Central and Eastern Europe

Location: Câmpu Cetății, Mureș County, Romania

Dates: 18 - 19 May 2026

Organizer: Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

The Greyzone of the Green Transition is a conference dedicated to advancing conversations on environmental justice in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). It brings together senior, doctoral, and postdoctoral researchers, and activists committed to shedding light on the often-overlooked injustices and forms of resistance emerging in the region. Observing the overlap between post-communist legacies and green transition trajectories, the conference investigates how structural, gradual, and hidden forms of violence emerge in the context of resource struggles and environmental decline. We aim to deepen the theoretical framing of environmental injustice in the region and foster a space for collective reflection and action.

We are at a pivotal moment in the global green transition, where accelerating socio-ecological transformations intersect with political polarization, geopolitical instability, and rising inequality. These dynamics often give rise to new forms of marginality and injustice, particularly in the overlooked regions of Central and Eastern Europe. By focusing on CEE, *The Greyzone of the Green Transition* conference creates a space for dialogue on how extractivism, land grabbing, and energy poverty intersect with structural

marginalization and how grassroots resistance is challenging these dynamics. We aim to expand our understanding of Environmental Justice and the Just Transition concepts and frameworks, fostering interdisciplinary conversations across political ecology, political theory, and critical political theory.

We welcome contributions that propose theoretical reflections, empirical insights, and creative expressions on the politics of the green transition in Europe's Eastern margins. We invite submissions addressing, but not limited to, the following thematic clusters:

1. *Toxic environments and marginalized communities*

Explorations of how environmental degradation, pollution, and toxicity are normalized and experienced in the everyday lives of marginalized groups.

2. *Resistance and eco-politics*

Analyses of grassroots movements and other political responses to environmental injustices in post-socialist contexts, such as eco-populism and/or eco-fascism.

3. *Governance and participation*

Investigations into institutional and non-institutional forms of environmental governance and the barriers to meaningful participation of the affected communities in decision-making.

4. *Extractivism, energy, and inequality*

Critical perspectives on land use conflicts, energy poverty, and the socio-ecological consequences of extractive industries in CEE.

5. *Reimagining justice and transition*

Exploring both ideas and real-world practices that make the green transition just – especially by planning ahead, addressing past or ongoing harms, and making overlooked injustices visible in environmental policy making.

Keynote Speakers

We are honored to confirm the participation of:

Stefania Barca, Associate Professor in Contemporary History, “Beatriz Galindo” Distinguished Researcher in the Department of History at Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Erik Swyngedouw, Professor of Human Geography, University of Manchester, England

Andrej Grubačić, Professor of Anthropology and Social Change, California Institute of Integral Studies, USA

Participation & Practical Info

- We invite submissions of research papers and case studies aligning with the themes above and drawing from a variety of fields and practices, including but not limited to: political ecology, environmental humanities, sociology and anthropology, geography and activism.
- **Participation is free of charge** (no conference fee).
- English will be the language(s) of the conference.
- The conference will be in person only.
- The organizers will facilitate accommodation at affordable cost.

How to Apply

Proposals should include a title, abstract (up to 300 words), and a brief biography of the author(s) (up to 200 words). Please specify in your proposal which thematic cluster you opted for.

Please submit your proposals to grant.ecojust@ulbsibiu.ro by October 20th, 2025.

Important Dates

Proposal Submission Deadline: September 30th, 2025

Deadline Extended: October 20, 2025

Notification of Acceptance: December 15, 2025

Final Program Release: February 2026

Conference Dates: 18 -19 May 2026

Regular updates about the event will be shared on the conference [webpage](#) and our [facebook page](#). For any questions regarding the conference or participation, please contact us at: grant.ecojust@ulbsibiu.ro.

Scientific committee

Irina Velicu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania / Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, Portugal

George Iordăchescu - Wageningen University, Netherlands

Minodora Sălcudean - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Camil Ungureanu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania / Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

Filip Alexandrescu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania / Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy

Ioan Sebastian Brumă - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania / "Gh. Zane" Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch

Valer Simion Cosma - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Organizing committee

Claudia Șerbănuță - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Ionuț Codreanu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Bogdan Vătavu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Ioana Bunescu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Ioana Savin - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Hestia Delibas - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania / Centre for
Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Oana Rusu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Gabriel Girigan - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Ovio Olaru - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Carmen Gheorghe - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Petruț Călinescu - Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Romana Puiuleț - Universitatea de Vest, Timișoara, Romania

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