

The Energy & Strategy Think Tank (ESTT) at WU's Institute for Strategic Management (ISM) (<https://www.wu.ac.at/en/ism/energy-strategy-think-tank/>) invites applications for a master thesis.

Working Title: *Taking Stock of Sustainability Transitions*

Scope, Aims, Methods, and Initial Literature: Sustainability transitions are about the fundamental change of socio-technical systems understood as cluster of technological artefacts, regulations and policies, user practices and markets, cultural meanings, infrastructure related to artefacts, maintenance and distribution networks, and production and supply networks (Geels, 2004). In the recent years, much has been written about this topic (Bolton & Foxon, 2015; Castree & Waite, 2017; Edmondson, Kern, & Rogge, 2019; Farla, Markard, Raven, & Coenen, 2012; Fuenfschilling & Binz, 2018; Köhler et al., 2019; Markard, Raven, & Truffer, 2012; Smith, Stirling, & Berkhout, 2005). This thesis aims to conduct a systematic literature review (Denyer & Tranfield, 2009) to map key aspects of sustainability transitions (e.g. governance, barriers, actors, levels, pathways, analyzed industries).

Thesis Language: English

Corporate Partner: None

Expectations and Support: Constant feedback and regular meetings with faculty will facilitate a high-quality thesis with impact on management practice that is completed in a timely fashion. You will be provided with a guideline that details the supervision and writing process, expected deliverables beyond the final thesis, and grading as well as a package to kick off your thesis.

Targeted Students: Excellent and ambitious students of all MSc and MBA programs at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business are eligible and encouraged to apply. In principle, it is possible to write the thesis together with another student.

Interested? Send CV and grade certificates of all your studies to georg.reischauer@wu.ac.at

Initial References:

- Bolton, R., & Foxon, T. J. 2015. Infrastructure transformation as a socio-technical process — Implications for the governance of energy distribution networks in the UK. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 90, Part B: 538-550.
- Castree, N., & Waitt, G. 2017. What kind of socio-technical research for what sort of influence on energy policy? *Energy Research & Social Science*, 26: 87-90.
- Denyer, D., & Tranfield, D. 2009. Producing a systematic review. In D. A. Buchanan, & A. Bryman (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of organizational research methods*: 671-689. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Edmondson, D. L., Kern, F., & Rogge, K. S. 2019. The co-evolution of policy mixes and socio-technical systems: Towards a conceptual framework of policy mix feedback in sustainability transitions. *Research Policy*, 48(10): 103555.
- Farla, J., Markard, J., Raven, R., & Coenen, L. 2012. Sustainability transitions in the making: A closer look at actors, strategies and resources. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 79(6): 991-998.
- Fuenfschilling, L., & Binz, C. 2018. Global socio-technical regimes. *Research Policy*.
- Geels, F. W. 2004. From sectoral systems of innovation to socio-technical systems: Insights about dynamics and change from sociology and institutional theory. *Research Policy*, 33(6-7): 897-920.
- Köhler, J., Geels, F. W., Kern, F., Markard, J., Onsongo, E., Wieczorek, A., Alkemade, F., Avelino, F., Bergek, A., Boons, F., Fünfschilling, L., Hess, D., Holtz, G., Hyysalo, S., Jenkins, K., Kivimaa, P., Martiskainen, M., McMeekin, A., Mühlemeier, M. S., Nykvist, B., Pel, B., Raven, R., Rohracher, H., Sandén, B., Schot, J., Sovacool, B., Turnheim, B., Welch, D., & Wells, P. 2019. An agenda for sustainability transitions research: State of the art and future directions. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 31: 1-32.
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- Smith, A., Stirling, A., & Berkhout, F. 2005. The governance of sustainable socio-technical transitions. *Research Policy*, 34(10): 1491-1510.