

Proposal for Stream 1 (climate change)

**Towards an ecological welfare state: theories and models for the eco-social transitions**

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Over the 20th century, the provision of welfare services became the core of states' activity in industrialised countries to protect people from difficult events occurring during their lives. By the same token, the urgency of environmental issues requires the intervention of public authorities at all level of government. Given the fast-paced environmental degradation, in the 21 st century climate change may dominate policy-making in the same way the “labour question” did in 19th and 20th centuries in western countries (Gough *et al.*, 2008).

The growing environmental concern led some scholars to acknowledge the role of welfare systems as part of an unsustainable growth model and to identify the contradictions between increasing demands for social protection, fiscal crises, and new social risks produced by climate change and the same policies aimed at countering it. Concepts of sustainable welfare, eco-state and eco-social policies have been elaborated to address societal needs “within ecological limits, from an intergenerational and global perspective” (Koch, Mont 2016; Duit 2008; Meadowcroft 2005). To build sustainable systems, the welfare state needs to blend social and environmental policies and deal with problems of synchronization and trade-offs between social security and environmental protection.

Given the diverse array of political ideologies, welfare regimes, social and cultural contexts, distributional implications of social-environmental risks, the design and implementation of eco-states and eco-social policies will follow different paths (Meadowcroft 2005). Nonetheless, sustainability and social policy literatures still pay little attention to integrated models of transition towards new societal scenarios (Gough 2017).

Therefore, we seek both theoretical and empirical contributions expanding the debate on eco-social transitions, inviting papers examining:

- models/approaches/practices of eco-social transitions;
- how different actors contribute to the development of eco-states and eco-social policies;
- examples/experiments of combination between environmental and social policies;
- theoretical/methodological perspectives to integrate social policy and sustainability analysis.

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