West Virginia University

**Rockefeller School of Policy and Politics,**
**Department of Public Administration**

# 2ND ENERGY TRANSITION COLLOQUIUM

## DATES

APRIL 28 (HYBRID)

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FIRST EVENT

**HTTPS://WVU.ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/WN_UOIFULKGSVS5FV_1DJR7BA**

MAY 19 AND 20 (ONLINE)
JUNE 16 AND 17 (ONLINE)

West Virginia University
CENTER FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

gLAWcal
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

West Virginia University

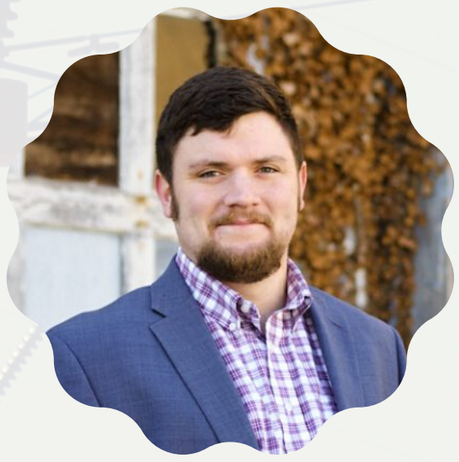
**Eberly College Interdisciplinary Research Collaborative on Global Challenges and Local Response Initiatives**

# 2ND ENERGY TRANSITION COLLOQUIUM

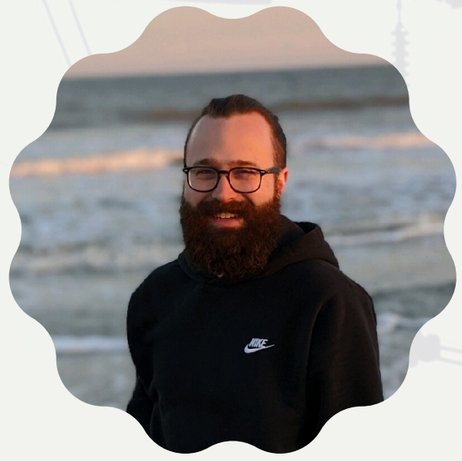
# TOWARD A RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION IN APPALACHIA

## APRIL 28, 2022 11 AM-12:30 PM

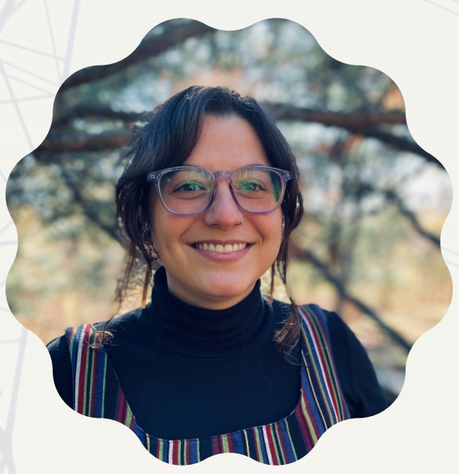
**Adrian Anderson**
Senior Director - Renewable Energy
Microsoft



**Joey James**
Principal - Downstream Strategies



**Thomson Gross**
GIS Analyst - Urban Grid Solar



**Amanda Marple**
Land Owner Relations Specialist - Urban Grid Solar

**Autumn Long**
Project Manager - Appalachian Solar Finance Fund

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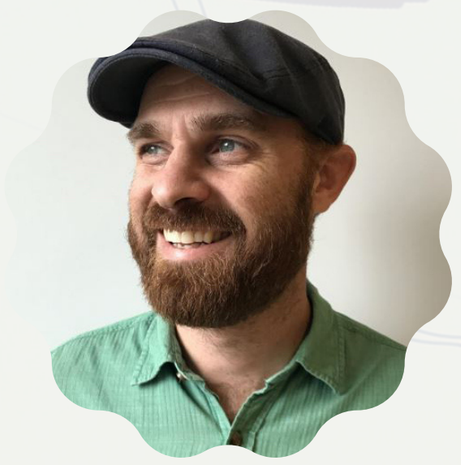
# 2ND ENERGY TRANSITION COLLOQUIUM

# REFLECTIONS AND AGENDA SETTING FOR THE 2ND ENERGY TRANSITION COLLOQUIUM

## APRIL 28, 2022 2:30 PM-4:30 PM

**Paolo D. Farah**
Public Administration, West Virginia University, USA & gLAWcal, UK



**Bradley Wilson**
Geography, West Virginia University & Center for Resilient Communities

**Brenden McNeil**
Geography, West Virginia University

# 2ND ENERGY TRANSITION COLLOQUIUM

## INTRODUCTION

Regulating **climate change, human health, human genome, circular economy, pandemics, nanoscience, sustainable development, food safety and security** would not be possible without objective and **scientifically sound information**. In these science-based areas, scientific arguments and proceedings have often been a way to achieve political agreements in practice (norms and standards). However, in recent times, sound science data has been put in doubt. This is partly caused by the diversity of sources and ideology of scientific information. Since the **role of science** in policymaking and public administration is **under fire** domestically and internationally and scientific data are relativized in the post-truth era, the very foundations of rule of law are undermined. Along with this necessity to reassess the importance of evidence-based legislation, citizens should be a part of and brought back into the policy process. **Inclusive public engagement** is therefore not only pivotal to guarantee the legitimacy and legitimization of policy, but also to align science and technology progress to society's needs. Laws, regulations and policies could bring **alignments between the scientific community, policymakers and citizens** by providing a framework aimed at increasing trust between them. This is particularly relevant in the areas of energy, environment and, climate.

The abundance of **natural resources** in the **Appalachian region** coupled with federal and state level incentives for energy companies bring positive spillovers not only with regards to **job creation**, but also **energy transition**. Particular attention will be paid, in this conference, to **case studies in the US** (including, but not limited to, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Kentucky and Tennessee)and to the identification of different answers in the energy field between the **state and federal levels**. In addressing energy, a **multiscalar and multilevel perspective** is essential to better grasp the peculiarities of energy policy. Because of the transnational nature of the environmental crises, the geographical coverage of the conference is however not limited to the US. Multilateral, regional, state, and city responses help to better design and formulate national energy policy. Therefore, we strongly encourage submissions that focus on **national and local experiences inside and outside of the US**. European Countries are also addressing similar issues as the US such as inadequacies of the national grid for integrating renewables and for power distribution, energy diversification of the national portfolio and increasing energy security. As an example, article 194 TFUE is focused on ensuring the functioning of the market and the security of supply, promoting efficiency and the inter-connection of energy networks.

Any paper submission on the experiences from **Global South** countries would be also an asset. Considering the challenges of **environmental degradation**, the mainstreaming of scientifically dubious approaches to energy and environmental policy, the worsening of climate conditions, and the increasing participation of concerned citizens in environmental protests and movements, the conference will focus on **energy, environment and climate** and encourages different perspectives on these topics. One of these perspective research areas, Science, Technology, and Society, in fact, involves different disciplines and expertise including public policy, public administration, geography, sociology, anthropology, history, political philosophy, law (including comparative and international law), communication, as well as other disciplines in humanities, social sciences and sciences disciplines.

# 2ND ENERGY TRANSITION COLLOQUIUM

## AREAS OF INTEREST

### I. Public Engagement in Science for Energy Transition

Promoting an **energy transition** that **works for all** depends upon **shared prosperity**, **sound science** and the development of appropriate **technology** that is **clean**, **affordable** and **sustainable**. What is the role of public engagement in science in advancing energy transition? Science can serve as a means to **enhance the understanding of citizens**, shape **social debate**, **inform public policy** and implement policies for the purposes of **sustainable development**. Yet, the **role of science** in policymaking and industrial decision-making for promoting energy transitions is **under fire domestically and internationally**. Not only is **evidence-based science necessary** for law and policy, but also for the public to be able to actively participate in scientific inquiry and shape the policy process. **Inclusive public engagement** in science for energy transition is therefore not only pivotal to guarantee the legitimacy and legitimization of future energy policy, but also to align science and technology to society's needs.

- *What is the scope of public engagement in energy transition research?*
- *What are the most important (trans)disciplinary energy transition research lines of inquiry and how are different publics engaged?*
- *What ethical, moral and political assumptions underly certain lines of inquiry in energy transition research?*
- *How do we evaluate the appropriateness of various new energy technologies?*
- *How will energy transition research be funded - publicly, privately?*
- *Who will be empowered to participate in energy transition research?*
- *What role do land-grant universities play in energy transition research?*

### II. Investment, Innovation and Intellectual Property in a Global Energy Transition

Corporate investment in **research and development** of renewable and other energy transition **technologies** depends a great deal upon **regulatory frameworks** and **intellectual property regimes** that protect **innovation** in the energy sector. Global **competition** in this sector has raised complex national and transnational legal challenges in the protection of creative research and technology development. **Big data**'s, and other emerging technologies, role in the environmental field remain underexamined in literature and require further research. These technologies have the potential to play an important role in the **global energy transition**.

- *How to bridge technology transfer and energy innovation?*
- *How to design an appropriate IPRs Regime for energy transition?*
- *What is the role of Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Know-How in the energy transition?*
- *What is the role of State and Non-State Actors in questioning and supervising the energy transition?*
- *How to leverage emerging technologies for the energy transition?*

### III. Affordability, Commoning and Innovation in the Regional Energy Transition

Energy **transition** is often envisaged as a **global affair**. International treaties, national investments, and global corporate actors dominate the news headlines.  Energy transition has so far been framed as a task in the hands of private businesses. Indeed, energy transitions will take shape through **regional, municipal and other local implementation efforts**. By doing so, positive trickle down effects could be gained along with a better alignment with **local people's needs and priorities**. Over the next few years, we are likely to find more and more **renewable energy transition initiatives** led by **cities**, **counties** and even **regional development actors**. What we really need is a shift in the perspective by looking at ways to understand the transition as a **common good of humanity** at the **service of the local**.

- *How to engage local State and Non State actors for the energy transition?*
- *Which stories and incentives have cities, counties and regional development actors already put in place for the energy transition?*
- *Why and how do we strengthen the relationship between Natural Resources and Community Development?*
- *What is the role of Public-Private Partnerships in the Energy transition?*
- *How to develop innovative public-private partnership for shifting the focus from profit maximization to social benefits?*
- *How to craft inclusive Energy Policy for Sustainable Economic and Community Development at the local level?*
- *How to scale up renewable energy projects implemented at the local level?*
- *What are the policies (i.e., Benefit Sharing Agreements, Industrial Reorganization and Job Creation) to boost Innovation and Energy Efficiency with the local dimension at the center ?*
- *How to draw from experiences and initiatives from the Global South to facilitate the energy transition in the US?*

# 2ND ENERGY TRANSITION COLLOQUIUM

## APPLICATIONS

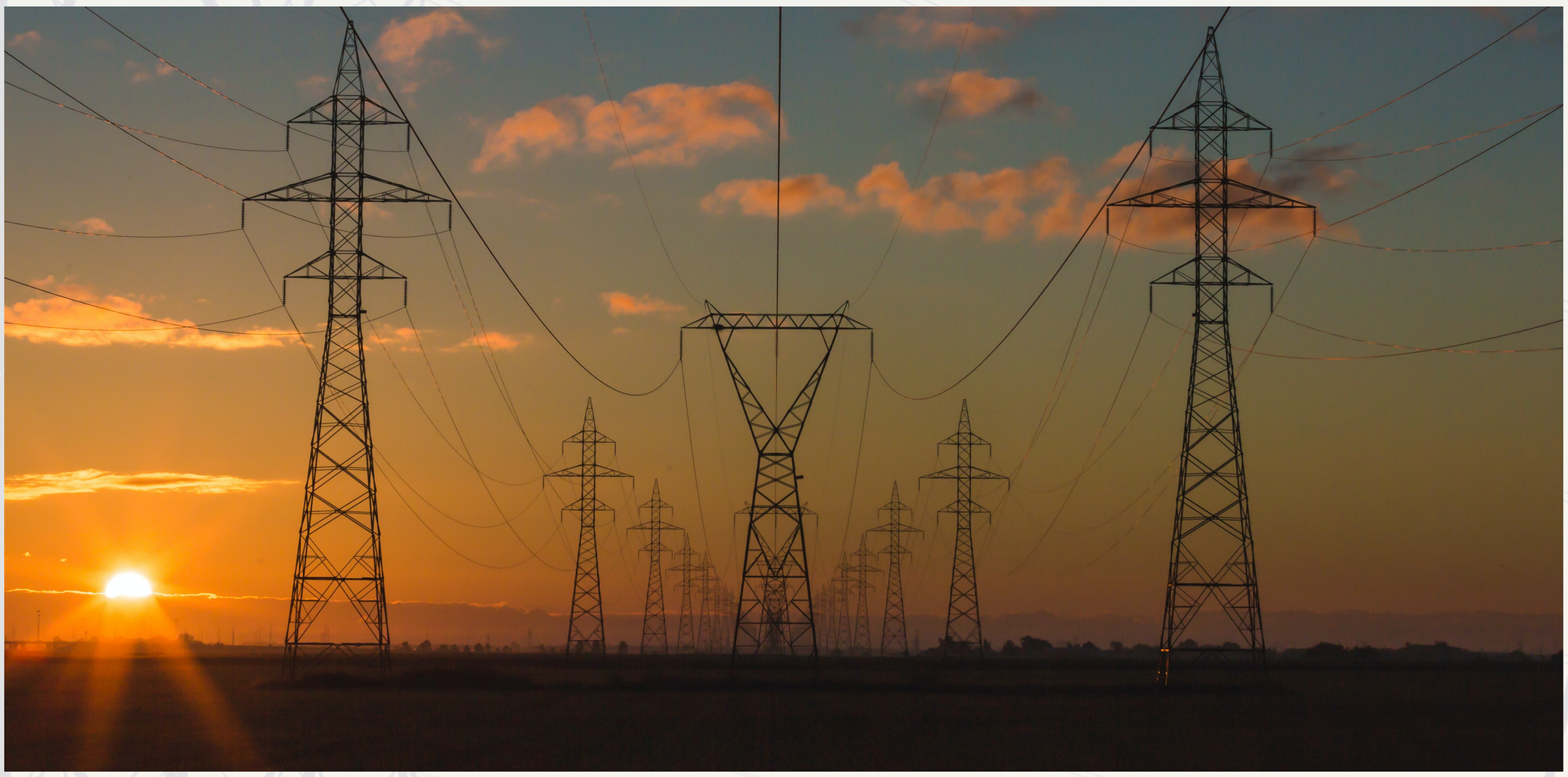
Applications should be submitted via the following **Google Form** (https://forms.gle/JCSF2J6hTbWZYHYZA) by:

- **May 1**, for the 19-20 **May Conference**
- **June 1**, for the 16-17 **June Conference**

If you need any information, please contact the Conference Chair at the following email address: paolofarah@yahoo.com

Please include the following information in the google form:

- The author's name and affiliation;
- A 500-700-word abstract;
- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable;
- The author's contact details, including e-mail address and phone number;
- The author's preferred date to present at the conference and their preference to present in person or online;
- Co-authored papers are also welcomed.



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## ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to all **senior** and **junior academics**, as well as, **business professionals** and practitioners who are members of **international organizations** or **NGOs** that work in these areas.

## PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

The organizers plan to publish papers that are presented, in a format to be discussed at the time of the conference. However, potential options that the organizers envisage include the publishing of a book collection **book collection in the Palgrave MacMillan (Spring Nature, Switzerland) multidisciplinary gLAWcal book series on "Global Issues"**, or a **special issue/symposium** in relevant **peer-reviewed SSCI** or **US Journals**.

## CONFERENCE CHAIR


### PAOLO D. FARAH

*West Virginia University (WVU), Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Rockefeller School of Policy and Politics, Department of Public Administration*


## CO-ORGANIZERS

The international conference is organized by the **Rockefeller School of Policy and Politics, Department of Public Administration of West Virginia University**, USA.

The event is in collaboration with the **WVU Center for Resilient Communities (CRC)**, the **WVU Eberly College Interdisciplinary Research Collaborative on Global Challenges and Local Response Initiatives** & **WVU Eberly College Interdisciplinary Research Collaborative on Climate**, the American Society of International Law (**ASIL**) **Interest Group on International Environmental Law** and **Interest Group on Intellectual Property Law**, and **gLAWcal** - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, UK.

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## PARTNERS

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CENTER FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

gLAWcal

Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

American Society of International Law

**Interest Groupon International Environmental Law and Interest Group on Intellectual Property Law**

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