

Social science research needs for understanding and planning for labor impacts of a U.S. low- carbon energy transition

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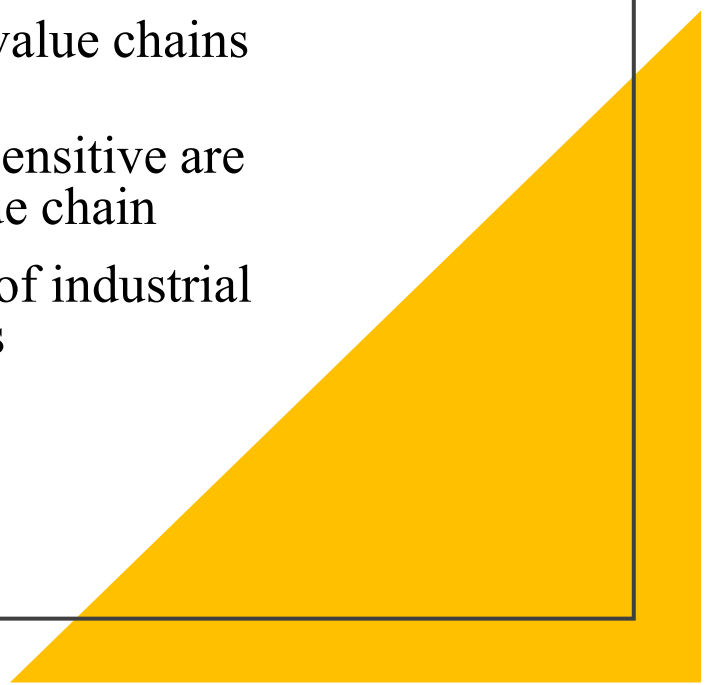
What do we need to know about transitions

- Efficient and equitable transitions require that our data gathering be holistic, including a focus on skills and jobs as well as on workers as people and citizens
- This is necessary/unavoidable for efficient and equitable industrial decarbonization transitions which reverberate through the whole society (JTLP 2021; Abram et al. 2022)
- To that end NAS should continue encouraging the formation of transdisciplinary teams that both help frame and carry out research on transitions

What do we need to know about workers

- Who are they?
 - Individuals, families, communities (JTLP 2021)
 - What obligations do they have?
- Where are they and why? (Lim et al. 2023)
- What resources do they have (and are they adequate and mobile)?
 - Skills vs employment
 - Income and Property
 - Benefits and Rights
- Combined they point to the need for a comprehensive federal policy (JTLP 2021; Aklin and Urpelainen 2022)

What do we need to know about workplaces

- How are workplaces organized?
 - Bundles of skills and tasks
 - Work process, e.g., utility scale renewables vs distributed renewables
 - Labor standards and rights (Davidson 2023)
 - Positionality within (social) value chains (ITUC et al. 2022)
 - How vulnerable and/or sensitive are they to changes in a value chain
 - Positionality within systems of industrial relations and welfare policies
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What do we need to know about work

- There is significant and insightful literature about nature of ‘green jobs’ going to the early 1990s.
- Green Jobs? (Crowley 1999)
 - Light green, mid green; deep green
- Good Jobs? (Mattera 2009)
 - Decent work (Renner et al. 2009)
- Just Jobs?
 - Inclusion/exclusion (Zabin et al. 2016)
 - Do good green jobs thrive on bad jobs? (Climate and Community Project 2023; Robbins and Zografos 2021)

Closing Thoughts

- Transitions affect workers as people
- They affect workers in their communities
- To that end a holistic research agenda – both in terms of transdisciplinary teams and in terms of whole systems- is necessary to achieve efficient and equitable transitions

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