



Call for Papers: Green Transitions (an Environmental Futures in Asia Network conference)

June 18–20, 2026 at Duke Kunshan University

The Asian/Pacific Studies Institute at Duke University invites graduate students, scholars, artists, and activists to submit abstracts for the third Environmental Futures in Asia Network (EFAN) conference, scheduled to take place at Duke Kunshan University in June 2026. This year’s theme is “Green Transitions.” This will be an in-person conference, with online participation considered only when necessary.

This interdisciplinary conference will explore how green transitions are designed, implemented, and envisioned across Asia’s varied landscapes. Asia is a critical site for studying energy transitions due to its rapidly evolving political economies, diverse ecologies, and long histories of resource extraction.

China has emerged as the world-leader in this transition, leading production of solar panels, EVs, and large-scale renewables, while India and South Asia are rapidly scaling renewable energy. Across the region, diverse states are investing heavily in new infrastructures and energy regimes. At the same time, many Asian economies, including China’s, rely on resource extraction both within Asia and from other parts of the world, linking local transitions to transnational extractive frontiers.

In particular, Southeast Asia and the Pacific are increasingly positioned as crucial sites of mineral extraction—such as nickel, rare earths, and potential deep-sea mining—as well as frontline regions of climate precarity where questions of sovereignty, justice, and Indigenous futures shape what “green” transitions can and should look like. These dynamics reveal uneven transitions shaped by industrial competition, energy security concerns, and struggles over land, water, and Indigenous rights.

Keeping in mind that many renewables are also based on minerals that are not renewable, this conference also seeks to critically examine the socio-political conditions, techno-scientific developments, and the local and planetary effects that underlie the transition to sustainable futures. We aim to establish an interdisciplinary platform for critically examining the past, present, and future of green transitions. It welcomes proposals of unpublished research from scholars and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences to explore pathways to low-carbon, equitable futures in Asia.



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Possible paper/panel topics include (but are not limited to):

- Tracing the history of green development and technology
- Interrogating green capitalism and greenwashing
- Moving beyond carbon capitalism
- Reflecting on issues of energy justice
- Tracking the politics of air, atmosphere, and breathability
- Exploring hydrospheric and oceanic transformations in green transitions
- Considering gender, race, class, and disability within green transitions
- Building post-carbon cities and infrastructures
- Recognizing carbon-corporeal entanglements (e.g., embodied experiences of extraction, toxicity, and exposure)
- Imagining fossil-fuel-free futures
- Engaging communities influenced by green transitions
- Exploring methodological approaches to studying energy transitions (ethnographic, archival, STS, participatory, or artistic methods)
- Supporting artistic, activist, and practice-based engagements with green transitions
- Attending to the ecological and material footprint of digital infrastructures such as AI
- Exploring deep earth ecologies and the politics of rare earth

Application Guidelines:

Submit an **abstract of no more than 300 words** explaining the research and its contribution to facilitating our understanding of “green transitions” in the Asian and Pacific contexts and a (max) **two-page CV** by **January 1, 2026** via the upload portal: <https://duke.is/26-EFAN-apps>.

Timeline:

Deadline for submitting the abstract: **January 1, 2026**

Notice of acceptance: late January

General registration opens: late February

Final program: early April, 2026

Draft papers due: last week of May, 2026

Conference: June 18–20, 2026