

Submission to Adjust conference on Justice in Finance for Climate Change Adaptation and Loss and Damage

Submission title (presentation): *From loss to transformation? Towards pluralistic and politicised agrarian climate futures: Perspectives from Cambodia and Vietnam*

How do rural-agrarian communities envision a future under climate change? Understanding how actors perceive, construct, and anticipate future states of the world is gaining scholarly and political traction in climate change governance and related calls for sustainability transformations. But what such transformations imply for inhabitants of rural-agrarian contexts, who are expected to bear the brunt of losses and damages from climate change and whose voices are rarely incorporated, remains unclear. I will present a normative framework to better integrate bottom-up perspectives in questions of future visions in sustainability transformations - “agrarian climate futures”. Based on results of empirical analysis using policy review and primary quality data with literature on climate, futuring and sustainability transformations, we derived five dimensions of agrarian climate futures: i) desirability; ii) viability; iii) agency; (iv) heuristics and tacit knowledge; and v) responsibility. We draw on interviews, focus group discussions, and a multi-stakeholder workshop in Ratanakiri province, Cambodia, and Son La and Thua Thien Hue province, Vietnam, alongside an analysis of national climate change related policies to demonstrate the value of the framework.

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Policy-relevance:

This presentation will provide a space to discuss the relevance, as well as the practical and justice implications of Loss and Damage mechanisms in agrarian contexts with a focus on Southeast Asia and its policy context and propose concrete ways in which the “agrarian climate futures” framework can contribute to more politicised, pluralistic, and just transformation in the face of loss and damage. The presenter will also draw from her own doctoral research in Cambodia on loss and damage in contexts of agrarian change, which proposed conceptual and methodological tools to examine the emergence of disproportionate climate-related losses and damages through a political ecology lens. The thesis investigates and conceptualises the relevance of loss and damage discussions for land-climate governance by (a) examining the multi-level processes through which climate-related loss emerges in contexts of agrarian and climatic change and (b) uncovering differentiated experiences of losses and damages using combinations of quantitative and qualitative methods, including their socially uneven outcomes.