

Invitation to participate in developing *Deep Transitions in The Netherlands* Research Program and Seminar Series

Register your interest by emailing L.King@uu.nl

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As is becoming increasingly apparent, the world faces multiple, substantial challenges. Human life is threatened by climate change, economic growth is reaching its limits due to resource depletion, and growing social inequalities in and between countries and regions are a growing cause for tension and conflict. In order to develop a sustainable and inclusive society, a comprehensive transformation or deep transition of society is crucial. Mass consumption, mechanization, fossil fuel usage and presumed unlimited resources have generated a high level of welfare and wellbeing, however these classic principles, derived from two centuries of industrialization, have interfered with developments towards a sustainable society which would feature a more equal distribution of means and resources. Researchers from Utrecht, Eindhoven and Wageningen Universities are analyzing the sociotechnical development of the Netherlands from a long-term perspective and simultaneously developing system transformation investments strategies for policy makers, industries and investors. This is the Deep Transitions in the Netherlands Project.

Past-present-future

Deep Transitions in The Netherlands consists of two interrelated projects; the first encompasses a research program on the First Deep Transition, which began with the industrial revolution. Today's societal challenges are placed in its historical context, and we investigate the explanations of their root causes. The second sub-project is aimed at future interventions; based on the historical investigations of the initial research and in consultation with a range of societal partners², investment strategies will be developed that contribute to a sustainable and inclusive society. Together with Dasym³ we plan to set-up a Deep Transition Investors Panel.

Furthermore, the Deep Transitions in the Netherlands project connects to ongoing international research being undertaken and impact generated by its sister Deep Transitions Global Project⁴. The theoretical framework used in this project analyzes the society-wide embedding of the aforementioned classic principles and the origins and evolution of deep transitions. At its core are system changes derived from and shaping consumer behaviour,

¹ <https://ewuu.nl/nl/>

² Among others Ministry of EZK, ASML, Urgenda, TNO, CBS, SHT, Dasym, Rathenau

³ <https://www.dasym.com/>

⁴ deeptransitions.net

business strategies, governmental policies and cultural development.⁵ A second theoretical notion in the Dutch project are the concepts of Wellbeing and Sustainability (in Dutch *Brede Welvaart*) developed by Statistics Netherlands (CBS). This conceptualization investigates the implications of Deep Transitions and connected temporal and sustainability trade-off processes.⁶

In spring 2022 a research program including work packages will be presented on a central research question: how did the process of the First Deep Transition in the Netherlands develop and what are the implications in developing a Second Deep Transition and possible steps towards a sustainable future?

Seminars

To prepare for the Deep Transitions in The Netherlands research we invite scholars and other stakeholders to participate in the development of the design and execution of the research program. Researchers outside the Strategic Alliance are also extremely welcome to participate. We are organizing a series of six online seminars, 90 minutes in length, each on a specific element of the program. The seminars are designed to allow for discussion, feedback and the exchange of ideas. The primary goal is the exploration of the conceptual challenges, inventorizing research questions and methods, sources and assessing feasibility. The seminars will also assess involvement in project execution. A concluding, one-day conference in spring 2022 will provide the opportunity for discussion of preliminary results and the research program will be presented and launched.

The seminar series will be conducted in English, beginning on October 8th 2021 with an introduction on the conceptual points of departure and a discussion on the project in general. Successive seminars will address specific parts of the research program. Seminar participants will receive information on the content, seminar format and information on the specific challenges to be discussed.

To receive further information, please register your interest in the project and participation in the seminars by sending an email to Ms. Louisa King via L.King@uu.nl. Please register your interest before 2nd October 2021 to receive the information for the first seminar in advance.

⁵ Johan Schot en Laur Kanger, 'Deep Transitions: Emergence, acceleration, stabilization and directionality' in: *Research Policy* 47 (2018) 1045-1059; Laur Kanger and Johan Schot, 'Deep transitions: Theorizing the long-term patterns of socio-technical change' in: *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 32, 7-21.

⁶ <https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/publication/2021/20/monitor-of-well-being-the-sdgs-2021>; Harry Lintsen, Frank Veraart, Jan Pieter Smits en John Grin, *De kwetsbare welvaart van Nederland; 1850-2050 naar een circulaire economie* (Amsterdam: Prometheus 2018). H. W. Lintsen, F. C. A. Veraart, J. P. H. Smits & J. Grin (2018). Well-being, Sustainability and Social Development: The Netherlands 1850-2050. Springer. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-76696-6>

Seminar Schedule

- October 8th 2021 **Introduction to the Project, Deep Transitions, Wellbeing and Sustainability**
Johan Schot (UU) & Harry Lintsen (TUE)
- November 5th 2021 **Qualitatively Researching Meta-rules and Systems**
Bram Bouwens (UU) & Frank Veraart (TUE)
- December 10th 2021 **Quantitatively Researching Meta-rules and Systems**
Johan Schot (UU) & Gaston Heimeriks (UU)
- January 14th 2022 **Interconnections between Systems**
Harry Lintsen (TUE) & Erik van der Vleuten (TUE)
- February 11th 2022 **Deep Transitions, Wellbeing and Sustainability Dynamics**
Jan-Pieter Smits (TUE/CBS) & Harry Lintsen (TUE)
- March 11th 2022 **The Second Deep Transition in the Making**
Barbara van Mierlo (WUR) & Laurens Klerkx (WUR)
- March 25th 2022 **Transformative Investing in the Netherlands**
Johan Schot (UU) & Bram Bouwens (UU)

Bram Bouwens (UU) and Frank Veraart (TUE)
Deep Transitions in the Netherlands Project Coordinators