

Inside Investment Frontiers (InFront)

The Global Hydrogen Transition in the Global South

Department: Human Geography and Spatial Planning

Research group: International Development Studies

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Project description

Hydrogen is increasingly presented as a solution to the current energy and climate crises globally. As large amounts of low-carbon hydrogen imports from the Global South are needed for energy transitions in the EU and beyond, what are the implications for (prospective) hydrogen production areas in the developing world? The common narrative sees countries in the Global South supplying low-carbon hydrogen to the Global North, while benefitting from investments, jobs, and technologies. Yet, massive energy and infrastructure developments in the Global South have also long spurred a wide range of social, economic and environmental impacts. What are the actor and institutional constellations around hydrogen projects in the Global South? What are the underlying power struggles and structural inequalities shaping these dynamics? How can host societies benefit most from a hydrogen transition with minimal environmental impacts, community-focused planning, and energy justice?

As part of the broader [Inside Investment Frontiers \(inFRONT\)](#) research program, this project seeks to engage with such questions by investigating the macro-level conditions, project logics, socio-environmental impacts, and governance outcomes created by hydrogen-induced transitions in the Global South. The project builds on our earlier research into hydrogen investments in Brazil and South Africa and is part of the “Rethink Hydrogen” initiative, a forum connecting different hydrogen research interests across Utrecht University.

As a bright minds assistant in this project, you will primarily assist the team with ongoing efforts to build and strengthen interdisciplinary research networks and collaborations (including with scholars in the Global South), the organization of a special issue and/or edited volume, the collection of relevant data from academic and online sources, and the transcription of research interviews. You may also be asked to assist the team with research tasks pertaining to other projects in the inFRONT program. All activities can be done remotely, with sporadic meetings being held on Teams. However, the project team is increasingly working on location and there will also be a possibility to meet in-person or work together at the University campus as need arises. You will work closely with and report to Dr. Eric Cezne, postdoctoral researcher at Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning.

Job requirements

- You must have a background and interest in human geography, sustainable transition studies, and/or science and technology studies.

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- You must have good command of English and Portuguese, as the assistantship involves transcribing research interviews from both languages.
- Some familiarity with academic writing and publishing is an advantage but not mandatory.