Transitions Research

Summary

What an exciting month it's been at Transitions Research! We launched our long-awaited podcast, MAP, which explores the rapidly evolving world of climate careers. We hosted a dialogue on the role of artificial intelligence in combating climate change in Indian cities and held a conference in Goa, under the aegis of the AI Knowledge Consortium, on 'Catalysing AI for Climate Action and Finance'. Additionally, in our capacity as the lead of Tracking, Learning, and Sharing (TLS) at Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA), we organised a symposium on climate adaptation in Argentina.

Transitions Research launched its first-ever podcast, MAP, an educational podcast on climate careers!

We are thrilled to announce the release of the first two episodes of MAP (Monsoon Academy Podcast), an educational and professional development podcast. In each episode, we speak to a different member of the ground force shaping climate and sustainability transitions in India. Our goal is to share learnings from their career journeys to give our audience of young professionals and students a better picture of relevant skills and opportunities in this rapidly evolving landscape.

The first episode of MAP features Sayesha Dogra, the founder of The Climate Party, and follows her journey from being a chartered accountant to starting a career in climate, tracing the challenges she faced as a climate entrepreneur. Listen here.

In our second episode, Aditya Bahadur, Director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, speaks about thought leadership, capacity building, and organisational management and shares crucial advice for younger professionals on navigating the sustainability field. Listen here.

Stay tuned for our next episode where we will be navigating the world of climate communications, campaign development and more with our next guest, Shailendra Yashwant, climate communications and policy advocacy expert! Follow us here.

Upcoming at Transitions

Transitions Research to host a dialogue titled, "Can digitalisation and AI accelerate India's energy transition?" on August 20th at 5:30 pm (IST).

The twin transitions of digital and energy transformations hold great promise for enhancing energy efficiency and sustainability. However, the success of these transitions depends on addressing critical social dimensions like digital illiteracy, access to technology and lack of reliable power supply for millions of Indian households. This dialogue featuring Simran Grover, Co-founder and CEO at Centre for Energy, Environment & People (CEEP), Priya Donti, Co-founder and Chair at Climate Change AI, Siddharth Sareen, Professor in Energy and Environment at University of Stavanger, and Angelina Chamuah, Senior Research Fellow at Transitions Research, aims to critically examine the interplay between the digital and energy transitions in India, and how the two can intersect to influence long-term trends in access and social equity in India.

Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_deu44m4kSx6zYBur8oJihQ

Past Events

Transitions Research hosted a dialogue titled, "Can AI Help Battle Climate Change in Indian Cities?" on July 11th at 5:30 pm (IST).

On July 11th, 2024, we hosted a dialogue on the role of AI in battling climate change. Our illustrious panellists for this talk were: Anita Kane, Senior Advisor, Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC), Madhavi Jain, Climate Modeller, ClimateIQ project, Urban Systems Lab, The New School, Topaz Mukulu, Strategy Analyst, The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation and moderator Angelina Chamuah, Senior Research Fellow, Transitions Research. Our panellists discussed what it means to leverage AI for equitable urban development, enhance resilience, and build low-carbon futures for Indian cities. We also explored the challenges in implementing AI for sustainable climate solutions and deliberated the ethical considerations involved in collecting, analysing, and using urban data when implementing AI solutions.

Watch the recording of the session here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEEzEnJrzX8&t=360s

Ashali Bhandari participated in a webinar titled "Navigating a People-Centric Approach in India's Ongoing Shift to E-Mobility" hosted by Vasudha Foundation India.

Managing Director of PULL, Ashali Bhandari, appeared as a panellist on a webinar on 'Navigating a People-Centric Approach in India's Ongoing Shift to E-Mobility' hosted by [Vasudha Foundation India](#). This panel discussion explored the impact of e-mobility on India's transportation system and ways in which businesses can adapt to this transition. Ashali discussed the lessons PULL has culled about e-mobility in India from its own field research, visioning workshops, and other discussions with stakeholders.

Transitions Research facilitated a conference in Goa with the AI Knowledge Consortium on July 18th and 19th.

We facilitated a conference in Goa with the [New Indian Consumer Initiative](#) (an initiative by Indicc) and the [Climate Bonds Initiative,](#) under the aegis of the [AI Knowledge Consortium](#) titled 'Catalysing AI for Climate Action and Finance.' Through engaging conversations among diverse stakeholders, we explored strategies to overcome existing challenges in utilising AI to combat climate change and discussed the socio-economic dimensions of this transition.

Transitions Research and the National University of Rosario in Argentina co-organised the Regional Symposium on the Synthesis of Knowledge (ARA TLS 2024) on 25th-26th July

Transitions Research co-hosted the 'ARA Regional TLS Knowledge Synthesis Symposium 2024' along with Universidad Nacional de Rosario, in Argentina, on July 25th and 26th. This symposium focused on synthesising knowledge and compiling evidence on critical issues identified by ARA members such as funding for locally-led climate adaptation, metrics for measuring adaptation impact, use of indigenous and local knowledge systems, and pathways for heat resilience. For more effective collaboration within the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) community, member organisations identified the need to map their strengths, as well as any gaps where they could benefit from the support of fellow members.

Research Updates

People's Urban Living Lab (PULL) completed the first stage of its behavioural research on rooftop solar (RTS) panels in Panaji, Goa

At PULL this month, we completed the first stage of our study on the barriers and facilitators related to the adoption of RTS in India. This study is being undertaken in collaboration with the Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA) as part of India's drive to increase RTS nationwide in order to meet our ambitious national net zero goals.

As the first step in this project, this month we conducted in-depth interviews with a wide sample of residents and businesses, both those who have already installed RTS and those who are considering adoption. Our interviews, conducted in and around Panaji, explored citizens' knowledge of RTS and related subsidies and financing schemes; perceived benefits and barriers; and their experience with RTS. We also conducted mystery shopping interviews with RTS vendors across Goa to study vendors' sales tactics, knowledge, and attitudes about RTS.

We are currently analysing our interview data to generate a comprehensive picture of perceptions, knowledge, and experiences related to RTS in India. The results of this analysis will help us, in the next step of this project, to design scalable, cost-effective interventions that can be implemented via randomised controlled trials. Successful interventions can be scaled nationally to further India's drive to increase RTS uptake.

Publications/Blog posts

Event report: "Can We Survive and Thrive in Hotter Cities? Challenges and Solutions for Combating Extreme Heat"

Based on the insights gained from a recent dialogue with Bushra Afreen (Chief Heat Officer, North Dhaka, Bangladesh), Aditya Valiathan Pillai (Fellow at Sustainable Futures Collective), and Owen Gow (Deputy Director, Extreme Heat Initiative, Adrienne-Arsht Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre, Atlantic Council), this blog by Nishant Sirohi delves into the pressing issue of rising temperatures in urban areas, especially in the Global South, and proposes actionable solutions. Read here.

What we've been reading/watching/ listening to

"I'm reading Maja Lunde's "The History of Bees," a novel in the climate fiction genre. Lunde explores humanity's relationship with bees in three different times and places, one of which is in a future where human hands perform the pollinating functions that bees and other insects used to. Lunde's strong research, sense of place, and knack for character make this tale of environmental downfall and human resilience read like a real story, and the lessons go down easily. I discovered this book via BBC Four Radio's monthly Book Club podcast, a fantastic resource to discover books the mainstream might have missed, and to hear writers discuss their motivation and approach and their sense of the ethical role storytelling can play in society at large." – *Amita Basu, Research Fellow*

"I am reading "Climate Change is Racist" by Jeremy Williams, which critically examines how climate change intersects with systemic inequities. The book documents how colonialism and industrial exploitation by the Global North have disproportionately impacted the Global South, making these countries most vulnerable to climate change despite their minimal emissions. These perspectives are crucial for shaping responses to climate challenges and upholding climate justice by highlighting the intersectionality of environmental and social issues. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing comprehensive responses that address the root causes of climate inequities." – *Nishant Sirohi, Law And Society Fellow*

Call to Action

Follow us on social media. Subscribe to our newsletter. Visit our website. Get in touch for collaborations. Write to us to join the conversation around the transition to an equitable and livable future.