

## **Challenges and Lessons from (radical) alternative transformations**

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Struggles against extraction and environmental degradation are often considered to be defensive and reactionary. However, we argue that often they are propositional, creative and transformative, as they put into practice economic, political and social alternatives of production, exchange and governance. This session explores this transformative potential of citizen movements and struggles for environmental justice, examining ‘participatory’ approaches to environmental politics and new institutional practices born from local knowledge, showing how alternatives are often born from resistance.

This special session is proposed by the international ACKnowl-EJ project (Academic-Activist Co-Produced Knowledge for Environmental Justice, 2016-2018 ISSC funded) that aims to explore processes of knowledge production and resistance formation against “extractivism” and towards transformative sustainability from the ground-up, with the assumption that therein lies the greatest potential for action and agency towards dealing with environmental and social crisis today.

In this session we will examine conflict transformation processes and concrete radical alternatives to wellbeing in practice and how they are actualized and lead to empowerment processes at social, community and individual levels. We also invite contributions that explore the innovative collaborative processes in which activists and academics (including from communities), and activists-academics interchange knowledge and methods in the study of transformations to sustainability.

This session contributes to two key lines of research addressed in the conference, the Transformative science and Critical Inquiry for Advocacy and Justice.