

## **Rethinking transdisciplinarity: Power, conflict and alternatives in Philippine energy transition**

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This paper critically explores the challenges, limitations, and potential of transdisciplinarity in the context of a research on Philippine energy transition. In particular, I consider how transdisciplinary research can better engage ‘relevant’ stakeholders and promote societal change in deeply undemocratic environmental regimes. In settings where durable power structures limit the possibility for transformation, and the prevailing consensus reflects the interests of the dominant groups, this paper argues that the task of transdisciplinary research, is to make visible alternative and radical imaginaries that disrupt the status quo. This can (partly) be achieved by purposefully aligning with under-represented and marginalised actors. Collaborative research conducted with those that are on the fringes or outside of formal energy institutions and policy-making processes shows its potential at surfacing counter-narratives and alternative understandings of the transition process, thus challenging (albeit not displacing) conventional framings pushed by dominant actors. Transdisciplinary research needs to pay greater attention to power asymmetries and the broader socio-political environment to guide decisions over who to collaborate with and how such partnership could help advance societal change.



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