

**“The time is gone, the song is over. How silencing, translation and representational processes contribute to climate crisis, lock-in and unjust transitions”**

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In this contribution, we illustrate a line of qualitative-quantitative research that we have been developing in Italy since 2010. In particular, we explored different facets of the social construction of the so-called “energy transition”, “decarbonization”, and “just transition”, and the connected policies and plans that Europe has undertaken to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. The research was informed by the theory of social representations in relation to multi-level and socio-ecological models of transitions, and more recently, to environmental justice paradigms. As regards the latter, in particular, studies on environmental justice mostly focus on three dimensions: distributive, procedural, and recognition justice. Alongside these dimensions, we suggest exploring a fourth dimension, that of epistemic justice. Epistemic justice implies the active recognition of the coexistence and complementarity of different types and statuses of knowledge involved in environmental and transitional processes. By doing so, it creates a space for the integration of different perspectives, recognizing the knowledge, needs, values, and visions of the multiplicity of actors involved in the public arena. From a critical perspective, assigning a centrality to the epistemic dimension of justice allows us to question the hegemony of the technocentric representations and of top-down approaches to decision-making. Drawing on these premises, our aim was to access meaning-making processes that manifest across societal, community and interpersonal levels and to explore to which extent local communities appropriate, resist, even radically transform, the discourses on transition set at the level of political decision-makers and cultural elites, anchoring them to locally relevant universes of meaning. The studies were conducted on textual and visual data, mixing qualitative and quantitative approaches (e.g., thematic analysis, lexico-metric analysis, semiotic analysis). Main findings suggest that representations of the climate crisis and envisaged transitions mostly continue to hinder forms of radical transformation. Representations are centered on distrust, the invisibility of problems, and the impossibility of solutions. This is combined with the untranslatability between languages, which contributes to the subtraction of possibilities for the most vulnerable actors. The result is a gloomy picture in which the themes of transformation and decentralization - if not degrowth - are juxtaposed with a vision of the future based on reproduction and mere technological replacement. A more radical approach to the issue of justice is therefore required in order to gain insight into the currently dominant representations, the underlying motives behind them, and the interests they serve. This should extend beyond the mere demand for inclusive procedures and engage with the relationship between power and translatability.