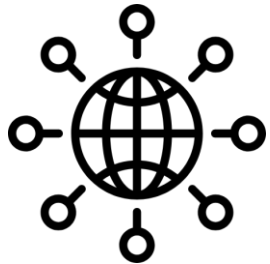


The Politics of Twin Transition

TWIN TRANSITION?

Green Transition: The European Green Deal states the ambitious that Europe becomes the first “climate neutral continent”.



Twin Transition: Synergies and Tensions
(Fouquet and Hippe, 2022; Kovacic et al., 2024).

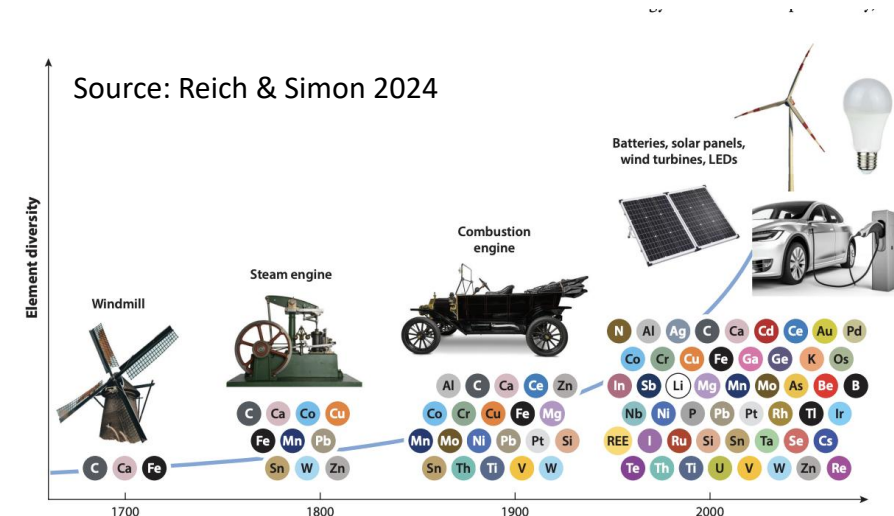
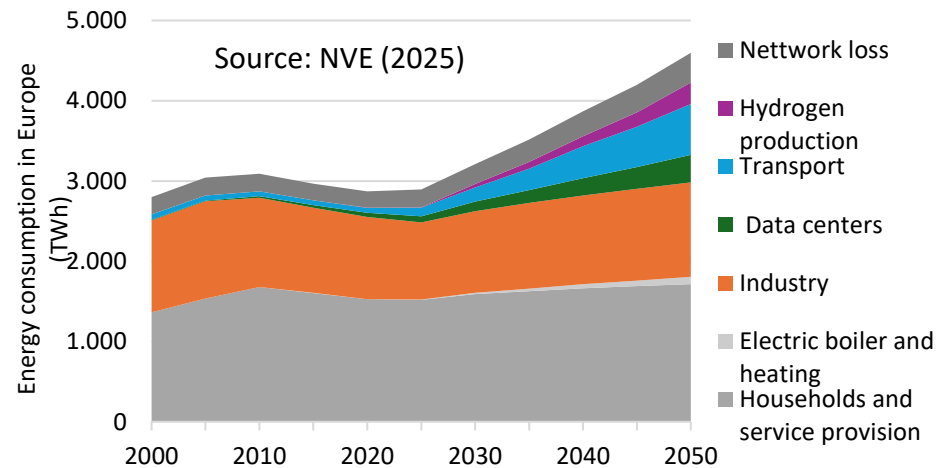


Digital Transition: The European Union aims at becoming a “global role model” for digitalization



“if the Internet was a country, it would be the sixth biggest electricity consumer on the planet” (Andrae 2020)

Expected surge in demand for critical minerals needed that are “geologically restricted” (Reich & Simon 2024).



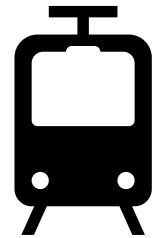
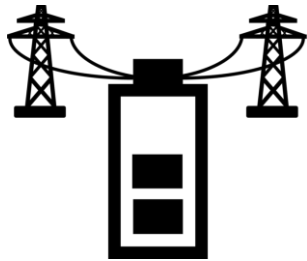
A record 62 million tonnes of e-waste produced in 2022...

...enough to fill 1.55 million 40-tonne trucks, forming a bumper to bumper line around the equator (GEM 2024).



European Commission 2023: “Digital technologies can provide functions that are able to catalyse the green transition”.

Ursula von der Leyen 2020: the twin transition offers “a world where we use digital technologies to build a healthier, greener society”.



“To make the most out of the twin transition, proactive and integrative management will be needed. The digital transition will be spearheaded mainly by the private sector due to its huge economic potential. To harness its benefits for greening and to limit its harmful effects, state and civil society engagement will be necessary.” (European Commission 2022 – launch of JRC report)

SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES

Is twin transition a policy discourse that reframes tensions as synergies and bypasses democratic decision making?
(Kovacic et al. 2024)

Is twin transition promoting data-driven decision making and a different way of “seeing and knowing the environment”?
(Kloppenburger et al. 2022)

Is twin transition a social imaginary that hides alternative futures?



GOVERNANCE OF TWIN TRANSITION

- Transition away from fossil fuels can exacerbate social exclusion, sharpen gender gap inequality, produce gaps in transparency, and inflame far-right sentiment.
- Will twin transition deepen societal and political cleavages and create new ones?
- Which institutions, organisations and actors at different levels of governance are implicated?
- How do discourses and imaginaries of twin transition guide policymaking?
- Whose interests are represented and whose are excluded?



A DEMOCRATIC TWIN TRANSITION?

- Is policy making on twin transition dominated by industry interests?
- How can citizens be more involved in policy making?
- How can citizens be better represented in policy making?
- Draw on tools from “just transition” literature?
- Can co-creation work as a mechanism of participation?



A DEMOCRATIC TWIN TRANSITION?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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