

THE DYNAMICS OF SOCIO-TECHNICAL TRANSITIONS FOR SOLAR PV IN SWITZERLAND

A high-angle photograph of a worker in a blue shirt and white hard hat installing solar panels on a dark grey tiled roof. The worker is positioned on the right side of the frame, leaning over a large blue solar panel. The panels are arranged in a grid pattern, and the worker's hands are visible as they adjust a panel. The background is a solid yellow banner at the top of the image.

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OVERVIEW

Ever growing threats and impacts of climate change have prompted increasingly urgent calls to transition to cleaner modes of production and consumption of electricity. This requires a major uptake of renewable technologies, including solar photovoltaic (PV). However, despite increasingly favourable techno-economic and market conditions as well as national policies for solar PV, the rate of adoption has been insufficient, and the diffusion has been spatially uneven within countries. Multi-scale, temporal, and spatial perspectives that enable zooming in and out to observe the dynamics of solar PV uptake are necessary to lead meaningful, inclusive, and effective transitions towards more sustainable electricity futures. This presentation will seek to provide evidence of some of the drivers and resisting forces of solar PV adoption, as well as the transformational aspects of shifting towards new forms of electricity production and consumption.

BIOGRAPHY

Léon Hirt is a PhD student at the Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE), University of Geneva (UniGE). His research focuses on combining qualitative and quantitative methods and approaches to explore the diffusion of solar PV in Switzerland. He is supervised by Prof. Marlyne Sahakian (Geneva School of Social Sciences) and by Prof. Evelina Trutnevyte (Faculty of Science). Prior to his doctoral studies, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL, CH), a Master's degree in environment and climate change at the University of Liverpool (UoL, UK), and a Master's degree in foundations and practices of sustainability at the University of Lausanne (Unil, CH).



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