

# **ISA's 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

## **The Politics of International Diffusion: Regional and Global Dimensions**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA  
APRIL 3-6, 2013**

**Thursday, 4 April 2013, 4.00-5.45pm (TD63)**

## **Sustainability Transition: Theories, Approaches and Perspectives from Europe and Latin America**

John Grin, University of Amsterdam
Sustainability transitions in transnational society: a governance perspective
<p>In earlier work, building on the multilevel perspective from transition theory, I have proposed a governance perspective on transitions. This perspective i) situates transitions in the structural transformations characterizing contemporary societies; and ii) pays due attention to the powering, legitimization and trust building involved in a way that enables both understanding resistance and inertia as well as designing strategies to deal with such problems.</p> <p>In this paper, I will more explicitly than before address the question how transition theory may be synthesized with theories on transnational governance. In doing so, I will draw upon earlier analyses that have explored how transitions are essentially embedded in transnational society, especially from the EU but also from other continents. This will lead to a series of claims which may be further explored in further empirical research.</p> <p>My conceptualization will explicitly take into account the politics involved. Thus I will try and attempt to take up one of the challenges facing transition theory, as well as to an improved understanding of one of the key global challenges.</p>
transnational governance, transitions, transition theory, sustainable development