**Realigning climate-forcing players**:

**Power Resources Mobilisation in the Just Transition**

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**Five key words**

Climate-stranding assets, Just transition, Trade unions, Survey experiment, Sociotropic preferences

**Short abstract (249 words)**

Can decarbonization policies be designed not only to mitigate economic losses but also to strengthen the social fabric of communities at risk—and what role do trade unions play in shaping these outcomes?

Climate-forcing asset stranding impacts not only asset holders but also broader social structures, often fragmenting local communities and fostering political polarization.

Existing research emphasizes that just transition policies can mitigate resistance to decarbonization, but perspectives diverge on how these interventions should function. We examine whether sociotropic considerations can outweigh egotropic preferences in shaping public support for just transition policies. We also assess the role of unions in influencing these preferences. We hypothesize that unions significantly influence community preferences. They may mobilize either sociotropic inclinations by advocating for community investments, signal doubts about the credibility of competing political actors, and reveal conflicting objectives between national and local interests; either reinforcing resistance to decarbonization or promoting realignment towards climate goals, with variations in their focus on workers versus broader communities.

We test our hypotheses focusing on the aeronautic sector where decarbonization needs pose asymmetric risks to local communities relying on it, as in France or Germany. We employ two survey experiments targeting representative samples of workers and surrounding communities. The experiments simulate a hypothetical restructuring of Airbus to achieve substantial decarbonization, with varied impacts on local economies. A vignette experiment tests how unions influence support for Just Transition policies, while a conjoint experiment assesses preferences for policy attributes, including forms of public expenditure, financing mechanisms, and governance models.