Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus - Senftenberg

DECARBONIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF INDUSTRY

Topic Announcement - DTI – BTU Cottbus

Type of Thesis	Bachelor thesis or Master Study Project
Short Description	The aim of this student research project is to provide a comprehensive overview of the academic literature on coal phase-out and structural change in the Lusatia region of Germany. Depending on the regulations of the study program the written study project can be done either in German or English.
Problem Statement / Background	Germany and other European Union member states have committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement. In Germany, phasing out coal mining and coal-fired power generation is one strategy for achieving these goals. However, fossil fuel resources are more than just sources of energy; they also shape the organization of society. This raises questions about the forms of transformation envisioned in the context of coal phase-out, as well as how these transformations are strategically designed and implemented. Academic research has anticipated, conceptualized, and accompanied these processes. This literature review focuses on Lusatia as a regional case study.
Objectives of the Study Project	The literature review aims to examine the thematic perspectives through which coal phase-out and the subsequent process of structural change in Lusatia have been discussed in the academic literature published between 2000 and 2026. The review will identify different research topics and terminologies, and systematically categorize the underlying conceptualizations of transformation.
Type of Project	Literature Review – Scoping Review To provide an overview of the scope, structure, and key themes of a research field.
Methodological Requirements and Data Sources	The literature search will be conducted using the Web of Science and Scopus databases. It will cover German- and English-language publications indexed in these databases. The software MAXQDA will be used to analyze and structure the literature
Required Prior Knowledge	Native or near-native proficiency in German and fluency in English. Basic knowledge of academic reading and working with scholarly publications.

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Preferred Prior Knowledge	Experience with literature searches and working with academic databases as well as MAXQDA. An interest in debates and policies related to coal phase-out, as well as familiarity with the regional context of Lusatia.
Language Requirements	German and fluent English
Expected Project Timeline	Winter Semester 2026/27
Supervision	Franziska Kusche
Expectations for Students	Following an initial consultation on the methodology and data sources, the student will independently conduct the literature search, identify and summarize key themes and arguments in the literature, organize the findings systematically, and integrate the references into a shared reference management system.