

**NEWSLETTER**

**January 2025 Edition (14)**

Access previous editions: <https://sciencetechstudies.ucr.edu/news>



Plans are underway to organize UCR STS Initiative's End of Year event to be held during the month of May 2025. Building on the UCR STS Initiative's Fall Kickoff theme, the goal for this event is to expand and support the projects and ideas of graduate students. Faculty recommended grad participants will share their research reflecting the STS principle that scientific knowledge and technological advancements are not solely determined by nature but are also influenced by social factors.

Faculty is encouraged to contribute their ideas about potential keynote speakers, etc. and the names of grad students that they feel will be interested in being a part of this upcoming event.

Due to the limited event timeframe, grad students will be asked to participate based on the date of the submission of their name by a faculty member. The number of participants who will display posters and share a brief presentation of their work is capped at a total of 25.

Faculty members should the names of qualified participant grad students as soon as possible via email to Linda Jean Hall ([linda.hall@ucr.edu](mailto:linda.hall@ucr.edu)). If you have questions you can also contact Yolanda Moses ([yolanda.moses@ucr.edu](mailto:yolanda.moses@ucr.edu)), and Juliann Allison ([juliann.allison@ucr.edu](mailto:juliann.allison@ucr.edu)).

## Steering Committee Announcements:

### Flagship STS Course Proposal

Discussions are underway to launch the first STS class as a humanities and physical sciences collaborative course! The class description clearly defines the purpose and scope of the proposed area of study:

Students will be introduced to Science and Technology Studies (STS) and the practice of this method and methodology by interdisciplinary researchers and their community partners to study and form sound and ethical critiques about environmental, social, political, and health related research practices. This course combats the disengagement from public needs and instructional thinking that reduces the ends of human relationships with technology. As part of this analysis, STS theory and case studies provide an examination of professionalism in the global new world economy. The course material brings to the forefront the ways in which race, gender, and other categories of difference shape meritocracy and undemocratic career barriers for minority citizens, women, LGBT persons and persons with disabilities. For example, a term-long assignment enables students to explore the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as factors that shape the practice of careers in engineering, digital technology, medicine, and environmental sustainability.

### Expanding UCR's STS Research Participation

Due to increasing interest at UCR in STS collaboration across academic borders, planning will soon begin to create a **series of sessions** that will allow STS researchers on campus (faculty, grad students, and postdocs) to present works in progress to each other—basically, a paper workshop to get feedback on new and ongoing work.

An email invitation to participate via ZOOM in this activity with more information will be broadly circulated during Winter 2025 term.

## Featured Domestic & International Events/Conferences:



The image shows a promotional banner for the IEEE SusTech 2025 conference. At the top, the text "IEEE SusTech 2025" is displayed in a large, stylized font, with "IEEE" in blue, "SusTech" in green, and "2025" in blue. Below the text is a horizontal row of seven small, square images: a blue abstract pattern, a power line tower, a solar panel array, a cloud with icons, a city street, a circuit board, and a group of people. Underneath these images, the text "TECHNOLOGIES THAT IMPROVE AIR, WATER, ENERGY, FOOD AND HUMAN LIFE" is written in green. At the bottom of the banner, the text "Welcome to the 12th IEEE Conference on Technologies for Sustainability (SusTech 2025)" is written in red, followed by "Los Angeles California, April 20-23, 2025" in blue.

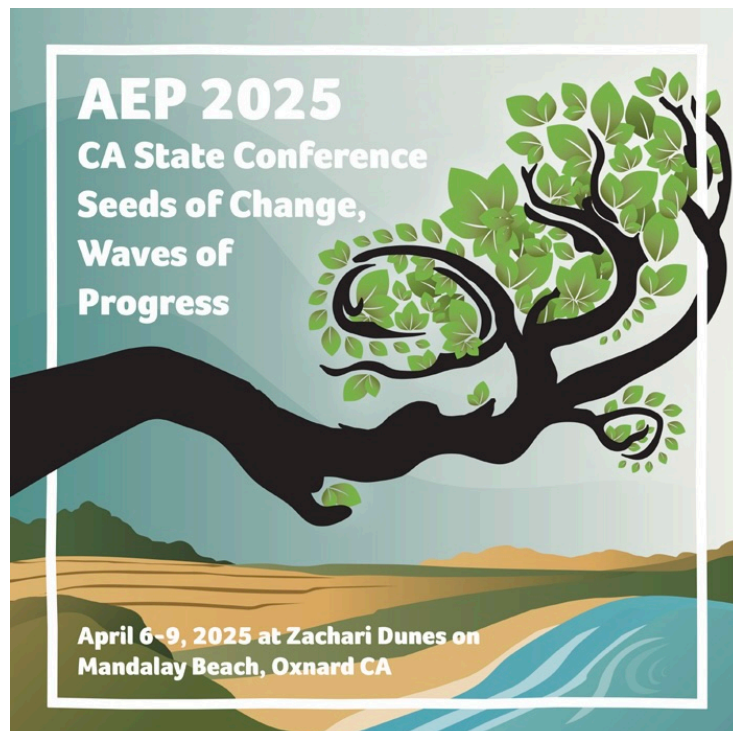
Inspiring Technology Solutions for Climate Sustainability  
*All dates and times in Pacific Time (UTC-7).*

The **12<sup>th</sup> IEEE Conference on Technologies for Sustainability** (SusTech 2025) is designed to explore development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. SusTech brings

together scientists, engineers, technologists and scholars from multiple disciplines to hold a dialogue on environmental issues and collaborate on ideas to develop and utilize innovative tools and intelligent systems to address the need for Sustainable Infrastructure. This year's focus is on Climate Sustainability.

Attendees will learn about the emerging technologies, latest tools, and proactive solutions to take their sustainability programs to the next level. Papers are solicited from industry, government, and academia (including collegiate students) covering relevant research, technologies, methodologies, tools and case studies. Conference content that meets IEEE quality review standards and format will be submitted for inclusion into the IEEE *Xplore* Digital Library.

## 2025 AEP Conference



[https://www.califaep.org/2025\\_aep\\_conference.php](https://www.califaep.org/2025_aep_conference.php)

Join us for the 2025 AEP Conference:  
Seeds of Change, Waves of Progress  
Zachari Dunes on Mandalay Beach, Oxnard, CA  
April 6-9, 2025

The AEP Channel Counties Chapter is looking forward to hosting another successful AEP State Conference at Zachari Dunes on Mandalay Beach in Oxnard, April 6-9, 2025!

The 2025 AEP Conference: Seeds of Change, Waves of Progress will provide attendees with informative and engaging sessions, a sponsor and exhibitor showcase, and multiple networking opportunities. Attendees will have the opportunity to choose from over 40 different sessions under 5 different session tracks, featuring relevant topics ranging from emerging trends in CEQA to new tools & AI, and including a handful of single-standing sessions based on law and ethics, students/young professionals, and more!



<https://climatechangeconferences.org/>

## Climate Change Conference

Join us in the Los Angeles, USA for the 2025 "Global Climate Action & Sustainability Summit," a premier gathering from September 18 - 19. Under the theme "Sustainable Pathways: Innovating for Climate Resilience" this event captures our dedication to uniting diverse expertise for practical climate solutions. Engage with trailblazers, scientists, and change-makers in exploring innovations and holistic approaches that drive global sustainability. Through dynamic sessions and collaborative dialogues, acquire fresh insights and actionable strategies toward a balanced and resilient future.

**Featured Book/Article**

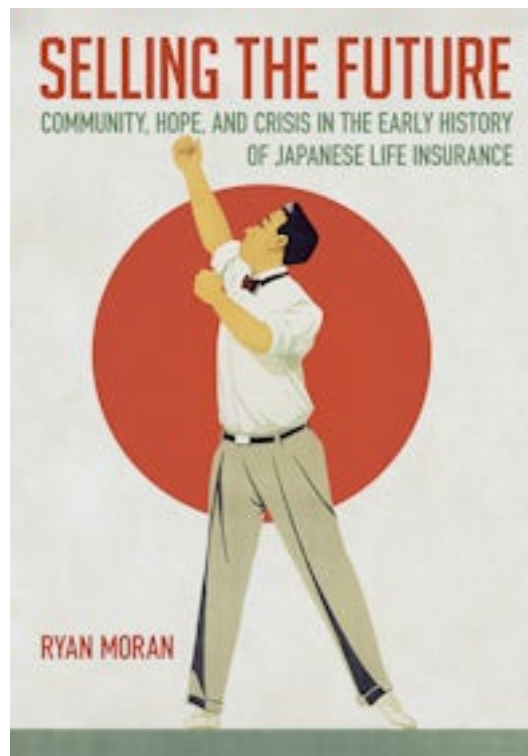
## Selling the Future

### **Community, Hope, and Crisis in the Early History of Japanese Life Insurance**

**BY RYAN M ORAN**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

FORMER UCR VISITING PROFESSOR & STS COOPERATING MEMBER [HISTORY]



<https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501773297/selling-the-future/#bookTabs=1>

**In *Selling the Future*, Ryan Moran explains how the life insurance industry in Japan exploited its association with mutuality and community to commodify and govern lives.** Covering the years from the start of the industry in 1881 through the end of World War II, Moran describes insurance companies and government officials working together to create a picture of the future as precarious and dangerous. Since it was impossible for individual consumers to deal with every contingency on their own, insurance industry administrators argued that their usage of statistical data enabled them to chart the predictable future for the aggregate. Through insurance, companies and the state thus offered consumers a means to a perfectible future in an era filled with repeated crises.

Life insurance functioned as an important modernist technology within Japan and its colonies to instantiate expectations for responsibility, to reconfigure meanings of mutuality, and to normalize new social formations (such as the nuclear family) as essential to life. Life insurance thus offers an important vehicle for examining the confluence of modes of mobilizing and organizing bodies, the expropriation of financial resources, and the action of disciplining workers into a capitalist system.