

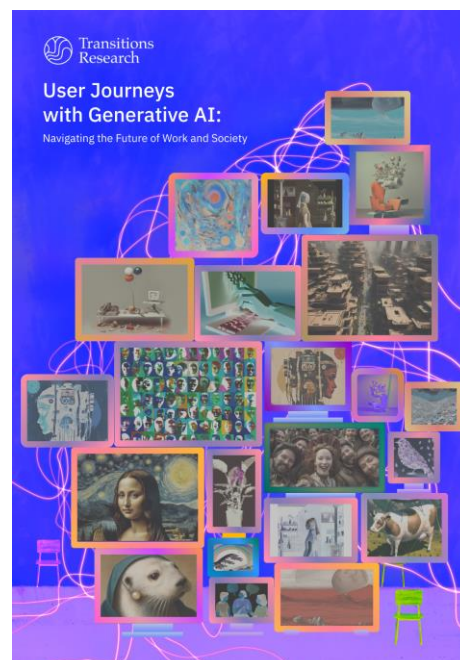
## Section I: Summary

The month of April is significant in the context of climate change, featuring Earth Day as well as the advent of summer and heatwaves in much of the global south. Our April schedule has been similarly intense and simmering here at Transitions Research. We began our month by launching a report on the findings of an original research study on the impacts of generative AI on the future of work and society. Our team members attended conferences and meetings in Dubai and South Africa to share and learn from global networks. We produced blogs on energy poverty and on the challenges of working alone in the digital age.

## Section II: Research Updates

### **REPORT LAUNCH: “User Journeys with Generative AI: Navigating the Future of Work and Society”**

Under its Digital Society programme led by Angelina Chamuah, Transitions Research published a report titled [‘User Journeys with Generative AI: Navigating the Future of Work and Society.’](#) The report examines users’ perspectives on collaborating with AI in their workplaces, and highlights the role of users as emerging as political subjects and active participants in the development of AI. Read the report [here](#).



## Section III: Transitions News

### **Vikrom Mathur and Prerna Singh attend Adaptation Research Alliance’s Steering Board Meeting in Cape Town**

Vikrom Mathur, Director of Transitions Research, and Prerna Singh, Research Fellow at TR and the TLS Lead of the [Adaptation Research Alliance](#) (ARA), participated in the Secretariat and Steering Board meeting of ARA in Cape Town, on 22nd - 24th April, 2024. They engaged in discussions on integrating learning as a critical component of ARA’s strategic

directions, understanding the needs of ARA member organisations, and facilitating peer-to-peer learning through the Tracking, Learning and Sharing (TLS) program of ARA.

### **Ashali Bhandari attends Climate Action Champions Network in Dubai**

Ashali Bhandari, Managing Director of our People's Urban Living Lab (PULL), participated in the final conference of the Climate Action Champions Network ([CACN](#)) Programme held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 22nd and 23rd April, 2024. She attended as an urban expert, supporting the CACN cohort of emerging climate leaders in co-creating urban climate solutions during the event's CitiLab Bootcamp.

CACN brought together delegates from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka who are engaged in working and advocating for climate action. CACN aims to foster conversations around possible pathways to sustainability for countries in this region. Pathways of interest combine strategic autonomy, sustainable urbanisation, growth and livelihoods, and low-carbon transformations.

### **India Development Review publishes a piece by Shantha Venugopal, “Sun, sand, and sustainability: Conserving Goa’s coastal dunes”**

Research Associate Shantha Venugopal, in her blog for IDR, writes about the significance of coastal sand dunes in Panaji, Goa. Shantha discusses how Goa’s dunes can help protect Panaji from increasingly frequent climate events like cyclones, making dune restoration an important nature-based solution (NbS). However, the dunes also play a vital role in the lives of local fishermen, who use dune space to carry out a number of activities like mending nets and auctioning fish, and most importantly to shelter from the sweltering heat. Shantha’s article highlights the need for nature-based solutions, and for cities to be designed and run with the needs of local communities at the forefront. Read [here](#).

## **Section IV: Publications/Blog posts**

### **[BLOG] Alleviating energy poverty through transitioning to low-carbon technologies**

Transitioning towards low-carbon technologies is crucial for India's pursuit of net-zero goals. However, about 65% of India’s population still grapples with energy poverty, unable to afford basic energy services. Low-income households bear the brunt of rising energy costs. How can we fully utilise renewable energy to both alleviate urban poverty and steer India towards low-carbon electricity production ? Read Godwin Adams’s blog [here](#).

### **[PHOTO ESSAY] Insights From Our Imagination Walks**

Transitions Research's PULL Net Zero team, along with Tallulah D'Silva's Travelling Dome, organised a series of Imagination Walks in March, in Panaji, Goa, to better understand the

visions locals have for the future of their city. Transitions researcher Shantha Venugopal documented her insights from the walks in the form of a photo essay. Shantha's essay showcases how guided walks as a social science research method can help elicit place-based, practical, and imaginative responses from participants. Find the photo essay here: <https://transitionsresearch.org/photo-essay-insights-from-our-imagination-walks/>

## **[BLOG] Working Alone Together: Generative AI and the Future of Work**

The latest instalment in our AI+ blog series highlights the need to reflect on how genAI has the potential to change and impact the future of work. As we consider the potential of GenAI to intensify the gigification of jobs, we must also grapple with questions about worker solidarity, bargaining power, and the quality of human associations in an AI-assisted world. The shift towards AI-augmented freelance work presents both opportunities and challenges that require careful consideration. Read Angelina's blog on this topic [here](#).

### **Section V: What we've been reading/watching/**

"I haven't had time to read much this month, but I've been discussing one of my favourite books with a couple of biologist friends: Richard Powers's *The Overstory* (2018), which I read in 2021. This epic book traces the journeys of nine characters involved, in various ways, with the popular movement to protect old-growth forests in the U.S. Powers generously shares his knowledge about forests and their astonishing wisdom and resilience. If *The Overstory* is time-consuming to read, it is also accessible and entertaining, reminding us of how little we know, and how much we should value, the floral and fungal organisms with whom we share this planet." – [Amita Basu, Research Fellow](#).

"I have recently finished Kazuo Ishiguro's book [Klara and the Sun](#), which I've had on my reading list since it was published a few years ago. The novel follows the story of Klara, a solar-powered AI companion, and her relationship with her human-friend, Josie, who is chronically sick. Ishiguro imagines a future where AI does more than just enhance our day-to-day activities, by becoming capable of human emotions. It becomes evident that Klara's ability to comprehend emotions like humans is limited, but the story begs the question of to what extent AI will enter and influence our personal lives and relationships." – [Ashali Bhandari, Managing Director, People's Urban Living Lab](#).

### **Section VI: Upcoming at Transitions**

**Transitions Research will be hosting a thematic workshop on heat at the 'CBA18: local solutions inspiring global action' conference in Tanzania**

Transitions Research will be co-hosting, along with [Adaptation Research Alliance](#), a thematic session titled, 'Heat Hacks: Building Community Resilience to Beat the Heat Together.' This workshop aims to identify actionable first steps for addressing the challenge that rising temperatures pose to vulnerable communities. This session will engage local actors and diverse community perspectives on managing heat-related challenges; it will also collaboratively generate actionable steps, however small, towards building heat-resilient and sustainable communities.

### **Talking about Transitions: “Navigating Extreme Heat: Can We Thrive in a Warmer World?”**

On June 3rd, 2024, at 5:30 pm (IST), we will be hosting a dialogue titled, “Navigating Extreme Heat: Can We Thrive in a Warmer World?” where we hope to delve into the question of adapting to rising temperatures. This latest edition of our Talking About Transitions dialogue will explore the role of policy, including heat adaptation plans, in addressing the uneven impacts of heat in urban communities, as well as the role of cooling technologies, which demand massive energy consumption and compromise our ability to achieve mitigation goals. Register to attend:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7vA272mxRAODjT1LWwGYdQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7vA272mxRAODjT1LWwGYdQ)



#### **Talking about Transitions:**

## **NAVIGATING EXTREME HEAT: CAN WE THRIVE IN A WARMER WORLD?**

Monday, June 3rd, 2024

5:30 to 6:30pm (IST)

**Virtual Event**

**Talking About Transitions** feature critical conversations on systemic transitions at the interplay of technology, society and sustainability.

Our upcoming dialogue “**Navigating Extreme Heat: Can We Thrive in a Warmer World?**” delves into the question of adapting to rising temperatures - exploring the role of policy and heat adaptation plans in addressing the uneven impacts of heat in urban communities, as well as the role of cooling technologies, which demand massive energy consumption and compromise our ability to achieve mitigation goals.

### **Section VII: Call to Action**

Follow us on [social media](#). Subscribe to our [newsletter](#). Visit our [website](#). Get in touch [for collaborations](#). [Write to us](#) to join the conversation around the transition to an equitable and livable future.