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Institut für Kultur- und
Sozialanthropologie

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

14.06.2023, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C (and online)
IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Cameron Hu (Research Institute for Sustainability Potsdam) The Earth Explicated: Representing and Intervening in West Texas



Cameron Hu is a Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Research Institute for Sustainability in Potsdam, Germany. His work explores

contemporary grammars of liberal empire and technoscientific capitalism through ethnographic and historical consideration of transnational extractive enterprise, natural history, planetary management, and cybernetics. He received a PhD in 2021 from the University of Chicago, where his dissertation, *Knowing Destroying*, received the Daniel F. Nugent Prize in Historical Anthropology.

What interesting trouble should “planetary” turbulence make for prevailing conceptions of knowledge, in anthropology and beyond? This talk raises that question from the Permian Basin of West Texas—the world’s most prolific fracking zone today, and a “final frontier” of US continental imperialism a hundred years prior. The humanities have lately been urged to adjust their terms of inquiry for compatibility with the strong languages (Asad 1994) of planetary cybernetics. But the view from West Texas suggests a different problem: reflection on the operations and trajectories through which modern powers have continuously explicated the Earth qua planet. Thinking with and sometimes against Ian Hacking’s *Representing and Intervening* (1983), I develop exemplary episodes from the 20th century birth and 21st century rebirth of West Texas oil. These invite renewed consideration of obdurate distinctions that underwrite familiar moralities of knowledge in the liberal North Atlantic: the pure from the applied, proposition from action, management from exploitation, and perhaps knowing from destroying.

kommende Termine

21.06.2023 **Sune Haugbølle**
Researching Entangled Revolutions:
Palestine’s transformation into a global
leftist cause

Details:
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