



ZMO-Kolloquium Winter Term 2013/2014

Fuelling Societies:

Energy Resources and Politics 'From Below'

Thursday, October 31st, 2013, 6 pm

Resource Sovereignties:

Converting Energy into Political Power

Lecture by John-Andrew McNeish

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Struggles over energy resources are a significant key to understanding national and regional politics. However, in his presentation, Andrew McNeish argues that contests over the sovereign control of these resources also need to be understood in a wider context of global economic relations. He will demonstrate, through referral to recent empirical research, that contests over natural resources refract the international, national and sub-national fault-lines of sovereignty and in many cases these contests involve attempts to define the character of popular sovereignty in. Secondly he argues that it is vital to see varied articulations of resource sovereignty in the larger context of a global division of labor and nature. The focus on energy alerts us to the material nature of contests for political authority nationally and internationally and it reminds us of the close interaction between human society and the environment. McNeish pays particular attention to the ways in which environments and natural resources structure societies, and the way societies also change the environment. The politics, social struggle and institutional formation that occurs in the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment are transformative, hence the wording of our title 'converting energy into political power'.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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John-Andrew McNeish is Associate Professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and Senior Researcher, Christian Michelsens Institute. He also co-author with Owen Logan of *Flammable Societies: Studies on the Socio-Economics of Oil and Gas* (Pluto Press 2012) and forthcoming *Contested Powers: The Politics of Energy and Development in Latin America* (Zed Books 2013)