

Programme of the workshop “Mental infrastructures of modern fossil and bio-based societies”

Thursday 19 May 2022

9.00-9.30 am	Welcome & Introduction Dennis Eversberg & Matthias Schmelzer, <i>Junior Research Group "Mentalities in Flux" (flumen), University of Jena</i>
9.30-11.00 am	Session 1 „Fossil Mentalities“ Matthias Schmelzer, <i>flumen</i> <i>Transforming the world through concrete: The rise of fossil materials and fossil mentalities</i> & Tere Vadén, <i>BIOS Research Unit, Helsinki</i> <i>Fossil holes in mental infrastructure</i>
11.00-11.30 am	Coffee
11.30 am–1.00 pm	Session 2 “Energy Transitions and Mentality Transformations” Julia Zilles, <i>Sociological Research Institute (SOFI), Göttingen</i> <i>Polarised Mentalities and Societal Hurdles of Energy Transition</i> & Alice Dal Gobbo, <i>University of Trento</i> <i>Everyday energy transitions and the aesth-etics of desire</i>
1.00–2.30 pm	Lunch
2.30–3.30 pm	Keynote: online Éric Pineault, <i>L’Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)</i> <i>The enduring metabolic structures of fossil capital and the social ecology of the imaginaries advanced capitalism</i>
3.30 – 4.00 pm	wrap up: Christine Schickert, Friedrich-Schiller University Jena & discussion
6.00 - 8.00 pm	ONLINE Keynote and Discussion: Cara Daggett, Virginia Tech <i>Desiring Energy: Toxic Fantasies of Fuel, Freedom, and Work</i>

Abstract: Energy, work, and power are intertwined, both in the scientific definition of energy (the ability to do work), and in the political manifestation of human-fuel practices. Fossil fuel advocates rely upon the threat of job loss and energy dependency to mobilize affection for oil, coal or gas, but many renewable energy advocates also adopt this framework in calls for a just energy transition. Doing so helps keep modern energy cultures yoked to extractivism.

In this talk, I will trace the historical emergence of the relationship between energy and work, focusing upon how work came to be understood and valued as a site of energy transformation. The energy-work ethos informed the emergent fossil fuel culture, wherein technical categories of work and waste intersect with racialized, and gendered, judgments of productivity and sloth. Thinking about energy historically suggests that shifting our fuel cultures will require a corresponding shift in (post)-industrial cultures of work and Western understandings of freedom.

Friday 20 May 2022

9.00-10.15 am	Session 3 Martin Fritz & Dennis Eversberg, <i>flumen</i> <i>Mentalities and post-fossil transformation in Germany 2022: The BioMentalities study</i>
10.15–10.30 am	Coffee
10.30-12.00 am	Session 4 “Bio-based practices and cultures “ Lilian Pungas, <i>flumen</i> <i>Dachas and food democracy – bioeconomic mentalities during times of crisis</i> & Dr.in Sarah May / Lea Breitsprecher, <i>University of Freiburg</i> <i>Bioecenomy: culture and everyday life</i>
12.00 am–1.15 pm	Lunch
1.15-2.45 pm	Session 5 „Bio-based modernities?“ Philip Koch, <i>flumen</i> <i>The past and present bio(-based) economy of the olive sector in Jaén</i> & Camila Moreno, <i>Humboldt University of Berlin</i> <i>Mental infrastructures for a net zero world.</i>
2.45 - 3.15 pm	wrap up: Christoph Goerg, <i>University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)</i> & discussion