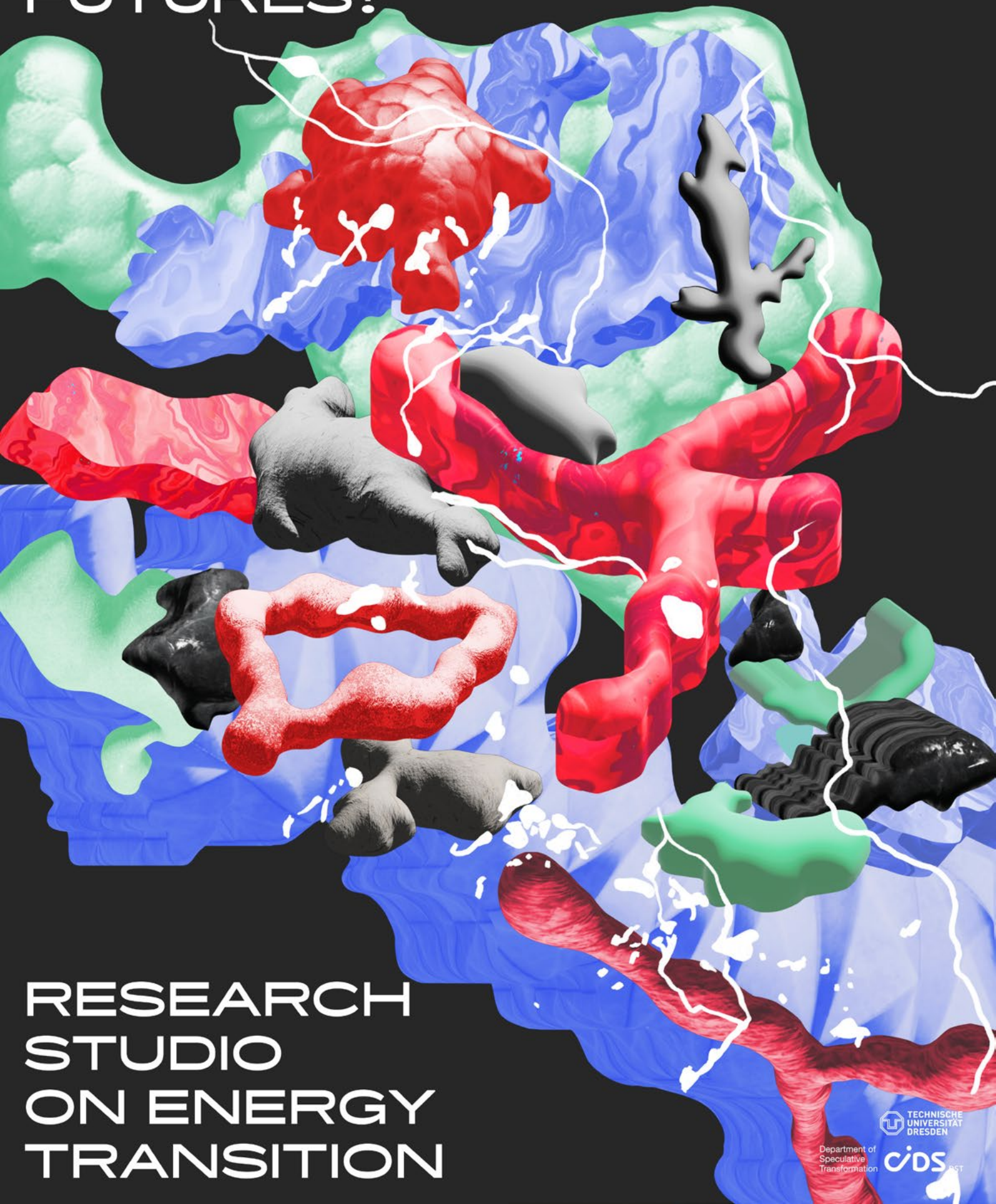


EXTRACTIVE PASTS, SUSTAINABLE FUTURES?

March 11 - 18, 2024
at TU Dresden

This event is organized by the the Chair of Digital Cultures,
in collaboration with the Chair of Micro-Sociology and Techno-Social Interaction,
and the Department for Speculative Transformation



RESEARCH STUDIO ON ENERGY TRANSITION

TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DRESDEN

Department of
Speculative
Transformation

CIDS
AST

EXTRACTIVE PASTS, SUSTAINABLE FUTURES?

Coal has been central to life in Germany not only in the way it shaped the landscape and fueled industrialization processes, but also in the way it influences local cultures and progress imaginaries. As the transition to renewable energies is under way in Germany and elsewhere, emerging technologies and their concurring narratives not only promise more sustainable energy production but a more sustainable life. While the future of energy is being portrayed as connected, smooth, and green, many of the uneasy tensions surrounding the cultural, ecological, and political complexities of transitioning away from fossil fuels are brushed over. Who participates in the creation of energy imaginaries and who is left out? What forms of life and collectivity are being created around renewable energy resources? How does the automation of energy technologies alter the way environments are perceived and acted on?

As one of the largest post-extractivist lignite mining sites in Europe, Lusatia—a region in the borderlands of Germany, Poland, and Czech Republic—epitomizes what is at stake in the energy transition. Having historically served as a lignite extraction region, with much of its economy and sociocultural life clustered around the mining business, the steady phasing out of fossil fuels creates a vacuum that is being filled with new imaginaries for environmental and social change. Renaturated landscapes that preserve cultural and natural heritages, mining pits turned lakes to boost tourism, green hydrogen production at scale to form Germany's clean energy hub—Lusatia is rife with competing and overlapping visions for a future that has yet to materialize.

The research studio will investigate this tipping point—from vision to materialization—by exploring the premises and promises of Lusatia's energy transition, the actors that shape its technological development, and the environmental and social conditions and repercussions of possible future infrastructures. We will delve into Lusatia's historical background and long-term spatial and economic planning as we explore Energiefabrik Knappenrode and the ongoing mining operations at Welzow-Süd. Expert knowledge on energy technologies will be contrasted by a hike around Cottbuser Ostsee, an artificial lake and future home of a floating solar park. Through a series of film screenings and artistic performances we will engage with Sorbian history and culture that is central to the region.

The final outcome of the week, the **Energy Transition Inventory**, will bring together vocabularies, concepts, narratives, maps, drawings, diagrams, and other visual and textual outputs, enabling us to comprehend the intricacies of energy transition, both in Lusatia and beyond.

Participants will present their outcomes to a plenum of invited guests and receive feedback before finalizing contributions for print. The Energy Transition Inventory will be launched to the public at the STS conference [Leakage](#) at TU Dresden (19.-22.03.2024).

TIMETABLE

MON 11.03.

📍 ZfBK - Zentrum für Baukultur Sachsen, Schlossstrasse 2, 01067 Dresden

11 AM – 1:30 PM

Welcome and getting to know each other, Introduction to program and output

Lunch break self-organized

📍 COSMO Wissenschaftsforum, Schlossstrasse 2, 01067 Dresden

3 – 4:30 PM

Beyond Lines and Dots – Critical Mapping as a Reflexive Practice

Leon Jank, Pauline Mai and Louisa Scherer (TUD)

5 – 6:30 PM

Sustainable Futures for the Extractive Past in Lusatia: Challenges, Experiences, Impressions.

Robert Knippschild (IOER)

6:30 PM

Get together (incl. dinner)

TUES 12.03.

📍 Dresden Main Station

8 AM – 1:15 PM

Excursion Part I:
Guided Tour at open-cast lignite mine Welzow Süd (8AM at Main Station)

Lunch included

2 – 4 PM

Excursion Part II:
Energiefabrik Knappenrode

5:30 PM

Bus drop-off back in Dresden

Dinner self-organized

WED 13.03.

📍 Treidlerstrasse 3, 01139 Dresden

10 – 12 AM

Visit at Heliatek – Solar tech company

GROUP 1

📍 ZfBK - Zentrum für Baukultur Sachsen, Schlossstrasse 2, 01067 Dresden

10 – 12 AM

Input RefLau – Hydrogen power plant in planning

GROUP 2

Lunch break self-organized

📍 ZfBK - Zentrum für Baukultur Sachsen, Schlossstrasse 2, 01067 Dresden

2 – 5 PM

Report from morning sessions, group discussion, reflection on field visits & readings with Orit Halpern

Dinner self-organized

📍 Phase 4, Königsbrücker Str. 54, 01099 Dresden

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Film night
Extraction & Transition in Post-Socialist Societies featuring
Both Ears to the Ground by Naimé Perrette &
blaubeeren – cerne jagodyat and labawka – winterlieb by Maja Nagel & Julius Günzel

THUR 14.03.

📍 Dresden Neustadt Bf

7:45 AM – 5 PM

Excursion Cottbuser Ostsee/Lakoma/Neuendorf (7:45 AM at Station)

Lunch break self-organized

7 PM

Back in Dresden Neustadt

Dinner self-organized

TIMETABLE

FRI 15.03.

📍 COSMO Wissenschaftsforum, Schlossstrasse 2, 01067 Dresden

10 AM - 6 PM

Energy Transition Inventory workshop with Michaela Büsse and Johanna Mehl (TUD)

Lunch break self-organized

📍 Hole of Fame, Königsbrücker Str. 39, 01099 Dresden

7 - 10 PM

Artistic Performace
daj nokse wulicowas / daj nochce powedac / let the nails speak
Karoline Schneider & Hella Stoletzkie
kolektiw wakuum

SAT + SUN 16. - 17.03.

FREE TIME

Energy transition inventory development, individual work and excursions (possible additional excursion destinations (self-organized) are included in this booklet).

MON 18.03.

📍 COSMO Wissenschaftsforum, Schlossstrasse 2, 01067 Dresden

10 AM - 3 PM

Finalization of inventory

Lunch break self-organized

3 - 6 PM

Presentation & discussion with invited guests

6 - 8 PM

Closing dinner (included)

TUE 19.03. - SAT 22.03. LEAKAGE CONFERENCE

EXCURSIONS

- ① Heliatek GmbH
- ② Open-cast lignite mine Welzow Süd
- ③ Energiefabrik Knappenrode
- ④ Cottbuser Ostsee
- ⑤ Lakoma
- ⑥ Neuendorf

 **RESEARCH STUDIO SITES**

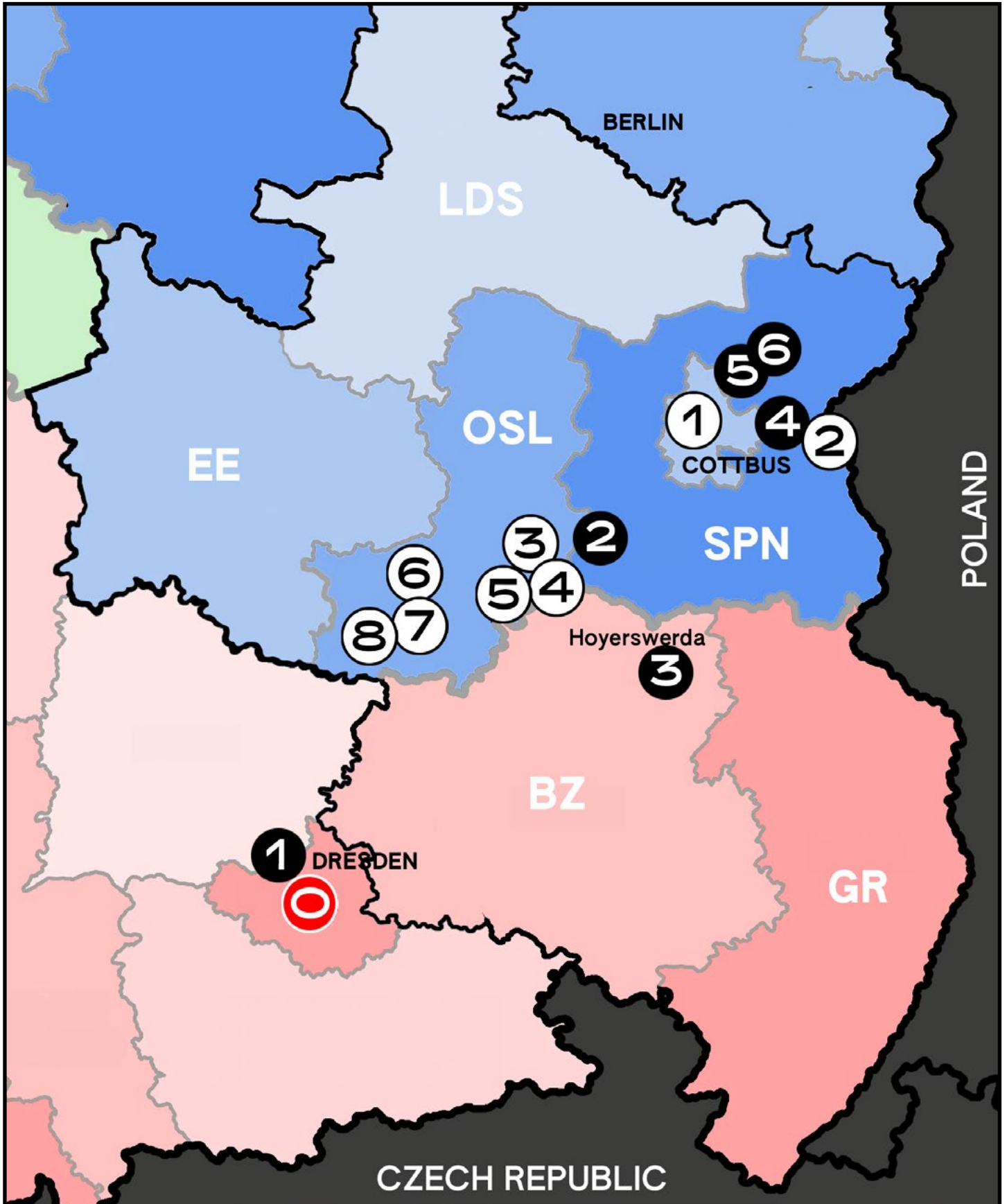
OTHER ENERGY SITES

- ① State Museum of Modern Art Brandenburg
- ② Archive of Lost Places
- ③ IBA-Terrassen - Visitor Center Lausitzer Seenland
- ④ Rusty Nail - Landmark Lausitzer Seenland
- ⑤ Garden Town Marga
- ⑥ Exhibition Mine F60
- ⑦ Biotürme Lauchhammer GmbH
- ⑧ Plessa, power plant

MAP

Here you can find all research studio sites and excursion tips for the weekend:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1pcQTnF21944fh-Ueh3l-wLjAklz06RzE&usp=sharing>



READER

We curated a short list of publications that are relevant to the research studio. This is a non-exhaustive list and we don't expect you to read all of it. **Please select one publication per section to read before the research studio.** For those of you who are not familiar with energy humanities you might want to have a look at the overview piece.

Energy Humanities - An Overview

Szeman, Imre, and Dominic Boyer, eds. 2017. *Energy Humanities: An Anthology*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Introduction: https://www.academia.edu/44337829/Energy_Humanities_An_Anthology

Lusatia

Deshaies, M. 2018. The new post-mining energy landscapes in the lignite basin of Lower Lusatia (Germany). *Europa Regional*, 25.2017(3-4), 29-41. <https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-62253-4>

Austen, Kat. 2022. "Learning from Landscapes in the Post-Anthropocene". *Energy Dispatch, Against Catastrophe*. <https://againstcatastrophe.net/energydispatchblog/austen>

Malm, Andreas. *How to Blow Up a Pipeline*. Verso, 2021. Chapter 3: Fighting Despair (About Ende Gelände Activism in Lusatia, Schwarze Pumpe, etc.) <http://tinyurl.com/25vseo9y>

Landscape Politics

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt, Andrew S. Mathews, and Nils Bubandt. 2019. "Patchy Anthropocene: Landscape Structure, Multi-species History, and the Retooling of Anthropology: An Introduction to Supplement 20." *Current Anthropology*, 60(S20), S186–S197. <https://doi.org/10.1086/703391>

While the research studio is mostly fieldwork-based, we would like to draw on the literature to situate and contextualize our investigations. There will be a dedicated session for reflections on Wednesday afternoon.

Cantor, Alida, and Sarah Knuth. 2019. "Speculations on the Postnatural: Restoration, Accumulation, and Sacrifice at the Salton Sea." *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 51 (2): 527–44. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X18796510>.

Knuth, Sarah, Ingrid Behrsin, Anthony Leveda, and James McCarthy. 2022. "New Political Ecologies of Renewable Energy." *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 5 (3): 997–1013. <https://doi.org/10.1177/25148486221108164>

Fieldwork

Mattern, Shannon. 2013. "Infrastructural Tourism," *Places Journal* <https://doi.org/10.22269/130701>

Bellamy, Brent. 2021. "Fieldwork in the Energy Humanities". *Energy Humanities*. <https://www.energyhumanities.ca/news/fieldwork-in-the-energy-humanities>

Günel, Gökçe, Saiba Varma, and Chika Watanabe. 2020. "A Manifesto for Patchwork Ethnography." *Member Voices, Fieldsights*, June 9. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/a-manifesto-for-patchwork-ethnography>

Mehl, Johanna. "Exposing the Power Grid. Exercises in Energy Literacy." *Energy Dispatch, Against Catastrophe*, Nov 2022. <https://againstcatastrophe.net/energydispatchblog/mehl>

Energy & Infrastructures

Günel, Gökçe. 2020. "Energy Accumulation." e-flux Architecture.
<https://www.e-flux.com/architecture/accumulation/339454/energy-accumulation/>

Bridge, Gavin, Begüm Özkaynak, and Ethemcan Turhan. 2018. "Energy Infrastructure and the Fate of the Nation: Introduction to Special Issue." Energy Research & Social Science 41 (July): 1–11. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629618302251>

Blok, Anders, Moe Nakazora, and Brit Ross Winthereik. 2016. "Infrastructuring Environments." Science as Culture 25 (1): 1–22.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09505431.2015.1081500>.

Energy Justice

After Oil Collective. 2023. Solarities: Seeking Energy Justice, edited by Ayesha Vemuri and Darin Barney. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.
<https://manifold.umn.edu/projects/solarities>

Zografos, Christos, and Paul Robbins. 2020. "Green Sacrifice Zones, or Why a Green New Deal Cannot Ignore the Cost Shifts of Just Transitions." One Earth 3 (5): 543–46. <https://justtransitionforall.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/1-s2.0-S259033222030542X-main.pdf>

Scott, Dayna Nadine, and Adrian A. Smith. 2018. "'Sacrifice Zones' in the Green Energy Economy: Toward an Environmental Justice Framework." McGill Law Journal 62 (3): 861–98.
<https://lawjournal.mcgill.ca/article/sacrifice-zones-in-the-green-energy-economy-toward-an-environmental-justice-framework/>

Media (in German, optional)

"Die Wasserstoffrebellen." ARD, 5. August 2023
<http://tinyurl.com/2adnfx7c>

"Aufbruch am Cottbuser Ostsee - Brandenburgs grösster See entsteht." rbb, 02.07.2023
<http://tinyurl.com/2439j9nd>

"Abgebaggert. Wie das Leben weiter geht." ZDF, 17.08.2021.
<https://www.zdf.de/dokumentation/37-grad/37-abgebaggert-100.html>

Hinter dem Abgrund - Leben in der Lausitz." Docu series, 4 episodes. Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung
<https://www.bpb.de/mediathek/reihen/543344/hinter-dem-abgrund-leben-in-der-lausitz/>

ENERGY TRANSITION INVENTORY

The output of the research studio will be a joint adhoc publication. Each participant (or team of participants) will contribute one item for the inventory. Individual inventory items might be:

- a new term, concept or idea, that emerged during the studio (neologism, compound word, flexion, ...)
- a specific place, space, or area that is paradigmatic for the uneasy and ambiguous emplacements of energy
- an event that (never) happened or will (never) happen
- a feeling that prevailed or an untold story
- an object, material, technology, sound, or smell that captures the socio-technical entanglements of energy pasts, presents, and futures

etc.

Participants will engage and explain their inventory entries both through text and imagery. Together, the collected items will propose a new inventory of provocative and productive terms, places, sensations, and objects that help us grasp and imagine energy transitions and post-extractivist futures.

Provisional version: Monday, 18.03. 3 PM

SUBMISSION MODALITIES

Your submission should consists of

- One-word title
- Short text (essay, narrative, poem, ...)
- Images (photos, collages, mappings, tables, illustrations, ...)

Submit your texts as a .doc word file to johanna.mehl@tu-dresden.de.

No need to style it.

Name your word file:

Title of inventory item_ Last Name(s)

Submit your images as .jpgs
(max. 2 MB per image)

Number your image file(s):

Title of inventory item_1

DRESDEN RECOMMENDATIONS

For your evenings we recommend you visit Neustadt, the neighborhood north of the river Elbe that is known for its bar, restaurant, arts & culture scene. We have listed a few places to help you navigate.

NEUSTADT BARS

- studioBar (fancy cocktails and fancy interior)
- Die Hopfenkult Bierothek (wide varieties of beers)
- The Lappen (small, cozy, simple)
- Kathy's Garage (outside)
- Zille (easy-going bar, dancing on the weekend)
- Blue Note (Jazz Bar)
- Madness (good atmosphere)
- Mondfisch (small, cozy, alternative vibes)
- Little Creatures (relaxed atmosphere, armchairs)
- Hebeda's (vibrant atmosphere)
- Trotzdem (cozy, alternative vibes)
- Ostpol (Unusual place, simple bar, concerts)

Please keep in mind that in Dresden (almost all) bars allow smoking inside. Here are a few recommendations for non-smoking bars:

- Juri (good cocktails)
- Weinbar (easy-going bar)
- Thalia (Movie Theatre + relaxed bar)
- Kathy's Garage (inside, rock music)

ALTSTADT BARS / RESTAURANTS

- aha Ladencafe (Vegan & Vegetarian food)
- brennNessel (All-ecological, regional and seasonal food)
- Sophienkeller (Traditional food with baroque experience, veggie-friendly)
- Felix (Rooftop Bar)

NEUSTADT RESTAURANTS

VEGAN

- Steffenhagen (Vegan German cuisine)
- Falscher Hase (Vegan comfort food)
- Der dicke Schmidt (Vegan Döner)
- Vegan House (Vegan Vietnamese Tapas)
- V-Cake Dresden (Vegan Café)

MEAT + VEGGIE

- All (Meat + Veggie-Friendly)
- Altes Wettbüro (International, modern cuisine)
- Anamit (Authentic Vietnamese)
- Ramen 1974 (Best Ramen)
- Café Andalieb (Syrian Café)
- Raskolnikoff (Russian Cuisine)
- Scheunecafé (International Cuisine)
- Lila Sosse (Modern Takes on classics of German cuisine)
- Planwirtschaft (One of the oldest German Restaurants)
- TanteLeuk (Café with vegan and vegetarian options)
- Tapas Tapas (Spanish Cuisine)

If you like to do some sight-seeing and visit the famous Altstadt (Oldtown), we have a few restaurant and bar recommendations to help you navigate the more touristic area of Dresden that is closer to the university and conference sites.

ORGANIZERS

Dr. Michaela Büsse (she/her) is a postdoctoral researcher at Technische Universität Dresden at the Chair of Digital Cultures and as Interdisciplinary Navigator at the Department for Speculative Transformation responsible for the development of interdisciplinary research projects in the humanities and social science.

In her research she focuses on sociomaterial transformations in the context of speculative urbanism, climate change mitigation, and energy transition. Drawing on elemental anthropology and feminist science and technology studies, she investigates how design practices and technologies govern environments and define who and what is being rendered inhuman.

Kristiane Fehrs (she/ her) is a research assistant at the chair of Micro-Sociology and techno-social Interaction (Institute of Sociology) at Technische Universität Dresden since April 2023. Currently she is developing an ethnographic research project that deals with energy transition and the emergence of hydrogen infrastructures in former brown coal regions in Saxony. She studied 'European Ethnology' at the Institute for European Ethnology at Humboldt University Berlin (M.A.) and 'Metropolitan Culture' (B.A.) at HafenCity University in Hamburg.

Prof. Dr. Orit Halpern (she/her) is Full Professor and Chair of Digital Cultures at Technische Universität Dresden. Her work bridges the histories of science, computing, and cybernetics with design. She completed her Ph.D. at Harvard. She has held numerous visiting scholar positions including at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, IKKM Weimar, and at Duke University. She has also published widely in many venues including *Critical Inquiry*, *Grey Room*, *Journal of Visual Culture*, and *E-Flux*. Her first book *Beautiful Data: A History of Vision and Reason* (Duke UP 2015) investigates histories of big data, design, and governmentality. Her newest book with Robert Mitchell (MIT Press January 2023) is titled the *Smartness Mandate*. The book is a genealogy of our current obsession with smart technologies and artificial intelligence.

Johanna Mehl (she/her) is a PhD candidate in cultural studies and design history at TUD, where she holds a Saxon State fellowship and a research associate position at the Chair of Digital Cultures. As a scholar, designer, and educator she is interested in design as a knowledge culture and its entanglements with environmental history, cybernetics, systems theory, and media theory. She holds a B.A. in Communication Design from the Niederrhein University of Applied Science and an M.A. in Art and Design Studies from the University of the Arts Folkwang, Essen. Besides her artistic and curatorial practice, she has taught in the fields of digital media, culture studies, and design theory and history at various design schools across Europe.

PARTICIPANTS

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