

Geographisches Kolloquium Sommersemester 2023



Ort: Hörsaal H8 (GEO II)

Dienstag, 20. Juni 2023, 16.00 – 18.00 Uhr

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ABSCHLUSSVORTRAG IM HABILITATIONSVERFAHREN

Just Energy Futures Affordances and Hindrances to Energy Transitions Scholarship

Just energy futures provide a framework to conceptualise and explain the desirability and trajectory of Energy Transitions (ET). Its emphasis on enacting structural transformation of 'undesirable' energy systems and ensuring capability equality in uncertain futures is consistent with current development goals. However, the idea of FAIRNESS – central to justice-oriented modes of thought in ET – is rooted in Western epistemologies and comparison notions. Therefore, the relevance of justice-inspired aspirations is socially, politically, and geographically contingent. Consequently, just energy future endeavours neither guarantee uniformly desirable outcomes in non-Western settings nor can they operate deterministically across space and time. To fully understand the potential of just energy futures, we should approach it from comparative empirical, methodological, theoretical, and epistemological perspectives. I draw on evidence from Africa to discuss 'epistemic injustice lock-ins', 'normative stencil adventures' and the appropriateness of just energy futures theorisations in informing ET studies.