

**Sommersemester 2025**

**Dienstag 22. 07. 2025 | 16.15–17.45 Uhr | H6 (Geo I)**

## **‘Disciplining’ Energy Justice Scholarship**

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The ‘centre must always hold’ before embracing diversity, change and delivering practical solutions! Energy justice (EJ) scholarship grapples with conundrums of application and research due to its transdisciplinary nature, the relational character of EJ, and the cross-fertilisation of ideas from divergent and ever-evolving knowledge production and legitimisation cultures – hereafter its diachronic epistemic cultures. The development trajectory of EJ is shaped by disciplinary and ideological commitments, notably from political science, philosophy, geography, environmental justice studies, development studies, and decolonial studies, each with distinct approaches to legitimising knowledge about EJ. As energy transitions entail spatial processes or geographical dynamics, so should the frameworks that guide EJ scholarship. Once the justness of space production (processes), energy systems, and epistemic cultures of EJ scholarship are conceptualised as neither pre-existing nor independent of one another, the dynamic aspect of EJ is foregrounded to expose existential pitfalls in the field. ‘Disciplining’ the transdisciplinary EJ scholarship – with fundamentally spatial implications – requires repositioning it in the core discipline of human geography and foregrounding the clash of epistemic cultures to foster new dialogues that interrogate established methods, theoretical perspectives, and epistemologies. The idea of ‘disciplining’ is not intended to rebrand EJ scholarship by restricting it within a ‘disciplinary silo’ but instead reposition the field to gain epistemic stability more attuned to embracing fruitful trans-disciplinary dialogues. Furthermore, I engage with recent debates about the purported ‘peripherality’ of energy geography and demonstrate why ‘disciplining’ EJ scholarship offers energy geographers an opportunity to foreground the sub-discipline in human geography.



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