Contradictions of Energy:
Markets, States and the Struggle over Transition

Program

Thursday, 12 November 2026

Conference Opening & Keynote, Refugio Berlin

18:00 – 18:15 Speaker Introduction & Welcome by Conference Organizers

18:15 – 20:00 Keynote: Adam Tooze (Columbia University)

Three Shocks: The Climate Crisis & the Actually Existing Energy Transition.

Moderation: Solveig Degen & Jacob Blumenfeld

Friday, 13 November 2026 — Grimm-Zentrum, HU Berlin

10:00 Check-In & Arrival with Coffee

10:15 – 10:30 Conference Opening & Welcome from the Organizers

10:30 – 12:30 ***Panel 1: Critical Theories of Energy***

- Daniela Russ (University of Leipzig) — *Contradictions of Electricity*
- Andreas Folkers (Columbia University, NY, Institute for Social Research Frankfurt) - *Analytics of (In)finitude. Energy and Emissions Between Economy and Ecology*
- Cara Daggett (RIFS Potsdam) — *Putting Metrics Last: A Decolonial Feminist Approach to Measuring Energy Justice*
- *10 min break*
- *50 min questions & roundtable*

- Moderator: Jacob Blumenfeld

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 ***Panel 2: State Capacity for Energy Grid Planning***

- Leon Wansleben (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies) — *Combinatorial Political Economy: Infrastructure Remaking in the Renewable Electricity Transition*
- Ronan Bolton (University of Edinburgh) — *Challenges of Planning and Coordinating Investments in British Electricity Networks*
- Jacob Hasselbalch (Copenhagen Business School) — *Grid Geopolitics and Transnational Planning: China in the Brazilian Energy Transition*
- *10 min break*
- *50 min questions & roundtable*
- Moderator: Solveig Degen

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 – 19:00 ***Panel 3: Workers and the Decarbonisation State***

- Richard Bärnthaler (University of Leeds) — *Strategic Transformation Research for a Critical Conjuncture*
- Melanie Pichler (BOKU Vienna) — *Transforming a Fossilized Metabolism: Structural Limitations of the Decarbonisation State*
- Simon Schaupp (KU Leuven) — *Workers in Germany's Energy Sector: Contradictions Between Planning and Executing Work and Their Implications for Socialisation*
- *50 min questions & roundtable*
- Moderator: Rabea Berfelde

Saturday, 14 November 2026 — Grimm-Zentrum

9:45 Arrival & Coffee

10:00 – 11:45 ***Panel 4: Energy Investments, the State & Transformative Politics***

- Canay Özden-Schilling (National University Singapore) — *Pitfalls of Energy Investments Erring on the Side of System Expansion*
- Rosie Collington (Copenhagen Business School) — *Risk Dumping and the Uneven Finance of State Decarbonisation Projects*
- Helen Traill (University of Glasgow) — *Community Wealth Building and Local Energy Ownership in Scotland*
- *45 min roundtable*
- Moderator: tba

11:45 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 13:30 **Future Histories Live-Podcast on "Energy Planning in Practice"**

with Melanie Brusseler (Common Wealth), Adam Tooze (Columbia University), and Max Wilken (Communia),

Moderator: Jan Groos

13:30 - 13:40 Conference Closing