NOT THE NEW KUWAIT: POLAND'S SHALE GAS NARRATIVES FROM HOPE TO DECEPTION

FIFTH SEMINAR

Energy and Power. Social ontology perspectives and energy transitions

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In 2011, the US Energy Information Administration attributed to Poland Europe's largest reserves of shale gas. This data prompted sudden interest by a number of foreign gas companies. The Polish government initially strongly supported shale gas frenzy by adopting a neoliberal agenda centred on narratives of national energy autonomy from Russia, and on the image of Poland as a new energy titan, or a 'new Kuwait'. However in the last two years fluctuating tax regimes and difficult geology prompted most foreign companies to leave Poland. Through a series of interviews carried out locally with representatives of oil companies, NGOs, activists and consultancy firms, I analyse the crumbling of the Polish energy autonomy dream.

Thursday
11 febbraio 2016
h.15,00 - 17,00
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