

Doctoral colloquium of the
Leibniz Research Alliance on Energy Transitions

Beyond Coal, Gas and Oil
Designing a Socially Just and Economically Viable Phase-Out

April 23rd - 24th, 2018
at the German Institute for Economic Research, DIW-Berlin
Mohrenstr. 58, 10117 Berlin

The Leibniz Research Alliance on Energy Transitions regularly hosts doctoral colloquiums on specific topics relevant to energy transitions with one or more of its member institutes. The colloquium provides an opportunity for doctoral researchers to present their research questions, goals, designs and methods (and possibly also results), and discuss them with an interdisciplinary audience at an early point in their career. The colloquium is open to doctoral candidates at any stage of their dissertation project.

Call for Abstracts

One of the major challenges confronting climate and energy policy-makers since the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21 is the necessity to phase-out coal, gas and oil without compromising social and economic wellbeing. In order to stay within the limits of the remaining carbon budget, global coal, gas, and oil consumption need to be curbed drastically in the short- to medium-term. This transition, however, poses major economic, political and societal challenges. More than anything, the anticipated (re)distribution of social and economic prosperity within – and between – affected countries, regions, sectors, and actors call for coal, gas, and oil producing and consuming countries to design socially just and publically acceptable frameworks for upcoming (regional) fossil phase-outs.

Currently, many affected regions find themselves in political paralysis, because their economic dependence on and socio-cultural identification with the coal, gas and oil industries are so high that phase-outs spur massive popular resistance. People and businesses feel like they are at the losing end of international climate politics, and fiercely lobby against planned shut-downs. Oftentimes, their resistance is supported by local administrations, energy providers and unions. Against this backdrop, integrated strategies that ameliorate the socio-economic consequences of climate-related structural change and provide viable options for future development are needed.

The doctoral colloquium seeks to explore the tensions that arise between the necessity of phasing out fossil fuels in Germany and beyond, and the socio-economic consequences that these phase-outs have on the affected regions. Contributions may explore (but are not limited to) the politics of coal and oil phase-outs, including the tensions between global agreements and local implementation, and the evolution and dynamics of local conflicts resulting from this tension, possibly in light of the growth of populist movements in the affected areas. We also welcome contributions that investigate the specific policies, legal frameworks, and governance arrangements that have been employed in specific regions to accompany these transition processes, and analyze how they have worked (or not), and how they could be useful to similar cases elsewhere. Among others, we seek to discuss the political possibilities for weighing and balancing conflicting interests at different levels of governance, which roles different stakeholders can or should play in the transition process, and how different regions can learn from each others' transition processes.

Overall, we seek to attract projects that discuss the social and economic consequences of coal, gas and oil phase-outs in different countries and regions across the globe, and offer insights into how to deal with these regions in the future.

Abstracts

Abstracts should not exceed 250 words, and include the title of your research project as well as a short summary of your central research questions or arguments. The deadline for the submission of abstracts and a short CV is **March 15th, 2018**. Please submit your abstracts to Leslie Quitzow (leslie.quitzow@wzb.eu) and Pao-Yu Oei (pyo@wip.tu-berlin.de).

Participation

The colloquium is open for up to ten participants from any academic discipline whose dissertation project relates to the above topic. Each participant will receive the opportunity to give a 15-minute presentation of his or her research project, receive specific feedback from a senior discussant, and then enter into a discussion with the broader audience, which will be comprised of other doctoral students and senior researchers from the Leibniz Research Alliance on Energy Transitions.

Contact

This year's colloquium is headed by:

Dr. Pao-Yu Oei, Head of the Junior Research Group "CoalExit" at the Technische Universität Berlin in cooperation with the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW-Berlin), the Humboldt-Universität of Berlin (HU Berlin) and the Hertie School of Governance.

Leslie Quitzow, coordinator of the Leibniz-Research Alliance on Energy Transitions at WZB Berlin Social Science Center. Please contact Leslie Quitzow in case of questions (see email below).

Program

The two-day colloquium is scheduled to begin on the morning of Monday, April 23rd, 2018, and to end in the afternoon of Tuesday, April 24th, 2018. It will be kicked-off with keynotes by Prof. Dr. Claudia Kemfert (DIW-Berlin and Hertie School of Governance) and Prof. Christian Hirschhausen (DIW-Berlin and Berlin Technical University). A detailed program including the names of all discussants will be circulated once you are accepted.

Travel costs

Travel costs for accepted participants, including train tickets and a maximum of two nights in a hotel will be covered by the Leibniz Research Alliance on Energy Transitions within the limits of the Bundesreisekostengesetz.