

Name:

Prof. Dr. Timothy Moss

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WINS Seminar

Date of presentation:

20.10.2016, IRI THESys, Friedrichstraße 191, 10117 Berlin, Room 4088

Title of presentation: Conceptualising Germany's Energy: Institutions, Materiality, Power, Space

Abstract

In my talk I present ideas drawn from a recently published book I co-edited that explores ways of conceptualizing Germany's ongoing energy transition. Although widely acclaimed in policy and research circles worldwide, the /Energiewende/ is, as yet, poorly understood in terms of social science scholarship. Our book is a response to this need to delve beyond descriptive accounts of policy implementation and contestation in order to unpack the deeper issues at play. These we see as lying in the fields of 1) institutional change, 2) materiality, 3) power and 4) space. In my talk I will explain how and why we selected particular conceptual approaches for understanding each of these dimensions, assess the value of each of the concepts in describing and explaining energy transitions, illustrated with examples drawn from Germany's /Energiewende/, and explore briefly areas of complementarity and incompatibility. The presentation will be framed as a contribution towards the overarching theme of the WINS seminar 2016/17 on the governability of the anthropocene.

Short bio

Timothy Moss became a Guest Professor at IRI THESys in April 2016, having been an affiliated member since June 2014. Prior to this appointment he headed a research department at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS). He holds a B.A. in European Studies (Sussex), an M.Phil. in Modern European History (Oxford) and a D.Phil in German municipal history (Oxford). His research revolves around processes of institutional change relating to public goods and their spatiality in general, and urban infrastructure systems in particular. With his multi-disciplinary background in history and political science and 20-year experience on interdisciplinary research projects both within and beyond the social sciences he is naturally attracted to scholarship at the interface of diverse debates on this topic. In his work he draws on concepts relating to socio-technical systems, institutional change, urban and regional development, multi-level governance, global change and environmental history in order to devise novel perspectives and derive innovative insight on the dynamic relationship between infrastructures, actors and space. He has led and conducted numerous research projects for the European Commission, the German Research Council (DFG) and the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and published widely in leading academic journals and edited volumes. Many of his projects have had a strong transdisciplinary component, involving close interaction with practitioners in policy, administration, business and civil society. He is a member of the German Academy of Spatial Research and Planning (ARL) and the Council for Land Stewardship (DRL).