

*Daniela Russ, Forum Internationale Wissenschaft*

*daniela.russ@uni-bonn.de*

### **The Development of Energy Measures and Energy Statistics in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Almost everything we know about our energy system and its problems depends on the observation and comparison of energy measures: Our economy is too energy intensive (i.e. it produces too little value with too much energy), energy consumption is unequally distributed (as shown by the energy gini index) and the mixture of fuels is not sustainable since forecasting shows demand cannot be met by resources anylonger. However, energy measures are by no means “natural” or “self-evident” – they have a socio-political history. The presentation traces the emergence and development of energy measures and energy statistics from the discovery of energy in physics in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early energetic theories of society around 1900 to the emergence of global energy statistics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Drawing on work on governance (Foucault), quantification and commensuration (Porter, Espeland/Stevens), the presentation focusses on the question, how energy is made comparable and governable through quantification. Based on an increasingly intensifying net of energy measures and their comparison, energy evolves as a global problem in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Daniela Ruß, M.A.  
Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin  
Forum Internationale Wissenschaft  
Abteilung Soziologie und Politik des Wissenschaftssystems  
Heussalle 18-24  
53113 Bonn