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Abstract for Session 2: Energy systems
in transition – strategies of incumbent
actors

Fracking in Austria - and beyond'

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In recent years, the promotion of shale gas is increasingly seen as a possibility to meet the challenges of sufficient energy supply and climate change while stimulating economic growth. For the production of shale gas, hydraulic fracturing (*fracking*) has to be implemented, which is a topic of an ongoing controversy.

In 2011, the OMV revealed plans to produce shale gas through fracking in Austria, applying a new and presumably clean method, which was being developed in cooperation with the Montanuniversität Leoben. But their operations came to an end after public protest and an amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act, which made an EIA of fracking mandatory – even for testing purposes. In the UK, despite of public protest, fracking is further pushed by government who estimate existing regulations being sufficient to minimize risks.

The presentation will shed light on the societal dynamics surrounding the introduction of fracking and how different actor groups frame and act towards this technology and especially how responsibilities are constructed and assigned. It will compare the case of Austria with the one of UK analyzing similarities and differences regarding the framing of the topic, the relevant actor groups as well as the political and legal context.



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