

Abstract

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Session: Energy Poverty

Title: Energy as a Network Effect: The Case of Renewable Energy Carbon Offsets.

Apart from the vulnerabilities arise out of climate change, the developing countries are undergoing a set of climate-mediated transformations that have far-reaching implications. One of such domains is carbon trade where emission reduction taking place in the developing countries are exchanged to meet the reduction commitments of the advanced developed country partners. The generation of carbon credit is altering the developing countries locations as much as it is reshaping the recipients of credits who thereby outsource their emissions. It is this aspect of carbon mediated interaction taking place between the developed countries and the developing countries in the context of renewable energy is the focus of this presentation.

This presentation, based on an ANT-inspired ethnographic study on how carbon credits are generated in a small-scale biomass renewable energy power plant in India, goes into the details of how the politically significant inclusions and exclusions are crucial in the generation of carbon as an exchange object. The emerging emphasis of biofuel based energy generation and simultaneous emission reduction is opening up new contours of international politics, with its drastic implications on access to energy, food etc.

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