



Lecture Series in Social Anthropology

Full
Semester
2026

Tuesday, 17 November 2026 | 4.15 p.m. | Room AND-4-06

Building Social Ocean Energy? Environmental Justice in Tidal Technologies Along Indonesian, Taiwanese and Canadian Coasts

Prof. Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix (University of Bern)

New technologies such as wave and tidal power have long promised green energy production at sea. Yet these new infrastructures are built into existing energy systems, and increasingly busy, multi-purpose oceanic spaces. This paper uses ethnographic data from the Social Ocean Energy team to analyze the experience of testing tidal energy systems on three coasts. How does the tidal power dream intersect with islander struggles for energy sufficiency, fisheries conflicts, geopolitical security concerns, ownership of grid infrastructures, and the push and pull around decarbonizing? Engaging debates in the anthropology of infrastructure and futuring, I ask: what are the politics of risk and responsibility around these marine experiments? How are tidal power projects changing relations with the sea in Indonesia, Taiwan and Canada? This talk speaks to questions of technology and energy governance, as well as questions of environmental justice in new blue industries.

Organisation:

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Entrance free of charge.

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