

Title: Energy: The Human Equation

Host: Anindita Banerjee

Date: December 1, 2015, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Abstract: What happens to the way we understand energy research, development, policymaking, and opinion building if we bring together the humanities with the sciences and social sciences? Energy research and policy inherently depend upon and have profound consequences for human life and human values, yet they tend to be articulated in quantitative and structural terms. What would change if the conversations were broadened to include the analytical, theoretical, and cultural skills of humanists? Can internationally oriented humanistic study, uniquely equipped to engage energy economies and societies outside North America and Western Europe such as Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, be particularly relevant to collaborative considerations of energy security and energy futures on a planetary scale? The study of energy is a growing field within the humanities, and in this topical lunch, we look to engage more directly with the energy community across Cornell. Our aim is to open up the conversation towards creating new, integrative vocabularies, methods, and practices of engaging the techno-scientific, social, and cultural dimensions of energy.