

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

SPEAKER SERIES

WATER OUT OF PLACE: Energy, empire, and 'wasted' resources in Alberta

If recent political headlines are any guide, water is in the wrong place for Alberta to access. The scramble for access to 'tidewater' that would enable pipelines to transport its fossil fuel resources to global markets, however, is part of a longer history: one in which Alberta's water begins and remains out of place. In this talk, Jeremy Schmidt develops the notion of "matter out of place," initially articulated by Mary Douglas, to consider the social structure of water policy in Alberta. The talk examines how 'waste' functioned in colonial policies of the 19th century and explores how contemporary challenges at the nexus of water and energy in Alberta continue to structure claims to land and water in service to empire.

Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

Assistant Professor of Geography
Durham University

Friday, September 21st @ 2:30 p.m.
McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building, Room 1116

ALL WELCOME!