

ETHNOGEOGRAPHY TALKS

TRANSDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATIONS IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND BEYOND

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This series is organized by the critical ethnography collective at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences @HSG

SPRING 2023

March 9th

Grounding Energy:

Materiality, Extraction, and the Allure of Potentiality in Bolivia

Mareike Winchell (University of Chicago) and Mark Goodale (University of Lausanne), Chair: Thomas Grisaffi

10:15-12:15 | The Square ARENA | hybrid event

This joint presentation by two anthropologists of Bolivia examines the fraught interrelationship between materiality, extraction, and contested futurities as a key analytical frame through which to understand both enduring and emergent sociopolitical and socioeconomic dynamics in contemporary Bolivia. Using two distinct forms of extraction as case studies—fire management and mismanagement (Winchell) and the production of “battery grade” lithium compounds from brine (Goodale)—the presentation explores the ways in which the materialities of energy processes crystallize legacies of racialized dispossession, local projects of auto-development, and competing visions of “productive sovereignty,” among others, all against a background of wider regional and global climate crisis.