

PhD Project of Oliver D. Liebig, M.A.

The Mero Ikojts and the Wind. Energy Assemblages and Indigeneity in Mexico.

Renewable energies and the feasibility of the energy transition are at the center of public, political and economic interests. As a result of these developments economic regions become attractive which so far received special attention neither from entrepreneurial nor the state side.

This is the case in Mexico in the region of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, where each year with the beginning of October arise powerful north winds, and continue for more than six months. This environmental phenomena is actually seen as a „green“ and imperatively required resource by transnational enterprises as well as the mexican state. Through an intense building density should be achieved the worldwide biggest regional concentration of wind turbines. In contrary to this, the Mero Ikojts – better known under the identification of their linguistic group Huave – are seeing threatened environment, biodiversity and related cultural practice forms.

The project examines the culture specific, competing conceptions of „energy“ and „nature“, which are correlated to each other and by this mutual transformed. For that purpose the interpretations, based on diverse ontologies, the interactions and the constantly modifying conceptualizations of „renewable energies“ – and therefore the pending conceptualizations of „nature“ – are described as dynamic assemblages. Aim of the project is a better understanding of complex forms of exchange and the transcultural interaction of humans, nature, knowledge and technology in the field of renewable energies, through an analysis of concrete encounter settings.