

GLOBAL ENERGY POLITICS

1. Session: Introduction (20.10.2025)

PROGRAMM

- Introduction: Who are you? Who am I?
- Why study global energy politics?
- Organizational issues and questions
- If we have time, some group work

WE LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES...

- Global upheaval
 - Global disordering
 - Energy part of it... But how and why?
- Discuss for 5 minutes with your neighbor, a) what is energy? b) why does it matter? and c) why does it matter politically?

ENERGY?

- energeia = greek for „**activity in work**“
- Various **forms**: thermal, mechanic, electromagnetic, chemical
- Energy is always **converted**, never consumed...
- Basic unit: **Joule** (work needed to pick up an apple for one meter) but more common to measure power in **Watt**

ENERGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Historically **strategic** discussions particularly on wood and forests
- **Geopolitical** debates at end of 19th century/ beginning of 20th century
- **Economic** discussions on **scarcity**
- Realist perspectives on **capacities** and energy as a basis for **power**
- Liberal analyses of **cooperation and interdependence**

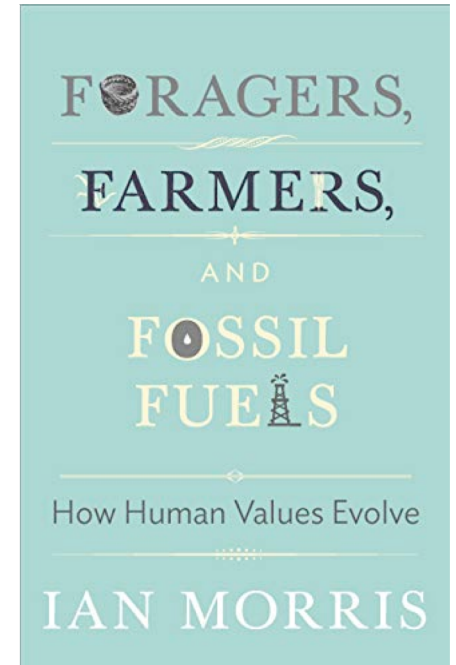
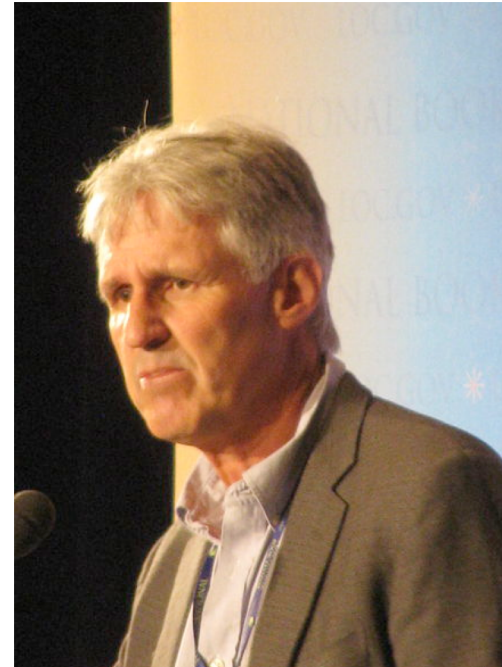
WHY STUDY ENERGY POLITICS TODAY?

- **Economics:** without energy no growth and no welfare
- **Security:** oil wars, pipeline conflicts, local conflicts over biomass, human rights violations, new geopolitics of RE
- **Social:** energy poverty and energy injustice
- **Environment:** energy one major field of any green transformation
- **Practical aspects:** lots of jobs around and a major theme of TU Darmstadt...

THE SILVER BULLET?

Ian Morris (Stanford)

Energy → values



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yy2P5XkEPIs>

CONTENT OF CLASS

- Introduction with a focus on **historical development**
- Energy **economics** and **governance** national/ global
- Energy **security** and energy wars
- Energy **transitions**
- **Renewable** energy

TEXT AND SLIDES

- All materials are on moodle
- Same for slides

OFFICE HOURS

- Simply write me an email and let's find a date via zoom or in my office

REQUIREMENTS

- Active participation
- Writing four literature reviews of one to two pages to be handed in at the beginning of class (no exception...)
- Term paper or oral exam depending on your program (term paper due 31.03.2026; oral exam on 12. or 13.02.2026)

GROUP WORK



DISCUSS IN GROUPS OF THREE ONE FORM OF ENERGY

- When and why politically relevant?
- What are economic and social aspects?
- Security aspects?
- Geopolitical aspects?
- Ecological aspects?
- Other?