

# ENERGY TRANSITIONS AS LIVED EXPERIENCE: RESILIENCE AND COMPLICITY

**R**edefining “Strukturwandel” as an energy transition during the so-called Great Acceleration and focusing on the lives and stories of women in the Ruhr region between 1960 and 1980, this talk addresses the complex and ambivalent role of women in energy systems dominated by fossil fuels and (paid) male work. Acknowledging the fact that women often only enter energy histories as consumers of energy, especially in the home, it makes the role of women in energy transitions more visible while highlighting the “messiness” und unpredictability of human agency in energy transitions more generally. What is needed is a more nuanced understanding of the ways that women (and men) were both impacted by and instrumental in shaping and resisting energy systems, which are, after all, social systems. Equally important, we need to understand the narratives and imaginaries that historical actors, including women, have created and perpetuated to sustain these energy systems. Only if we comprehend the role of energy through a broader concept of energy systems, which pervade human behaviour while generating a prevalent discourse, can we appreciate the significance and long reach of societal arrangements based on hydrocarbon production and consumption and grasp the perfidy of a system that is almost impossible to escape as humans internalize its mechanizations and meanings.



**Donnerstag, 11.02.2021**

**18:15-19:45 Uhr**

Die Veranstaltung findet online über Zoom statt.  
Bitte melden Sie sich für den Zoom-Zugang  
bei: [sekretariat.wsu@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:sekretariat.wsu@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de)  
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