



Environmental Engineering & Sciences

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
CEE 595AG Seminar

Friday, September 15, 2023 | 10:00 – 10:50 a.m. CST | 2311 Yeh Center

Of Pipelines and Turbines: The Politics of Illinois' Energy Transition

In this talk, McKenzie Johnson (NRES) examines the contentious politics of Illinois' energy transition. Since 2016, Illinois has been roiled by opposition to different forms of energy infrastructure development. Understanding when and why opposition to infrastructure development emerges has thus become a critical task for scientists and policymakers. Examining opposition to the construction of both oil pipelines and wind turbines, Johnson unpacks understandings of energy justice in Illinois, and its potential to shape our ability to pursue a just energy transition.

McKenzie F. Johnson Assistant Professor

UIUC Natural Resources & Environmental Science



Education

- Ph.D. Environmental Policy, Duke University, 2017
- M.A. Conservation Biology, Columbia University, 2007
- A.B. Environmental Studies, Vassar College, 2004

Biography

My research and teaching focuses on global environmental politics, environmental justice, and human security. I am particularly interested in understanding whether and how global environmental governance initiatives create local opportunities to enhance social justice and environmental sustainability. My research program is global in scope: I have conducted interdisciplinary fieldwork in South Asia, Africa, and South America. However, my next major project will focus on the intersection of environmental justice and energy policy in the United States, with a specific focus on the ability of Environmental Impact Assessments to provide just outcomes for communities impacted by pipeline development.