

18.8.2022 12.30–16.00, Tieteiden talo, Helsinki

New understandings of security and geopolitics for climate change and advancing energy transition

Research seminar organised by the Academy Fellowship project IDEALE: “Interplay between National Defence, Security and Low-Carbon Energy Policies: a Sustainability Transitions Perspective” 2019-2024, funded by the Academy of Finland and the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE.

We are living in an era of rapid changes in terms of advancing climate change, shifting geopolitical landscape and progressing energy transition. These three elements influence each other in a dynamic way creating new challenges and opportunities. While sustainability transitions were initially about creating new innovations and their diffusion, especially the energy transition has progressed to a stage, where the new innovations are gradually becoming part of the mainstream in some countries, while still very far from it in others. This stage also creates new implications as it means that the dominant socio-technical regimes built around traditional ways of fossil-based energy production and using energy are changing. Such changes are significant also from the perspective of security and geopolitics. On the other hand, the recent IPCC reports show that climate change is progressing, and its impacts are already seen in many places – making climate change the most pressing security issue globally. This seminar is drawing from different research disciplines, including security studies, policy studies and sustainability transition studies to discuss how the understanding of security and geopolitics is changing with the above developments.

Our keynote speaker is Dhanasree Jayaram, who is Assistant Professor in the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, and currently Research Fellow at Centre Marc Bloch (CMB) and Guest Researcher at Freie Universität Berlin. She completed her PhD on the military dimensions of environmental security in 2018, and has subsequently worked on human security, climate diplomacy and geopolitics.

The seminar also includes invited presentations from Veli-Pekka Tynkkynen, University of Helsinki, and Emma Hakala, Finnish Institute of International Affairs. Key insights from the IDEALE project will be presented by Paula Kivimaa. See bios of the speakers below.

Welcome!

Programme

- 12:30 Opening words**
Paula Kivimaa, Research Professor, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE
- 12:35 ‘Climatization’ of Security and Geopolitical Narratives in South Asia**
Dhanasree Jayaram, Assistant Professor, Manipal University
- 13.30 Interplay between national security, defence and sustainable energy transitions in four European countries**
Paula Kivimaa, Research Professor, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE
- 14:10 Coffee break**
- 14.30 Visualizing and coding of energy assemblages to enable energy transition and “Ruxit”**
Veli-Pekka Tynkkynen, Professor, University of Helsinki
- 15:00 (Re-)Conceptualising security in the time of sustainability transitions**
Emma Hakala, Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs FIIA
- 15.30 Final discussion and closing at 16:00**

Dr. Dhanasree Jayaram is a Research Fellow at Centre Marc Bloch (CMB) and Guest Researcher at Freie Universität Berlin – under the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s International Climate Protection Fellowship 2022-23. She is an Assistant Professor, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, and Co-coordinator, Centre for Climate Studies, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Karnataka, India. She is also a Research Fellow, Earth System Governance; Member, Climate Security Expert Network; and Member, Planet Politics Institute. She holds a PhD in Geopolitics and International Relations from MAHE. She pursued a visiting fellowship (Erasmus Mundus – short-term PhD) at Leiden University, the Netherlands during 2014-15; and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, under the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship during 2018-19. She managed a project of adelphi (Berlin) on “Climate Diplomacy”, sponsored by the German Federal Foreign Office during 2015-20.



Paula Kivimaa is Research Professor in Climate and Society in the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Associate at Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex, and a member of the Finnish Climate Panel. Her research has focused on sustainability transitions to zero-carbon energy and mobility systems, in particular from the perspective of how public policy contributes to such transitions. She currently leads an Academy of Finland Fellowship project on the interplay between sustainability transitions, energy policy and national defence and security policy. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and contributed to reports, policy briefs and responses addressed to the EU, Finnish and UK policymakers, including a report “Sustainability transitions: policy and practice” feeding into the

State of the European Environment Report, published by the EEA. She holds an MSc in Environmental Technology (Imperial College, 2002) and a PhD in Organisations and Management (Helsinki School of Economics, 2008).



Veli-Pekka Tynkkynen is a Professor in Russian Environmental Studies at the Aleksanteri Institute, Finnish Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies at the University of Helsinki and has the Title of Docent in Russian resource and energy policy at the National Defence University, Finland. He has led several academic research projects with wide international collaboration. He leads the Research Group on the Russian Environment that consists of dozen researchers focusing on energy and environmental policies; energy security; political power and culture in Russia. Now his team is focusing on visualization and politization of energy and waste flows in Russia and Finland (FLOWISION). He outlines his multidisciplinary take on Russia in his book “The Energy of Russia. Hydrocarbon Culture and

Climate Change” (Edward Elgar, 2019). Professor Tynkkynen is an experienced speaker with a wide track-record in giving lectures and courses at European and Russian universities. He has delivered tens of public talks, is frequently giving expert statements for authorities as well as is an oft-asked commentator at media.



Emma Hakala is a Senior Research Fellow at FIIA, a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Helsinki and a member of the BIOS Research Unit. Her research focuses on environmental security and the geopolitics of climate change. Her previous research has covered, among other things, environmental security cooperation in the post-conflict Western Balkans, the intersections of environmental security and policy coherence, and the integration of climate change into preparedness and security policy in Finland. Hakala is also currently working on the project “Toxic Crimes” at the University of Helsinki, where she explores practices aimed to address the environmental damage of conflict.

[Registration](#) by 16.8.2022 (max of 50 people in-person participation).

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