PhD Research Project Abstract – Claudia Foltyn, M.A.

What Is the Polish Fracking Case a Case Of? Ecological Problematizations and Regulatory Assessment Routines in the "Other Modernity"

This dissertation examines the public controversies surrounding shale gas extraction through hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in Poland. It focuses on the technology's promises of energy security, its ecological problematization, and the resulting legal dispute between the European Commission and Poland, particularly concerning environmental impact assessment requirements.

Beyond the empirical case study, the dissertation asks what the Polish fracking case reveals about the regulation of chemical risks (particularly those associated with the fracking fluids used), the management of contaminated wastewater in fossil fuel extraction, and the possibilities and limitations of scientific risk assessment. Drawing on the Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD), it examines how scientific expertise, classification procedures, and institutional assessment routines produce knowledge about environmental hazards, thereby making certain risks visible while leaving others invisible.