

# Fossil Fuel Authoritarianism

Climate Change, Carbon Economics and the Rise of the Far Right

Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, 9am-5pm

**Malamud Room at the Institute of the Americas  
Co-sponsored by the International Institute and Science Studies Program**



*Donald Trump rose to power on the back of his promise to 'End the War on Coal.' Hours after taking office, Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro transferred the regulation of indigenous reserves to his agriculture ministry, making protected lands available for logging, farming and other projects. Vladimir Putin has suggested that climate change would benefit Russia by opening up the Arctic for shipping. These are just some of the most prominent examples of the contemporary alliance of far-right, authoritarian politics with anti-environmentalism. All these regimes are united in their desire to postpone the energy transition and keep the 'carbon bubble' inflated through climate change denial and greatly accelerated extraction of fossil fuels.*

*This teach-in seeks to understand the geopolitics of what we are calling 'fossil fuel authoritarianism.' The term 'authoritarian' denotes these governments' populist invocations of ethno-nationalism, Christian fundamentalism, and white supremacy. There will be three panels. The first, 'Black Gold,' will cover the deep substructures of fossil fuel capitalism, connecting geology to commodity flows. The second panel, 'Rolling Coal' will analyze the cultural politics of far-right carbon economics in Brazil, Hungary and the United States. The third panel, 'The Planetary Commons,' will explore solutions and sites of resistance, from green cities to indigenous land rights, to new environmental infrastructures right here at UCSD.*

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