



Guest Speaker Adam Mayer

Insights on the Social Context of Unconventional Energy in Colorado:

Partisanship, Paradox, and Political Identity

Questions surrounding unconventional energy play a key role in local and state politics in Colorado, and the rules and regulations that emerge from government have major implications for the industry's activities. Such policymaking is intimately tied to the public concerns and opinions. **This talk will provide an overview of how political affiliation does—and does not—affect views towards oil and gas development in Colorado.** Current evidence suggests that public views about unconventional oil and gas extraction do not neatly fall along partisan fault-lines, possibly because oil and gas extraction is an intimate, proximate issue for many Coloradoans. Avoiding sharp polarization can help form an effective governance regime for oil and gas development while facilitating cooperation between industry, government, and communities.



Adam Mayer is a sociologist who will join the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at Colorado State University as an Assistant Professor next fall. His research explores the social dimensions of energy and energy development. Adam's work has been published in journals such as Energy Research and Social Science, Social Currents, Extractive Industries and Society, Sociological Spectrum and Sociological Perspectives.

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