

The Department of Anthropology Presents:

CARCERAL REPAIR: METHANE EXTRACTION IN LAKE KIVU, RWANDA

November 7, 2019

4:00- 5:00 pm

Shaffer Art Bldg Auditorium

This talk examines new methane extraction operations in Lake Kivu on the Rwanda/DRC border as a lens into understanding how energy futures in Africa are imagined and enacted within national projects of post-war reconstruction, and illuminates the logics of capture that haunt them. In 2005, a highly-regarded scientific paper argued that methane levels in the lake risked oversaturation—and therefore potential spontaneous release—within the century. This assertion spurred state-backed projects to simultaneously prevent a natural disaster that could decimate lakeside populations, and harness the methane to meet Rwanda's rising electrification needs. Two US companies are currently operating methane-fueled power plants on and in the lake. The paper suggests these energy projects, an integral part of the overall architecture of social repair in Rwanda, reproduce and generate forms of captivity and entrapment that are central to understanding the lived politics of “carceral repair”, a generation after genocide.



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If you have any questions or require accommodations, please contact JoAnn L Rhoades at jlrhoade@syr.edu by 31 October 2019.