iDoc opens a valuable space for interdisciplinary discussion and critical engagement with multiple publics. iDoc deploys a number of theoretical lenses and techniques, including social reproduction feminism, Energy Humanities, decolonization theory, and Canadian communication and intermedia theory.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Energy Humanities investigates the social organization of energy and energy technologies, as well as their social and cultural impacts: past, current, and a range of future systems-wide models. The objectives of our team are to:

- Foster opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation through the production, dissemination and exchange of media artefacts.
- Document crucial aims, findings, discoveries, and technologies developed within the FES initiative which are intended to serve future research and foster public engagement.
- Identify and problematize the social, political, and economic forces which direct the production of energy systems.
- Promote feminist, decolonial, futures of equity among human and non-human actors.

BACKGROUND

To date:

- iDoc has video recorded more than 50 interviews
- 19 interviews have been fully logged for archiving, and 17 short excerpts have been produced as prototype short videos
- Preliminary sociological codes have been developed for the analysis of those interviews
- An open access website has been created as a public platform for iDoc materials
- iDoc disseminated early findings at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and is contributing to the forthcoming IPCC assessment report

RESULTS

iDoc Interviews: Conversations on Planetary Transitions

iDoc Methodology

- Participant selection (FES, activists, artists, policymakers)
- Preparation of dossiers
- Questioning and interview strategies
- Scheduling and booking video recordings (interviews, events, etc.)
- Editing approaches (themes, videos, website, digital archives)
- Presentations, publications, and workshops (academic, public policy, narrowcast)

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FUTURE DIRECTIONS

iDoc seeks to intensify its engagement with and foster engagement among the 14 FES themes and researchers. iDoc data will be available open access and can inform the work of other researchers, influencing policy and practice through engagement and dialogue with government leaders, artists, activists, and diverse communities. Specifically, iDoc is initiating its second phase of research to develop upon the emerging themes and insights of its first phase. We will complete our first round of interviews, and we will continue building on our work with Indigenous communities in Alberta, like the Bigstone Cree First Nation. We will also edit short videos for use in future workshops, which will serve to engage researchers, government leaders, activists, and communities in a dialogue about potential futures. Finally, we will begin to build a public online archive documenting our interviews and engagements with our various participants.

PARTNERS

iDoc operates in direct partnership with a number of allied projects under the banner of Just Powers, such as Speculative Energy Futures and Feminist Energy Futures: Power Shift and Environmental Social Justice initiative, to realize a host of compelling research expressions concerning the social life of energy. The project also works collaboratively with the Intermedia Research Studio, the Research Creation and Social Justice Collaboratory (CoLab), the Arts Resource Center (ARC), and University of Alberta Libraries.

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FES PROJECT OVERVIEW

iDoc is an intermediary documentary project invested in tracking the social, political and economic impacts of energy-transition development in Alberta, Canada and beyond. The project puts the energy-related research of the 45+ teams in Future Energy Systems into context by speaking to policy makers, activists, and community members, to further unpack what ideas about current and future societies and energy systems are guiding the already ongoing energy transition. Alongside sister projects in Just Powers, iDoc is centred around questions such as: What decisions are being made in the present that are shaping our futures? Who is making those decisions and why? What other voices and perspectives should be contributing to these discussions if we want the design of our future communities to be driven by energy and climate justice for all?