



Talk with Heather Bedi on 19th July 2016 at 11 am in the FFU conference room

Title: 'Our Energy, Our Rights': Power and Justice in Bangladesh and India

Bio: Heather Bedi is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, USA. Dr. Bedi's research examines the geographies of mining, land, and industrialization projects and contestation in South Asia and the United States. She has published on Special Economic Zones and land-use protest (Contemporary South Asia), the fallacies of mining environmental impact assessments (Development and Change), the human rights and agricultural implications of resource extraction (Geoforum), corporate capitalism and development (Geoforum), and contested land acquisition (Oxford Development Studies). Dr. Bedi's nascent research examines energy activism through the lens of hydraulic fracturing in Pennsylvania.

Talk overview: Energy deficits remain an enduring challenge in Bangladesh, exemplified by the outage of November 2014 that left 160 million people without electricity. There is agreement that the world's ninth most populous nation needs power, but the form and means of energy generate intense debate. Some promote coal, nuclear, and natural gas to power the nation. Activists and certain members of civil society strongly reject dirty energy with exploitative human rights, labor, and climate change costs. New spaces and forms of energy extraction and processing in Bangladesh alter national energy debates, and provide a nascent landscape for examining confluences and contradictions related to energy procurement and human rights. This contested space is exemplified by the proposal of the Rampal coal fired power plant, a joint energy project with India. The ecologically sensitive Sundarbans region in the Khulna district